

CHRISTMAS EVE 2023



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Richmond, Virginia

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Welcome! Thank you for joining us as we celebrate the birth of Christ, God's love incarnate among us. On this holy night, the light shines in the darkness and hope comes to a weary world. Whoever you are, whatever your religious tradition, and whatever has led you here, please know that you are welcome at St. Stephen's Church. Everything we offer here is open to all—not only to members of this parish, not only to Episcopalians. This community of faith is for everyone. We are so glad you're here.

This booklet contains our full slate of services this Christmas Eve: 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. (the same liturgy for both), 8 p.m., and 11 p.m. In each service, you will find orienting instructions in red to guide you. At the time of Holy Communion, ushers will invite you to come forward. All are welcome at the altar in this place, and our altar extends to your pew if you need us to bring the sacrament to you; just let one of the ushers know. Further instructions about Communion are noted in each service.

Please pick up our Visitor Guide while you're here; copies are available in racks throughout the parish house. You may also visit our website at **ststephensRVA.org** for more information about this community and how you might get involved. You may wish to fill out a visitor card (found in the rack in front of you). If you have any questions, please feel free to ask a member of the clergy, an usher, or call the parish office once it re-opens on December 27, at 804.288.2867.

If you'd like to take this booklet home, we're delighted. If not, however, please place it in one of the baskets provided so that we can re-use it at one of our later services. We want to be good environmental stewards!

Our main messages to you this evening are *Welcome*, and *Merry Christmas*!



Cover and page 21 : Detail of St. Stephen's Nativity Window; photo by Doug Buerlein

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CHRISTMAS EVE AT 2:00 P.M. AND 5:00 P.M. HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

When you enter the nave, thank you for remembering to "silence" all mobile devices.

Musical Offering 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

We will intersperse selections by our musicians with carols sung by all. Please remain seated for the carols.

A Christmas Feast

Hymn 79 O little town of Bethlehem

Sung by all, seated.

arr. Matthew Naughtin

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella

St. Louis

Hymn 107 Good Christian friends, rejoice

Sung by all, seated.

arr. Naughtin

Sing we now of Christmas

In dulci jubilo

Hymn 99 Go tell it on the mountain

Sung by all, seated.

arr. Naughtin

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Opening Voluntary *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming*

arr. Naughtin

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The Word of God

Hymn 83 O come, all ye faithful

Verses 1-3, & 6

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

Adeste fidelis

Opening Acclamation

Enriching Our Worship 1, page 50

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

The Collect for Purity

Said by all.

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

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.

Hymn 96 Angels we have heard on high

Verses 1-3

Sung by all, standing.

Gloria

The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 212

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Please sit.

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is kept.

Hymn 115 What child is this?

Sung by all, standing.

Greensleeves

The Gospel Luke 2:6-14 *Please remain standing and face the reader of the Gospel.*

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily The Rev. Cate Anthony

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Celebrant Let us bring to the Lord our hopes and cares this Christmas Eve.

Leader For God's people throughout the world, that we might do our part to give glory to God and to bring peace to the earth.

During the pause after each petition the People may add their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Celebrant God of Wonder,

People **Hear our prayers.**

Leader For those gathered here, that we might take the Good News of the living God into the world, not only with our lips, but in our lives.

Celebrant God of Joy,

People **Hear our prayers.**

Leader For all those in any need or trouble, remembering especially those who suffer in the Holy Land, Eastern Europe, and all places of conflict, that they may find hope in a weary world.

Celebrant God of Hope,

People **Hear our prayers.**

Leader For the sick and the dying and those who care for them, that God might bless them this night with the gift of peace.

Celebrant God of Peace,

People **Hear our prayers.**

Celebrant Confident in God's love, we place our needs before the newborn Christ, whose manger is the human heart and whose glory is any person alive to his Presence. **Amen.**

The Peace

Prayer Book, page 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord. After exchanging the Peace, please be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

At the conclusion of the announcements, children are invited to gather in the narthex (the area just inside the church doors at the Three Chopt Road entrance) in preparation for processing to the high altar during the presentation of our offerings. They will be led by a crucifer (a young person carrying the cross). Parents may accompany their children if they wish. After the breaking of the bread and the invitation to Communion, children will return to their families.

The Holy Communion

If you wish to make your offering electronically, please scan the code on page 23.

Offertory Carol The Snow Lay on the Ground [2:00] *Sung by the choir.* *Venite adoramus*
Sussex Carol [5:00] *Sung by the choir.* arr. David Willcocks

Voluntary *God rest you merry, gentlemen* London carol, 18th C.

Presentation Hymn 87 Hark! the herald angels sing *Sung by all, standing.* *Mendelssohn*

While the congregation sings the hymn, the children will process to the Main Altar following the cross.

Eucharistic Prayer for Christmas *Refrain sung by all as indicated.* arr. Ken Meltz (adapted), 1977
Celebrant The Lord be with you. to the melody of *Angels We Have Heard on High*

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God / for creation and your love
For salvation through the sea / for the promised Holy One.

Refrain **Gloria / in excelsis Deo! Gloria / in excelsis Deo!**

Celebrant We recall the holy morn / when our Savior, Lord was born
Choirs of angels sang the praise / of the Lord we greet today.

Refrain **Gloria / in excelsis Deo! Gloria / in excelsis Deo!**

Celebrant Send your Holy Spirit upon us, Lord,
That the bread and wine we bring might become our heavenly food,
And that we might become one body, food for the world.
On the night before he died Jesus took the bread and said:
"Take this, all of you, and eat of my body given for you."
Then he gave you thanks and said:
"Take and drink this cup of love; a sign that your sins are forgiven."

