

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
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A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

The Rt. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes, Bishop
The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector
Gerrie Vergona, Treasurer
Esther Graham, Music Director
Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator
Tom O'Brien, Sexton

Wardens and Vestry 2021

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden
Richard Smithson, Property Warden
Debbie Fisher, Marge Pomykala, Peter Quigley
Pat Russo, Maryann Payne, Dottie Kaster
Kay Karlick, Tom Larson, Ken Seda
Joanne Smithson, Clerk

Mission Statement

To proclaim the faith that our years have engendered: to use the diversity of our Episcopal experience while working toward a common goal; to teach the young about Jesus and to reach out and affect the lives of those in the community.

"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!

We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly with the Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector.

To Report Illness, Hospitalization, etc.

Please notify the church office 732-350-2121 of any illnesses or hospitalizations. If it is an emergency you may also reach Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden at 732-350-2904 or Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

Hymnal

The Word of God

DECEMBER 26, 2021

8 & 10:15 am

BCP

99	Processional Hymn: "Go tell it on the Mountain"	
717	"My Country, 'Tis Of Thee"	
	Open Acclamation	355
	Opening Sentence	
S280	Gloria!	356
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <i>Isaiah 61:10-62:3</i>	Insert
	Psalm 147	Insert
	Second Lesson: <i>Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7</i>	Insert
	Gradual: "Word of God Speak" (lyrics on next page)	
	Gospel: <i>John 1:1-18</i>	Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
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324	"Let all mortal flesh keep silence"	
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	Blessing	
107	Closing Hymn: "Good Christian Friends rejoice"	
	Dismissal	

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

BIBLE STUDY GROUP-

"The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart", Mondays at 11am, for info contact Roberta Mackey at (917) 696-6863

CHOIR PRACTICE-

Wednesdays at 10am

HEALING SERVECES-

Thursdays at 10:00 am (No healing services on Dec 30th)

ORDER OF ST. LUKE-

2nd Thursday of each month after Healing Service

VESTRY MEETING-

Monday, December 27th

WHITING GARDEN CLUB -

Whiting Garden Club meets next on February 2 at 10AM in the Parish Hall

DO YOU NEED A PLEDGE CARD?

Please see our Treasurer, Gerrie Vergona.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services;

Dec 24th – At 4pm, 7pm & 9pm / **Dec 25th** - 10am



ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – join us in person or on zoom or you tube. Compline is now on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** at 7PM on **YouTube** and **Zoom**. All are welcome!

COME AND SEE!!!



ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, January 30, 2022 - 1 service at 9AM Meeting follows
Still needed - 2 delegates to Convention, and 1 Vestry Member -- See Stefanie if you are willing to serve or have any questions



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

People: God's love endures forever. In a world where even evergreens turn dry and brittle, God's love is the one reality on which we can rely. Today we prepare for the greatest expression of that love, as we listen once more for the Word in the words.

First Sunday After Christmas

*December 26, 2021
8 & 10:15am*

Collect of the Day

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.

First Reading

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.

Word of God speak;

Would You pour down like rain
Washing my eyes to see
Your majesty
To be still and know
That You're in this place
Please let me stay and rest
In Your holiness

Psalm 147

- 1 Hallelujah!
How good it is to sing praises to our God*
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
- 2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.
- 5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains*
and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a
horse;*
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who
fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.
- 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 bor-
ders; *
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!



CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE ~ Sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting **Winter** clothes **ONLY** in **TOP** condition, (clean, with no missing buttons, tears or stains). Also, continue to use the **FOUR BINS** in our parking lot for *out of season clothing, all men's wear*, and other items. Our Summer clothes are now on clearance sale. We are very appreciative of your kind donations to, and purchases from, this fundraising project.

ST. STEPHEN'S PRAYER CHAIN ~ is in need of additional members. The Prayer Chain is a dedicated group of parishioners who will pray for any who are in need. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Greta Pearl at 732-350-7584 for details. Greta is the contact when placing, on the Prayer Chain, your name or the names of family, neighbors, or friends who would like prayers for healing, comfort, or any other purpose.

