

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
**180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759**  
**Phone: 732-350-2121, Fax: 732-350-6000**  
**ssechurch@gmail.com**  
**www.saintstephenswhiting.org**

**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.

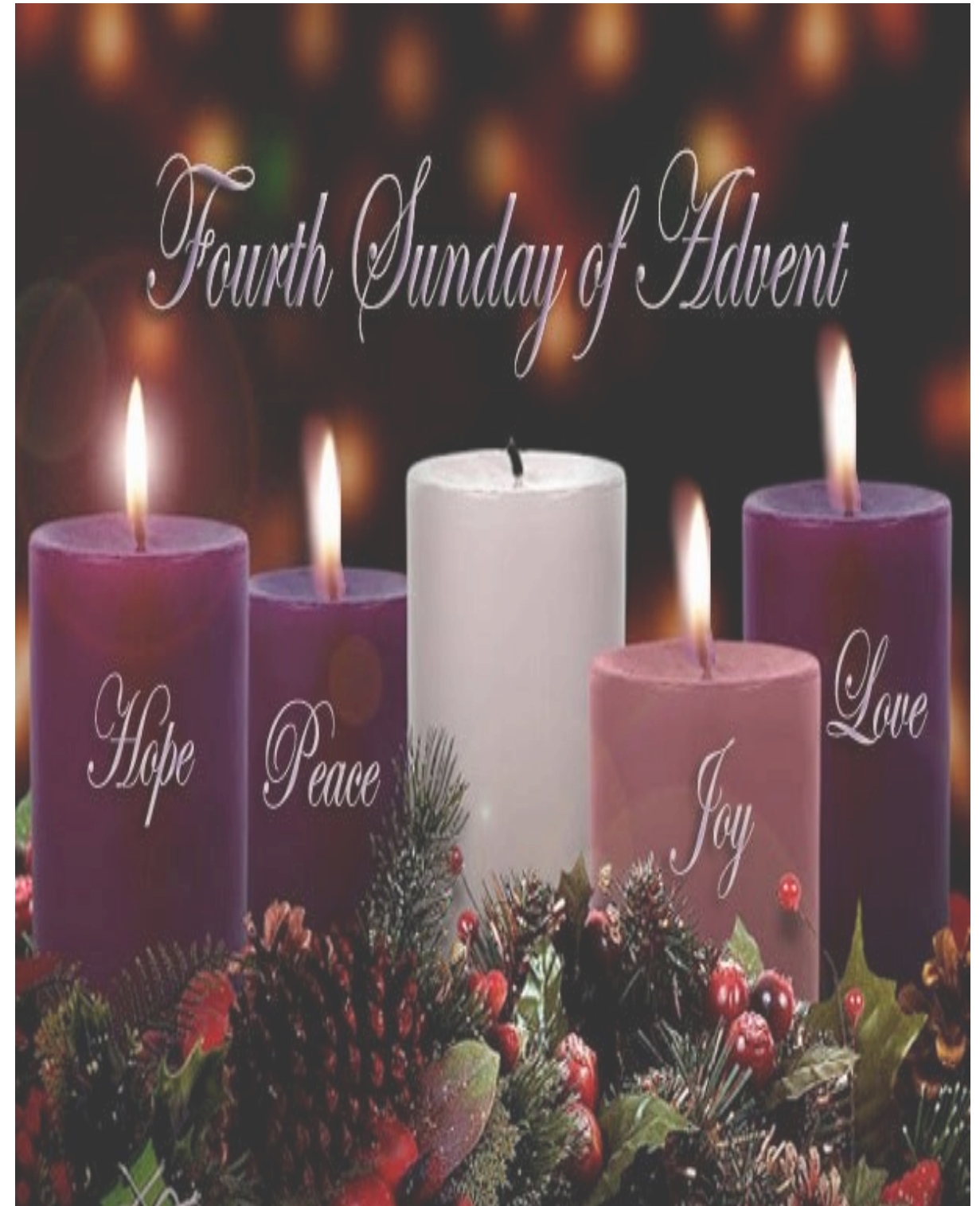
*"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20*

