

**ST. STEPHEN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**



**WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

*Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.*

**FIRST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMAS**

**Saturday 27 Dec 5pm & Sunday 28 Dec 2025, 10am**

	<b>Saturday 5pm</b>	<b>Sunday 10am</b>
<b>Celebrant/Officiant</b>		<b>Fr. Bernal</b>
<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Dorothy Gutwein Sherry Simon</b>	<b>Dorothy Gutwein Sherry Simon</b>
<b>LEM</b>	<b>Tim Holsonback</b>	<b>Nancy Rea</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Jeff Speer</b>	<b>Anne Roth</b>
<b>Music Director</b>	<b>Sharon Douglas</b>	
<b>Choir</b>		<b>Pat Wick Renee Oleinjak Katheleen Jarvis Peggy Brown + you</b>

**Prelude: "Seek Ye First", by Karen Lafferty & Pachelbel**

Processional Hymn: *"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*, #493

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever..**

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Gloria



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -  
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For

you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the  
 Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of  
 God the Fa-ther. A-men.

*Presider:* Lord, have mercy.

*People:* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Presider::* Lord, have mercy.

## The Collect of the Day

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Presider & People:* **Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## 1st Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (61:10-62:3)

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

## The Psalm

**Psalm 147:13-21** *Laudate Dominum*

**13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;**

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.

**15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**

16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.

**17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**

18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?

**19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**

20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

**21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!**

## **2nd Lesson: A Reading from Galatians (3:23-25; 4:4-7):**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore, the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

**Sequence Hymn: "Go Tell It on the Mountain", #99 vs 1-2**

## **The Gospel Lesson: John (1:1-18):**

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

*People:* **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

**Sequence Hymn: "Go Tell It on the Mountain ", #99 vs 3**

## **Sermon**

### **Nicene Creed (Traditional)**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People: Form IV**

— *In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

*Leader:* Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence* Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer..**

*Leader* Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence* Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence* Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer..**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence* Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence* Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence* Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

## **Prayer for St. Stephen's:**

*Presider:* **Almighty God, giver of every good gift; look graciously on your church, and so guide the minds of our search committee, wardens, and vestry, who are in discernment for St. Stephen's church, Sierra Vista, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect*

*Presider:* (. . .) **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin and Absolution**

*Presider:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People:* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

## **The Peace:**

*Presider:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

## **Welcome & announcements**

**Birthday's, Prayers of Healing, Blessings and gratitude.....**

## **Offertory sentence;**

*Presider:* (. . .)

**Offertory Hymn: *O Christ, the Word Incarnate* "**

**#632**

**Doxology**

**(Hymn #380 v. 3)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him all creatures here below  
Praise him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

# The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant: The Lord be with you.*

*People: And also with you.*

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*Presider:*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## **All: Sanctus - Hymnal 1982 #S-125**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues: (The people stand, sit, or kneel.)*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error

into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,,

*"Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."*

After supper, he took the cup of wine, and when he given thanks , he gave it to them, and said,

*"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with[\_\_\_\_\_and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and \_\_\_\_\_ daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

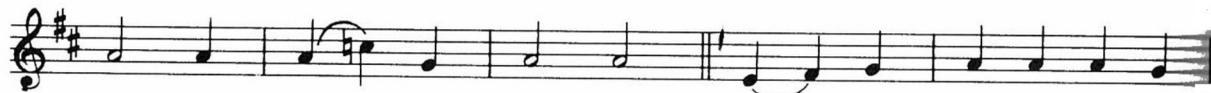
# Fraction: The Breaking of the Bread

*(In silence the Presider breaks the bread)*

## Fraction Anthem H1982 # S-156



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is



sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Invitation to Communion:

**Presider:** The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**People:** Christ invites us all to be known and fed here.

*(In this church, everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Gluten free bread and real wine are used. If you prefer to dip/intinct your bread into the wine, please come to the left altar rail. If you prefer to take a sip of wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. If you prefer to receive a priest blessing instead of the bread and wine, come to either rail and cross your arms over your chest. .*

**Communion Hymn: "I am the Bread of Life",**

**#335**

## Post Communion Prayer

**Presider:** Let us pray:

**All:** Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Benediction:**

*Presider:* May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and always. **Amen**

**Closing Hymn: “God of Grace and God of Glory”, #594**

**Dismissal:** Deacon: People of St. Stephen’s, what does God call us to do?

**People: We are called to Love and Serve**

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: “The Aye Carol”, by John L. Bell**

## **PARISH CYCLE OF PRAYER**

Kathleen Jarvis – Ron Breedlove, Peggy Brown, Sandra Calhoun,  
Marietta Conley, Peter Criscuolo (12/31).

## **DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

- We Pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sara, for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Jennifer, our Diocesan Bishop, for our Deacons, Dottie and Sherry, and for Fr. J.J., our Priest.
- In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for The Anglican Church of Canada
- In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray also for Saint Andrew’s in Sedona.

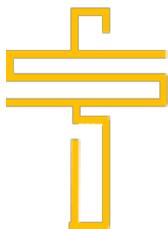
## **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE HEALTH OF**

Penelope McKay, new born daughter of Sharol and Caleb McKay, born 3 weeks early(1/18); Alma Vasquez (12/31), Deacon Robin Hollis (12/30), Janet Treder (12/31), Family and friends of Deacon Fritz & Paula Jones (12/31) repose of their souls.

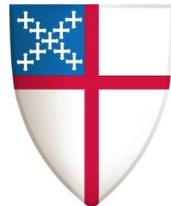
## **SPECIAL PRAYER**

- The victims of war around the world and renewed efforts for peace. (12/31)

*Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.*



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## ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check  here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update      Giving Envelopes       Mail News Letter     

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (first) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mid.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last)

Hm: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Anv. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Adrs: \_\_\_\_\_ BrthDate \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_