Celebrant To the Father praise we bring / In the Spirit praise we sing
Through the Son we make our cry / Glory be to God on high.

Refrain **Gloria / in excelsis Deo! Gloria / in excelsis Deo!**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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

The Breaking of the Bread *The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.* William Trafka

Cantor: Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world, *All:* do - na no - bis

pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Celebrant

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

Children return to their seats.

At the Communion of the People

All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the chancel steps, the cross aisle (near the baptismal font), or in one of the side chapels (kneeling or standing). The altar also extends to your pew if you need us to bring the sacrament to you; just let an usher know. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to "intinct" or touch the edge of your bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups, available at all stations. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms against your chest.

Music at Communion

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Hymn 101 | Away in a manger | <i>Sung by all, seated.</i> | <i>Cradle Song</i> |
| Anthem | Ding Dong, Merrily On High [5:00] | <i>Sung by the choir.</i> | arr. Charles Wood |
| Hymn 109 | The first Nowell | <i>Sung by all, seated.</i> | <i>The First Nowell</i> |
| Hymn 81 | Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming | <i>Sung by all, seated.</i> | <i>Es ist ein Ros</i> |
| Hymn 89 | It came upon the midnight clear | <i>Sung by all, seated.</i> | <i>Carol</i> |

After Communion

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Hymn 111 | Silent night | <i>Sung by all, kneeling.</i> | <i>Stille Nacht</i> |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant Let us pray. *Please remain kneeling.*
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.

Prayer Book, page 365

The Blessing

Hymn 100 Joy to the world! *Sung by all, standing.*

Antioch

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth, bearing tidings of great joy to all people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary Fantasy on *In dulci jubilo*, BWV 729

J.S. Bach



Participants

2:00 P.M. | **CELEBRANT AND PREACHER:** The Rev. Cate Anthony; **DEACON:** The Rev. William S. Stanley; **SUBDEACON:** Earl Roney; **ASSISTING CLERGY:** The Rev. John W. A. Jenkins, the Rev. Abby Kocher, the Rev. John Rohrs, the Rev. William L. Sachs; **CHALICE BEARERS:** Allison Koschak, Laurie Rogers, Penn Rogers, Elizabeth Spell; **ACOLYTES:** Adell Hudson, Luke Hudson, Alice Kidd, Neely Oakey, Alexander Reed, Alice Schnell, Betsy Spalding, Carter Spalding; **MUSICIANS:** St. Stephen's Choristers, Brent te Velde, *director and organ*; Diana Chou, *organ*; Ellen Riccio, *violin*; Treesa Gold, *violin*; Kimberly Ryan, *viola*; Peter Greydanus, *cello*; **VERGER:** Beth Smith

5:00 P.M. | **CELEBRANT AND PREACHER:** The Rev. Cate Anthony; **DEACON:** The Rev. John D. Rohrs; **ASSISTING CLERGY:** The Rev. John Jenkins, the Rev. Abby Kocher, the Rev. William L. Sachs, the Rev. William S. Stanley; **CHALICE BEARERS:** Chip Jamerson, Sarah Paulette, Kim Schmidt; **ACOLYTES:** Charles Ayers, Adelaide Goolsby, Ada Mathews, Henry Mulholland, Wiley Mulholland, Thomas Mullins, Whitfield Mullins, Lucy Phillips; **MUSICIANS:** St. Stephen's Choir, Chris Edwards, *director*; Brent te Velde and Diana Chou, *organ*; Ellen Riccio, *violin*; Treesa Gold, *violin*; Kimberly Ryan, *viola*; Peter Greydanus, *cello*; **VERGER:** Kathy Brock

CHRISTMAS EVE AT 8:00 P.M. A CELTIC CHRISTMAS

In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, we ask that silence be observed upon entering the nave. Please silence all mobile devices.

Musical Offering 🍷 7:30 p.m.

The Holly and the Ivy
The Seven Rejoices of Mary
In the bleak midwinter
What sweeter music
Cantique de Jean Racine
From *A Ceremony of Carols*
There is no rose
Balulalow
Spring Carol
Silent night

arr. Mark Isham
Loreena McKennitt, arr. Diana Chou
arr. Mark Hayes
John Rutter
Gabriel Fauré
Benjamin Britten

arr. Dale Wood

Holy Eucharist 🍷 8:00 p.m.

At the sound of the bell, please stand as able.

Opening Luke 2:9-11

King James Version

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Silence is held.

Hymn 83 (verses 1-3, & 6) O come, all ye faithful

Sung by all, standing.

Adeste fidelis

Hymns are found in The Hymnal 1982 (blue book) in the pew racks.

A Prayer for the Evening

Son of Mary, Son of God, may we, for whom the heavens have opened, never lose that heavenly vision. May we who, like the shepherds, have seen in your birth a new kind of love, witness to that love in our lives. **Amen.**

The Reading Luke 2:6-20 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed

at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection The Rev. John D. Rohrs

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation Of the Father's love begotten arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand as able.*

Deacon Let us bring to the Lord our hopes and cares this Christmas Eve.

During the pause after each petition, the People may add their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Leader For God's people throughout the world, that we might do our part to give glory to God and to bring peace to the earth.

Leader God of Wonder,

People **Hear our prayers.**

Leader For all gathered here, that we might take the Good News of the living God into the world, not only with our lips, but in our lives.