**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.



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I**

**DECEMBER 19, 2021**  
**8 & 10:15 am**

<i>Hymnal</i>	<i>The Word of God</i>	<i>BCP</i>
56	Processional Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”	
	Open Acclamation	319
	Opening Sentence	
	Confession and Absolution	320
S91	Kyrie	324
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <i>Micah 5:2-5a</i>	Insert
	<b>Canticle 3</b>	Insert
	Second Lesson: <i>Hebrews 10:5-10</i>	Insert
	Gradual: “Alleluia, He is coming” (lyrics on next page)	
	Gospel: <b>Luke 3:7-18</b>	Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
	The Nicene Creed	327
	Prayers of the People	328
	The Peace	332
	Offertory:	
	Doxology: “All things come of Thee, O Lord”	
	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	
	Eucharistic Prayer	333
S112	Sursum Corda	
S113	Sanctus	
	The Lord’s Prayer	336
S152	Breaking of the Bread	
S157	Fraction Anthem	
	Communion Hymns:	
325	“Let Us Break Bread Together”	
314	“Humbly I Adore You”	
318	“Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face To Face”	
	Post Communion Prayer	339
	Announcements	
	Blessing	
437	Closing Hymn: “Tell Out My Soul”	
	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 SERVICES-**

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.*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*December 19, 2021  
8 & 10:15am*

## *Collect of the Day*

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son Jesus Christ cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever....*Amen.*

## *First Reading*

*Micah 5:2-5a*

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.



**Gradual:** *“Alleluia, He is Coming”;*  
“Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here”  
“Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here”  
“I looked up and I saw my Lord a coming”  
“I looked up and saw my Lord a coming down the road”  
“Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here”  
“Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here”

## Canticle 3

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord, \*  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
- 2 For he hath regarded \*  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
- 3 For behold from henceforth \*  
all generations shall call me blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me, \*  
and holy is his Name.
- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him \*  
throughout all generations.
- 6 He hath showed strength with his arm; \*  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat, \*  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- 9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, \*  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, \*  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, \*  
and will be for ever. Amen.



**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***

***Hebrews 10:5-10***

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all

## ***Holy Gospel***

***Luke 1:39-45(46-55)***

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

## Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The theme of the Fourth Sunday of Advent is the role of the Virgin Mary in the events that brought about our salvation. A related theme is the Lord's human nature.

The first reading deals with the Messiah's human origins. He will come from the village of Bethlehem within the clan of Ephratha, the smallest and least significant of all the clans of the Tribe of Judah. The importance of this prophecy from the book of Micah is that with the Messiah, as with all people, greatness comes from God rather than from human sources.

It was as an obedient human being that Jesus made the willing offering of himself for our salvation, says the author of the Letter to the Hebrews. The salvation of humanity was accomplished within human life not apart from it.

Human nature has a real and definitive role to play, a role revealed in the story of Mary. Today's Gospel reading is the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. Both Elizabeth and her unborn son rejoice in Mary's role. Mary then praises God in the words used by the church at Evening Prayer, "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." God's blessing of Mary, the lowly servant, will be extended in the ministry of Christ to all, especially the poor and the lowly. In her acceptance and cooperation with God's will, Mary becomes the model for our response to God and the human agent of God's gift of the redeeming Christ to the world.



*From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year. Copyright © 1998 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.*

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 19, 2021**

### Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	Mary Storey
LEM 8:00 am	Bill Bodine
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Debbie Fisher, Linda Chiappetta
Ushers 8:00 am	Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine
Lector 10:15 am	Greg Hartline
LEM 10:15 am	Robert Virtue
Altar Guild 10:15 am	Ann Solaequi, Debbie Fisher
Ushers 10:15 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson



### 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 Honor of**

***Sans Memorial***