CARE GIVERS VOLUNTEERS ~ JoAnn Smithson is the Congregational Coordinator for Care Givers Volunteers here at St. Stephen's. Please continue to use the mailbox in the Office to put in your hours. JoAnn's phone number is 609/268-0821.

THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD IS IN THE NARTHEX FOR YOU TO SIGN~ Cards and postage cost so much these days--sign your name and write a message to your church family

COFFEE HOUR



help wanted

A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2022 - sign up! Everyone is so grateful for the delicious food that you share, your help, and they love chatting after the services. Any questions, contact *Stefanie* at (732) 350-2904





BLACKJACK NEEDS OUR HELP

Hi my name is Phyllis, my adopted shelter dog Blackjack is in very much need of dental work. I live solely on social security and need this financial help. He's a dog that gave up on life, I adopted him, I trained him myself, he is now a state certified therapy dog and has his k-9 good citizenship award...he is kind and gentle and has helped many people...thank you for your help...God Bless You...

Please visit the link provided below to support a good cause and help Blackjack with his much needed dental work. There is a basket on the back table in the church for your cash donation. Phyllis appreciates your help-- and so does Blackjack!

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/please-help-blackjack-with-dental-work/share?qid=c112c9>

Sincerely,

Miss Phyllis

YOUR PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING

Prayerfully consider making an endowment gift to St. Stephen's as part of your estate plan.

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Thank you to all who have donated. There are parishioners as well as other members in our community who benefit greatly from this valued fund. If you wish to contribute, please use the basket on the back table for donations



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--January 13th, after the Healing Service.

Prayer to send out LEMs with the Sacrament:

Celebrant: N. we send you out to share Communion this week with those who have been entrusted to your care.

People: May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this Sacrament of Christ's presence.

Celebrant: Continues with a closing prayer.

ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

The Pines	1st Sunday of each month	at 9:30 am
The Arbors	2nd Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm
The Pines	3rd Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm



Second Reading

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.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1-18

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.





FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 26, 2021



Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	<i>Greta Pearl</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Stefanie Bodine</i>
Altar Guild 8:00 am	<i>Beverly Larson</i>
Ushers 8:00 am	<i>Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine</i>
Lector 10:15 am	<i>Kay Karlick</i>
LEM 10:15 am	<i>Susan Clarke</i>
Altar Guild 10:15 am	<i>Beverly Larson, Valerie Thompson</i>
Ushers 10:15 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

On this first Sunday after Christmas, our attention is directed by the readings beyond the historical event of Jesus' birth to its cosmic and saving meaning. The Gospel reading is the theological prologue to the Gospel of John. This early Christian poem describes Jesus as the incarnation (en-fleshment) of the divine Word who is one with God, through whom God creates and redeem the world. It also expresses our unity with God by grace and faith. Thus, the birth of Jesus is not simply an event in his story but the event of our lives too.

The first reading today promises the reestablishment of God's people in His Kingdom. The prophet sees this as a certainty; in other words, it is an integral part of God's plan of salvation. The reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians is a portion of Paul's proclamation that in the new covenant our relationship to God is based on faith rather than obedience to the Law. Paul replaces the source of that new relationship in our unity through baptism with Jesus, which makes us sons, and daughters of God.

This Sunday's theme, then, expresses the double role of the Church's liturgy. It usually celebrates historical events, but in our action together as the people of God, the historical events are revealed as eternally saving events as well. In the liturgy, time and space are transcended and the events of history become the events of our own lives as individuals and as a community.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*.

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Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is given to
The Glory of God
In Honor of

Loved ones and Baby Jesus's birthday on
Christmas Day by *Stefanie Bodine*

Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers are given to the
Glory of God
In Memory of

Kathleen Molnar
From her Mother, Ruth Molnar
(misplaced, from the 19th of Dec)