Leader God of Wonder,

People **Hear our prayers.**

Leader For all who live in hunger, fear and addiction, and for all in any need or trouble, remembering especially those who suffer in the Holy Land, Eastern Europe, and all places of conflict, that they may find hope in a weary world.

Leader God of Wonder,

People **Hear our prayers.**

Leader For the sick and the dying and those who care for them, that the God whose love extends from the wood of the manger to the hard wood of the cross might bless them this night with the gift of peace.

Leader God of Wonder,

People **Hear our prayers.**

Leader For those who are becoming aware of the miraculous joy and peace that God has placed within them and within every human being, that the awareness of this gift might be strengthened and confirmed.

Leader God of Wonder,

People **Hear our prayers.**

Leader Confident in God's love, we place our needs before the newborn Christ, whose manger is the human heart and whose glory is all people who are alive to his Presence. **Amen.**

Hymn 112 In the bleak midwinter

Cranham

Additional Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving *Please sit.*

Candle lighting is a potent symbol of offering prayers to God and of God's abiding presence. During the music and anytime thereafter, you may light a single votive candle at any station. The church is open daily for prayer and a permanent votive station is located near the piano.

Music for Meditation

Still, still, still
The Wexford Carol

arr. Paul Manz
arr. John Rutter

Hymn

If in your heart

Sung several times by all, standing.

Ana Hernández

If in your heart you make a man-ger for his birth, then
God will once a - gain be - come a child on earth, If
in your heart you make a man-ger for his birth, then
God will once a - gain be - come a child on earth.

The Grace

See that ye be at peace among yourselves, and love one another. Follow the example of good men and women of old and God will comfort you and help you, both in this world and in the world which is to come. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Peace

May Christ, the Good Shepherd, bind us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. My sisters and brothers, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

All greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "peace." Then all may be seated.

The Holy Communion

Welcome and Announcements

Place gifts, offerings, and Welcome cards in the basket found by the baptismal font, or you may scan the code on page 23.

At the Offertory

Watts' Cradle Song

Stanley Taylor

Hush! my dear, lie still and slumber; Holy Angels guard thy bed! Heav'nly blessings without number gently falling on thy head. Sleep, my babe; thy food and raiment, house and home, thy friends provide; all without thy care and payment, all thy wants are well supplied. Soft and easy is thy cradle; coarse and hard thy Savior lay, when his birthplace was a stable and his softest bed was hay. Lo, he slumbers in his manger, where the horned oxen fed; Peace, my darling! here's no danger; here's no ox a-near thy bed. Mayst thou live to know and fear him, trust and love him all thy days: Then go dwell for ever near him, see his face and sing his praise.

The Great Thanksgiving

Stand as able.

The Feast of the Christ Child, adapted from Iona

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts.

People

We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant

O God of mystery and promise, the story of the Christmas Child is the story of Jesus—joyfully accepting the restriction of flesh and entering the constraint of time to show how life and love fully lived and freely offered transcend their limitations.

It is the story of Jesus—seated at a table with his friends breaking bread and pouring wine to show how life and love fully lived and freely offered change the world. It is the story of Jesus—accepting a kiss and carrying a cross to show how life and love fully lived and freely shared count no cost. It is the story of Jesus—confined in a tomb but rising with the dawn to show how life and love fully lived and freely shared defy and defeat even death. It is the story of Emmanuel—God, now and always with us and for us.

We give thanks for the healing and hope which spring from the coming, living, dying and rising of the Christmas Child. So now, with those who gather round his crib, with the angel choirs, and the singing planets, we join in creation's song of joy.

Sanctus

Sung by all.

William Traftka

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

Celebrant Before he gave up his life, he shared his humanity, his flesh and blood with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

All **“This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

Celebrant So too after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it, and gave it to them, saying:

All **“This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me.”**

Celebrant So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Celebrant Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering the Christmas Child—Jesus’ life, fully lived and freely shared—we offer ourselves, and this bread and this wine. Pour your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ, and make us the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. This is the feast of the Christmas Child—a place where heaven and earth coincide, and eternity once more condenses into time as God is seen and known in the simple and the small, in story and song, and in bread and wine. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we praise you, now and ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord’s Prayer

As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
 your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.
 Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
 For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
 Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
 For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,
 now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread

*At the breaking, silence is held.
 Sung by all.*

William Trafka

Cantor: Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.
 Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.
 Je - sus, Re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world, *All:* do - na no - bis
 pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

The Invitation

Celebrant

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

At the Communion of the People

All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the base of the chancel steps. The altar also extends to your pew if you need us to bring the sacrament to you; just let an usher know. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to “intinct” or touch the edge of your bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups, available at the pillars. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms against your chest.

Music for Communion

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Hymn 109 | The first Nowell | <i>Verse 1 is sung by a soloist. All join on verses 2–5.</i> | <i>The First Nowell</i> |
| Hymn 78 | O little town of Bethlehem | | <i>Forest Green</i> |
| Hymn 96 | Angels we have heard on high | | <i>Gloria</i> |

After Communion *Please stand as able.*

Celebrant The starlight and song, story and supper, which called us home now compel us to go out.

All May we who have knelt at the manger
always have room to hold
within ourselves the Christmas Child.
May we who have gazed on the face of God
learn to live fully, and to share freely
all that we have and are.
So may Emmanuel—God with us and for us—
be once again incarnated in the world. Amen.

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Hymn 111 | Silent night | <i>Sung by all, seated or kneeling.</i> | <i>Stille Nacht</i> |
|-----------------|--------------|---|---------------------|

The Blessing

Celebrant May the stillness of God be yours this night,
that you may sleep in peace.
May the awareness of the angels be yours this night,
that you may be alert to unseen mysteries.
And may the life of Christ be yours this night,
that you may be truly alive and kindled to love.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Hymn 87 | Hark! the herald angels sing | <i>Sung by all, standing.</i> | <i>Mendelssohn</i> |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth bearing tidings of great joy to all people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please sit for the Music for Meditation.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Music for Meditation | What is this lovely fragrance? | arr. Joseph Flummerfelt |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Postlude | <i>In dulci jubilo</i> | arr. Paul Manz |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|

Please depart in silence, either during or after the Postlude, as you wish.

Participants | Celebrant: The Rev. John Jenkins; **Deacon:** The Rev. Will Stanley; **Reflector:** The Rev. John Rohrs;
Reader/Intercessor: Ifet Araniti-Davis; **Subdeacon:** Earl Roney; **Chalice Bearers:** Nancy Atkins, Michelle Crim, Laura Lewandowski, Anne Townsend; **Musicians:** Abby Outlaw, Kelsey Snyder, and Alyssa Shevchuk, *cantors*; Brent te Velde, *piano*; Diana Chou, *piano*; Treesa Gold, *violin*; David Garcia, *oboe*; Peter Greydanus, *cello*

CHRISTMAS EVE AT 11:00 P.M. TRADITIONAL CHRIST MASS

In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, we ask that silence be observed upon entering the nave. Please silence all mobile devices.

Musical Offering 🎵 10:30 p.m.

Gloria in D major, RV 589

Antonio Vivaldi

1. *Gloria in excelsis Deo*
2. *Et in terra pax*
3. *Laudamus te; Kelsey Snyder, Alyssa Shevchuk, sopranos*
4. *Gratias agimus tibi*
5. *Propter magnam gloriam*
6. *Domine Deus; Abby Outlaw, soprano*
7. *Domine, Fili unigenite*
8. *Domine Deus, Agnus Dei; Cassie Cipolla, alto*
9. *Qui tollis peccata mundi*
10. *Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris; Kelsey Snyder, alto*
11. *Quoniam tu solus sanctus*
12. *Cum Sancto Spiritu*

In dulci jubilo, BWV 608

J.S. Bach

Holy Eucharist: Rite One 🎵 11:00 p.m.

The Word of God

Hymn 83 O come, all ye faithful

Sung by all, standing as able.

Adeste fideles

Opening Acclamation

Please remain standing.

The Book of Common Prayer, page 323

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

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

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant

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

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Gloria in excelsis

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Sung by the choir on behalf of the congregation. Please sit or kneel.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe.*

*Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.*

English translation is on page 324 of the Prayer Book.

The Collect of the Day**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.**People** **And with thy spirit.****Celebrant** Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7*Please sit.**King James Version***Reader** A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.**People** **Thanks be to God.** *A period of silence is kept.***Psalms 8***Sung by the choir on behalf of the congregation.*

setting: Gerre Hancock

O LORD our Governor,
 how excellent is thy Name in all the world; *
 thou that hast set thy glory above the heavens!
 Out of the mouths of very babes and sucklings
 hast thou ordained strength, because of thine enemies, *
 that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.
 When I consider thy heavens, even the work of thy fingers; *
 the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained;
 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? *
 and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
 Thou madest him lower than the angels, *
 to crown him with glory and worship.
 Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands; *
 and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet:
 All sheep and oxen; *
 yea, and the beasts of the field;
 The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea; *
 and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.
 O LORD our Governor, *
 how exalted is thy Name in all the world! *Silence is kept.*

The Second Lesson Titus 2:11-14*King James Version***Reader** A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Reader The Word of the Lord.**People** **Thanks be to God.** *A period of silence is kept.*

CHRISTMAS EVE: CHRIST MASS, 11 P.M.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|---------------------------|
| Hymn 115 | What child is this | <i>Sung by all, standing as able.</i> | <i>Greensleeves</i> |
| The Gospel | Luke 2:1-20 | <i>Please remain standing and face the reader of the Gospel.</i> | <i>King James Version</i> |
| Deacon | The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. | | |
| People | Glory be to thee, O Lord. | | |

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David,) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Deacon | The Gospel of the Lord. |
| People | Praise be to thee, O Christ. |

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| The Sermon | The Rev. John D. Rohrs | <i>Please sit.</i> |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|

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| The Nicene Creed | <i>Said by all, standing as able.</i> | Prayer Book, page 326 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|

**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.**

Celebrant Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Please kneel, as able.

Leader

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, remembering especially those who suffer in the Holy Land, Eastern Europe, and all places of conflict.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of blessed Stephen, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

The Peace *Please stand, as able.*

Prayer Book, page 332

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord. After exchanging the Peace, please be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

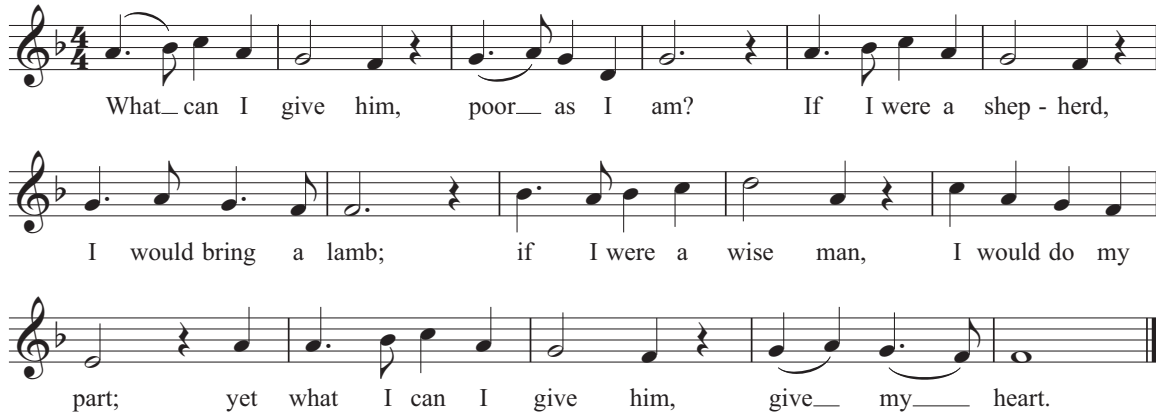
The Holy Communion

If you wish to make an offering electronically, you may scan the code on page 23.

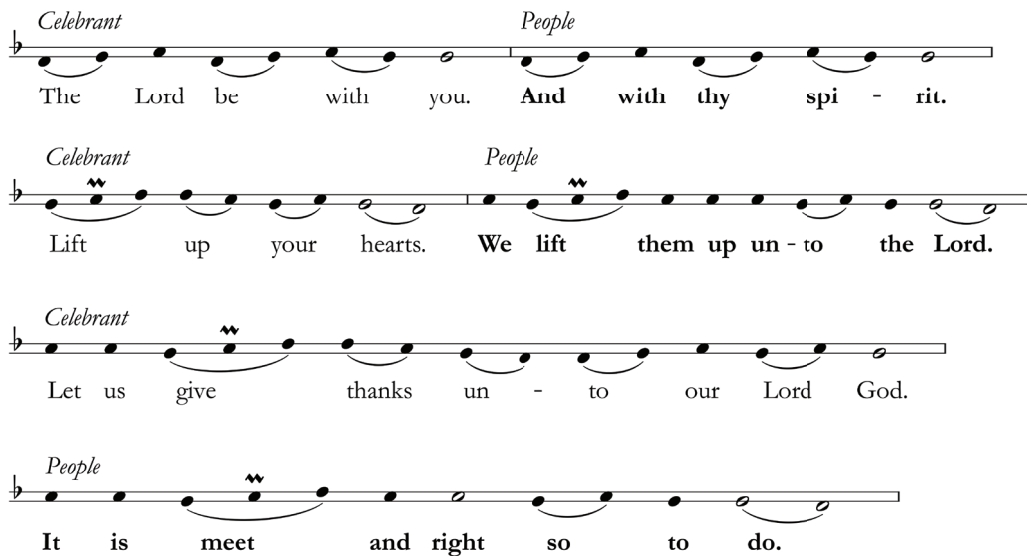
Offertory Anthem What sweeter music *Sung by the choir.*

John Rutter

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honor to this day, that sees December turned to May. Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn, thus, on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'Tis he is born, whose quickening birth gives life and luster, public mirth, to heaven, and the under-earth. We see him come, and know him ours, who, with his sunshine and his showers, turns all the patient ground to flowers. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart. Which we will give him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath, to do him honour, who's our King, and Lord of all this revelling. What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King.

The fruits of our labor are presented to God, along with gifts for our food ministry.**The Great Thanksgiving** Eucharistic Prayer II

Prayer Book, page 340

The people remain standing.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thank unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,

Sanctus*Sung by the choir on behalf of the congregation. Please sit or kneel.*

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
 Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
 Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
 Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer, and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.



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

Celebrant and People

Prayer Book, page 336

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Prayer Book, page 337

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Agnus Dei

Sung by the choir on behalf of the congregation.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.*

O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God.

At the Communion of the People

Please sit.

All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the high altar or in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd (kneeling or standing). The altar also extends to your pew if you need us to bring the sacrament to you; just let an usher know. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to "intinct" or touch the edge of your bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups, available at all stations. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms against your chest.

Music at Communion

Anthem What is this lovely fragrance? *Sung by the choir.* French carol, arr. Healey Willan

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring? Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty hear you not heav'nly caroling? What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring?

What is this light so fair, so tender breaking upon our wond'ring eyes? Never the Morning Star so radiant followed his course o'er eastern skies. What is this light so fair, so tender breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?

Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps, seek the Saviour, born today. Low at his feet we lay our treasure, heart's adoration, love for aye. Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps, seek the Saviour, born today.

Hymn 81 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming *Sung by all, seated.*

Es ist ein Ros

Hymn 109 The first Nowell *Sung by all, seated.*

The First Nowell

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer Book, page 339

Celebrant Let us pray. *Please kneel.*

All Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Hymn 111 Silent night *Sung by all; kneeling or seated.*

Stille Nacht

The Blessing

Celebrant The peace of God, which passeth 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 Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 87 Hark! the herald angels sing *Sung by all, standing as able.*

Mendelssohn

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth bearing tidings of great joy to all people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella

arr. Keith Chapman



Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. William S. Stanley; DEACON AND PREACHER: The Rev. John D. Rohrs; SUBDEACON: Synthia Waymack; READER/INTERCESSOR: Sarah Bartenstein; CHALICE BEARERS: Bob Dibble, Clarice Dibble, Barbara Massey; ACOLYTES: Thomas Bowen-Rees, Caroline Burke, Ellie Burke, Hayes Carithers, Madeleine Carithers, Eliza Cochran, Caroline Douthat, Jim Douthat, MUSICIANS: St. Stephen's Choir, Chris Edwards, *director*; Brent te Velde, *director and organ*; Diana Chou, *organ*; Treesa Gold, Ellen Riccio, Anna Bishop, and Emily Monroe, *violin*; Kimberly Ryan, *viola*; Peter Greydanus, *cello*; Matt Gold, *bass*; Sebastian Ford, *trumpet*; David James, *oboe*; VERGER: Dave Davis

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

You are invited to join in anything we offer at St. Stephen's Church. Here are some things to know about our community's life in the coming weeks. We encourage you to visit our website or call the parish office at 804.288.2867 after it re-opens December 27.



An Epiphany celebration

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5 | 6:00 P.M.

January 6 marks the transition from the 12-day season of Christmas to the Epiphany, a feast of the church, and the beginning of the season that lasts until Ash Wednesday and Lent. This year we will mark this feast day (the night before, the Eve of the Epiphany) with an Epiphany Service of Lessons and Carols in the church. While this type of service—the one at King's College, Cambridge is especially famous—is familiar to Episcopalians and Anglicans the world over, it's usually in the context of Christmas, or sometimes Advent. The Epiphany service will celebrate the revelation of Jesus as the son of God, and the sharing of the light of Christ throughout the world.

We will follow the service with a parish supper and chili cook-off. This all-ages event will be very similar to our Wonderful Wednesdays suppers and will be donation-based. (Please note that there will be no Wonderful Wednesdays supper that week; the mid-week supper is on vacation until January 10.)

The chili cook-off will be a good-natured competition that also raises funds for a choir pilgrimage to the United Kingdom in the summer of 2024. Don't worry—if you compete, you do not need to feed everyone at the parish supper! Folks will enjoy small samples of each batch and “vote” for their favorites by dropping money into cups for each one or by making a donation by credit or debit card. The supper will be provided by the kitchen, as it is on Wednesdays.

No reservations are needed for the service. RSVPs are appreciated for supper, however (ststephensRVA.org/epiphany). If you plan to enter your chili in the cook-off, please complete an entry form found on the same page of our website.

For children, youth and parents

YOUTH GROUPS

St. Stephen's offers a rich array of spiritual education, support, fellowship, and service opportunities for youth. Your young person is welcome at all that we offer! Youth group meets every other Sunday evening and we also offer preparation for the Rite of Confirmation for those in grade 9 (or older). Learn more at ststephensRVA.org/youth, or contact Caroline Harris, charris@ststephensRVA.org.

CHILDREN'S FORMATION

St. Stephen's Church offers Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a unique formation approach for children age 3 through grade 5. This Montessori-based program recognizes that children are already in relationship with God in their deepest being, and that the role of adults in the atrium (the specially-prepared space where the program takes place) is to wonder about God with children. All children are invited to take part. We also invite children to participate in special activities such as Vacation Bible School in the summer, and a Live Nativity in December. For additional information, please contact the the Rev. Abby Kocher, akocher@ststephensRVA.org.

SUNDAY GROUP FOR PARENTS

A group for parents of children and youth, “Many Parents, One Vine,” gathers Sundays at 10:10 a.m. in Room 14. No registration is needed. This group will resume January 7.

FAMILY MINISTRY E-NEWS

If there are children or teens in your household, be sure you're subscribed to the family ministry email, the best way to receive timely and important information on offerings for those from birth through grade 12; ststephensRVA.org/email.

Young adult fellowship

Young adults at St. Stephen's are involved in every part of parish life: small groups, worship, outreach, volunteer activities and special events. An email newsletter is one of the ways that 20s, 30s and 40s stay in touch. To receive it, visit ststephensRVA.org/youngadults.

Small groups

At St. Stephen's, we offer a variety of small groups for adults. These include Emmaus Groups which meet weekly for prayer, reflection, and mutual support; "Being With" groups, a story- and relationship-based curriculum and approach to ministry pioneered by the Rev. Dr. Sam Wells, the vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London; a peer-led small group series, "Sacred Ground: A Film-Based Dialogue Series on Race and Faith," and more. These groups require registration. In addition, small groups of men gather at St. Stephen's weekly for prayer and fellowship, and no registration is required for these groups, which meet Thursdays at 9 a.m. in the lounge, and Fridays at 8:15 a.m. in the library. You can learn more about small groups from our website, ststephensRVA.org/groups.

A new series in the Sunday Forum

SUNDAYS RESUMING JANUARY 7, 2024 | 10:10 A.M.

The Sunday Forum is a weekly gathering for adults that provides a variety of speakers and topics. Often the rector or one of our other clergy is the teacher or presenter, but we also host guest speakers. All are welcome, and no registration is needed. We gather for about 50 minutes in the fellowship hall. To learn more about topics and speakers for the remainder of the 2023-24 program year, visit ststephensRVA.org/forum.

Beginning January 7, we'll offer a series called "Spiritual practices for today's world." Topics and speakers include:

January 7: Mindfulness meditation | The Rev. Gordon Peerman and the Rev. William Sachs

January 14: Contemplative prayer | The Rev. John Jenkins, Millie Cain, and other lay leaders

January 21: Sacramental worship | The Rev. Will Stanley and lay worship leaders

January 28: Sabbath-keeping | The Rev. Cate Anthony and Cantor Sarah Beck Berman

Reach out in our community and beyond

Perhaps the new year is a good time for you to take on a volunteer commitment in one of our East End partnerships, our food ministry, or another of our many ministries with vulnerable people. Opportunities are available in several areas, tailored to your schedule. Contact Anna Jones, ajones@ststephensRVA.org.

Assistive listening devices

Would an assistive listening device be helpful to you in church? Please ask any of the ushers for one of these devices.

A low-key way to sing in one of our choirs

Do you love to sing, but can't commit to weeknight rehearsals? St. Stephen's Hymn Choir would love to have you. Once a month, volunteer singers join section leaders at our 9 a.m. Sunday service to lead hymns. The only rehearsal required takes place at 8:15 a.m., just before the service. To learn more, get in touch with Chris Edwards, cedwards@ststephensRVA.org.

Please come for supper

If you attend the Celtic service at 5:30 p.m. and/or the Compline service at 8 p.m. (and even if you don't) please join us for our community supper at 6:30 p.m. on Sundays, resuming January 7. These suppers are prepared with fresh, local ingredients, purchased from our farmers market when possible, and are sustained by donations. All are welcome regardless of the ability to make a donation. Each Wednesday evening during the academic year, St. Stephen's offers an informal parish supper in the fellowship hall from 5:45 until 6:30; these return January 10. "Wonderful Wednesdays" are a great way to get to know others in this large parish, and provide time for families, couples and friends to reconnect without cooking or doing dishes.

Reminders: year-end giving, stock gifts

As we approach the end of the calendar year, please be aware that to be considered a 2023 donation for IRS purposes, donations must be received by the church or postmarked by December 31, 2023. Donations received after that date will be applied to 2024.

Do you fulfill your pledge with stock donations? We now use Ameritrade.

Please ask your broker to contact Susan McNamara for Ameritrade account information: 804.288.2867 or **smcnamara@ststephensRVA.org**. Susan is also the person to contact with any questions about your pledge balance or your statements. (Year-end statements will go out in January.) Thank you for your gifts!

Online giving

To make a gift electronically, please scan this code.



How to reach us

You'll find a list of staff on our website at **ststephensRVA.org/staff**. Staff email addresses are first initial, last name, @ststephensRVA.org. So Jane Doe would be **jdoe@ststephensRVA.org**. Our phone is 804.288.2867.

Holiday hours

The parish office will be closed December 25 and 26, and January 1; there will be no Morning Prayer on those days. Our café will be closed the entire week after Christmas Day, and January 1. The gift shop called May Fair House is closed for Christmas and will re-open Tuesday, January 16, 2024. The Farmers Market @ St. Stephen's will resume January 6, 2024, at 9 a.m. and will be indoors for January and February before going back outdoors beginning in March.

Christmas Day and Christmas I

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Music led by Sanctuary, the Compline choir; the service will be livestreamed.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31: CHRISTMAS I

8 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite One

10 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two*

5:30 p.m., Celtic Evensong and Communion*

Regular Sunday schedule

RESUMING JANUARY 7, 2024

8 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite One from the Book of Common Prayer (traditional language; no music)

9 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two from the Book of Common Prayer (contemporary language, with music and choirs); one service takes place in Palmer Hall Chapel and another takes place in the main church. The Palmer Hall service is more informal and conversational and is designed particularly for families with young children.*

10:10 a.m., Education/formation for all ages*

11:15 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two from the Book of Common Prayer (contemporary language, choirs, hymns, organ)*

5:30 p.m., Celtic Evensong and Communion (contemplative service with instrumentalists and congregational hymns)

8:00 p.m., Compline (half-hour, candlelit service of psalms, prayers, motets, chanted or sung by a mixed *a cappella* choir)

*Childcare for ages 4 and younger is available during services with an asterisk. The nursery is located in the basement of the parish house and is run by trained, caring staff.

*More information about all offerings is available at **ststephensRVA.org**.*

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

The arrangements in the church are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Harold E. Ambler | The Rev. D. Donald Dunn III | Sorrel M. McElroy | David Smith |
| Mr. & Mrs. M. Henry Ambler | Bruce Evans | Timothy C. McCoy, Sr. | Deborah Dibble Smith |
| The Rev. David T. Anderson | Nancy & Gordon Fauntleroy | Noel & Bubby McKissick | Lt. James A. Smith III |
| John Anderson | Linda Fisher | Maryann & Floyd McLean | James L. Smith |
| Mildred & Howard Anderson | Adelaide & Garland Flippen | Keith McMullin | Elizabeth Spalding |
| Barbara Ransone Andrews | Mary Craigie Flowers | Jeffrey Forbes Meadows | William Spell |
| T. Coleman Andrews, Jr. | Bernard & Marie Franko | Anna & Gene Miller | Laurie Spratley |
| Charles Hitchcock Anthony | Patrick Franko | Rosalind Miller | David Stagg |
| Wilson Palmer Anthony | The Rev. Dr. Reginald H. Fuller | George V. Moncure, Jr. | William Astor Stanley |
| Billy Armfield | Carroll C. Gathright, Jr. | Maggie Belle & Cabell Moore | William Penn Stanley |
| Jackie & Wes Atiyeh | Isma M. Gathright | Roderick Moore | Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Chapman |
| Mr. & Mrs. John H. Bartenstein | Emily Wood Gill | Virginia Tabb Moore | Stephenson |
| Elaine Nelsen Beck | Fleming W. Gill | Alfred Jay Moran | Mr. Jerry Sturm |
| Mr. & Mrs. James R. Beck | Katherine B. Gill | Marjorie Leverich Moran | Mrs. Charles W. Taylor, Sr. |
| John H. Beebe, Jr. | Warren Maynard Goddard, Jr. | A. Kathleen Morison | Eric Caldwell Todd |
| Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Bell | Warren Maynard 'Dutch' Goddard III | M. Louise Morison | Seldon T. Tompkins |
| Thomas G. & Lile T. Bell | Cary Goodyear | Marilyn Morrison | Mr. & Mrs. William F. Tompkins |
| Nancy Dodd Blanchard | Betty Grace | Nancy E. Morison | Billy & Nancy Tucker |
| Mr. & Mrs. Seth Borum | Sherman Grace | David Roger Munsick, Jr. | Elizabeth Austin Tucker |
| Mr. & Mrs. William H. Borum | Louis Gustini | Christopher Flippen Nash | Anne Bell Turnbull |
| Linda Hart Bouquet | Virginia Gustini | Dorothy Lipps Nelson | Mr. & Mrs. B. Walton Turnbull |
| Donald Michael Brennan | Marion D. Hargrove III | Jane Downes Nelson | Jack Lankford Ulmer |
| Joe Davila Broadhurst | Mary Virginia Harwood | Mr. & Mrs. James H. Newell | Mary Ann Ulmer |
| John Bruck | Florence G. Hedrick | Mr. & Mrs. John Franklyn Newsom | Mary Christine Ulmer |
| Betsy Butcher | The Rev. John E. Hedrick | Ted & Lillian Notides | Katherine Rogers Wade |
| Joseph Carlye Carter, Jr. | David E. Henderson | Michael R. Oman | Oliver Wade |
| Cora Louise & George Cary | Henry Shields Hewitt | Marianne Owens | Seaborn McDonald Wade |
| Dixon & Kate Roy Christian | Lelia Holtzman Holloway | Mary Lily Palmer | Holly Walsh |
| Robert Close | Dr. J. Shelton Horsley III | Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Pinckney | William C. & Elizabeth L. Washburn |
| Harrison Coble | Beverley Howarth | Janet W. Price | Carroll Edward Waters |
| The Rev. Dr. Edward Allen Coffey | Dr. Boyd Roberts Howarth | Malcolm Matheson Randolph | Gloria Holloway Waters |
| Charles Cook | Rob Howarth | Mr. & Mrs. William A. Raney | Hugh & Lucy West |
| Peter Charles Coombs | Billie Grace Howell | Brenda P. Reid | Mr. & Mrs. J. Kempter West |
| Frederick M. Crim, Sr. | Vicky Ellen Hunt | Joanne McElman Reiners | Donald T. White |
| Dr. Charles C. Crittenden | Leighton & Anne Rawles Huske | Catherine Cummings Rennolds | Carter & Henrietta Williams |
| Col. Robert H. Crittenden | Mr. & Mrs. Walter F. Hyer, Jr. | Dr. Charles H. Robertson | Emory & Carrington Williams, Jr. |
| Lara Teague Curry | Carolyn A. Jones | Camilla Beck Rohrbach | John & Dianne Williamson |
| Marie Stallings Curtis | Charles Southall Jones | Mr. & Mrs. Stanley M. Rohrbach | Mr. & Mrs. Leslie E. Willis, Jr. |
| Frank Daniels | Tom & Alice Kidd | Jane E. Row | Audrey & Paul Wilson |
| Marguerite Daniels | Jamie Knight | Katherine Victoria Row | Charles E. Wilson |
| Charles Jones Davis III | Stephen Edward Lambert | Ronald Victor Row | David & Robert Wilson |
| John Bourne Dempsey II | Judith Youngblood Lane | Beezie & Eddie Russell | Carolyn Jones Winn |
| Marie Gravel Dempsey | Harry G. Lee | Fil & Snow Sanford | Mary Anderson Winn |
| Mr. & Mrs. William W. Dennison | Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Leitch | Brandon Scholder | Sydnor Anderson Winn |
| Mr. William W. Dennison, Jr. | William Edward "Skip" Lester, Jr. | Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Schumacher | T. Foster Witt, Jr. |
| Sara Frances & Sam Derieux | Bill, Rowena & Tom Longan | Mr. & Mrs. Gordon D. Shackleford, Jr. | Randolph Wootton |
| Dale Robert Dibble | John Lewis Low IV | V. R. Shackelford III | Stuart Wyeth |
| Megan Elizabeth Dibble | Angus H. Macaulay | Asma Shahda | Elton & Jo Ellen Yates |
| Mary Southgate Hearon Dickson | Jake MacNelly | Dr. Donald K. Sharpes | IN THANKSGIVING |
| Bruce Holley Downes | Doris A. Marshall | David Sherman | FOR THE MARRIAGE OF |
| Mr. & Mrs. Vachel A. Downes | Ann Goins & Billy H. Martin | Mr. & Mrs. Pendleton M. Shiflett, Jr. | Mary Anne Burke & Philip Hart |
| Mr. & Mrs. Vachel A. Downes, Jr. | Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Hamilton Mason | Nellie Wingo Short | AND FOR |
| William Harvey Downes | Dr. & Mrs. James Dunn Mason, Jr. | Mary Frances Siersema | Megan Michelle Coffey |
| John Robert Draper | Mr. & Mrs. James Dunn Mason, Sr. | Donald T. Silver | Clark Edward Hodge |
| Carl A. Dull, Jr. | Teresa & Joe Massie | Samuel P. Simpson IV | Elliott David Hodge |
| Sue & Dick Duncan | Robert J. McCormack | Ann Douglas Smith | James McDowell Hodge |

The wreaths are given in loving memory of R. Lowndes Burke and William E. Hardy.

The pine roping is given in loving memory of L. Anthony Austin, M.D., and Walker W. Scott.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6000 Grove Avenue 🍷 Richmond, Virginia 23226 🍷 804.288.2867 🍷 ststephensRVA.org