

**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.

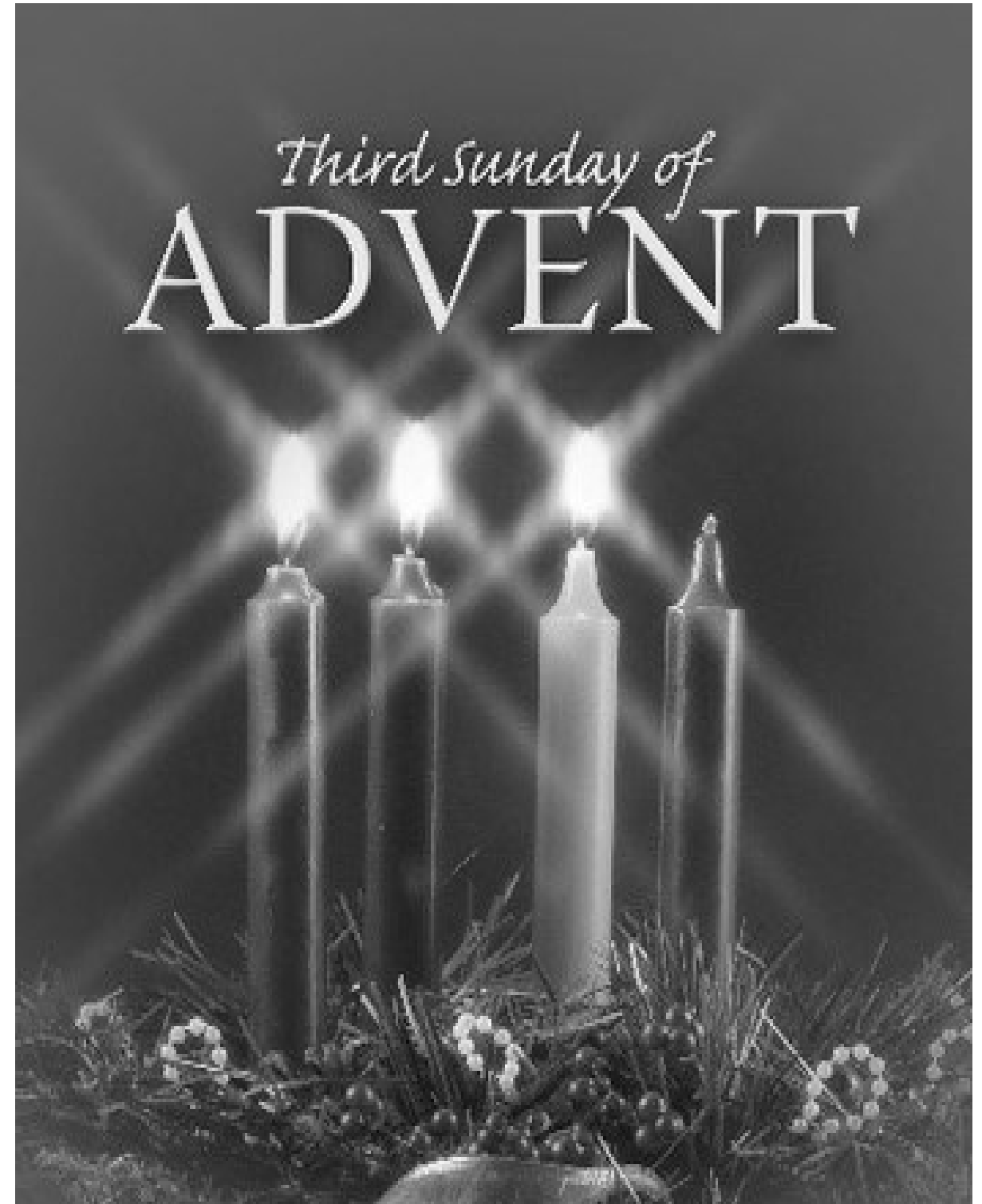
*"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20*

**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.



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

**DECEMBER 12, 2021  
8 & 10:15 am**

<b>Hymnal</b>	<b><i>The Word of God</i></b>	<b>BCP</b>
65	Processional Hymn: <i>“Prepare the Way O, Zion”</i>	
	Open Acclamation	319
	Opening Sentence	
	Confession and Absolution	320
S91	Kyrie	324
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <b><i>Zephaniah 3:14-20</i></b>	Insert
	<b><i>Canticle 9</i></b>	Insert
	Second Lesson: <b><i>Letter to the Philippians 1:3-11</i></b>	Insert
	Gradual: <i>“Alleluia, He is coming”</i> (lyrics on next page)	
	Gospel: <b><i>Luke 3:7-18</i></b>	Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
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	Prayers of the People	328
	The Peace	332
	Announcements	
	Offertory:	
	Doxology: <i>“All things come of Thee, O Lord”</i>	
	<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	<i>“Let Us Break Bread Together”</i>	
71	<i>“Hark the Glad Sound, the Savior comes”</i>	
679	<i>”Surely it is God who saves me”</i>	
	Post Communion Prayer	339
	Blessing	
68	Closing Hymn: <i>“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”</i>	
	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

**ARTS & CRAFTS-** Held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, from 10-12am & 1-3pm

**VESTRY MEETING-** Monday, December 27th

**WHITING GARDEN CLUB** at 10AM in the Parish Hall

**DEADLINE FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES-**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021. If you have any questions, please call Altar Guild Flower Chair, *Valerie Thompson*, at 732-657-4510.

**DO YOU NEED A PLEDGE CARD?**

Please see our Treasurer, *Gerrie Vergona*.



## 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 - 3 delegates to Convention, and 1 Vestry Member -- See Stefanie if you are willing to serve or have any questions

## *Advent Prayer*

For the desert places in which  
we walk, the streets we roam,  
the paths we cross: Guide our feet.  
Take us to places where you would go,  
Give us words that you would use,  
that in this Advent season  
of promise and preparation  
we might point the way  
with John the Baptist  
to the Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sin of the world!  
Amen.



## Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021  
8 & 10:15am

### *Collect of the Day*

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. *Amen*

### *First Reading*

*Zephaniah 3:14-20*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

**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 9 Page 86, BCP**

**The First Song of Isaiah Ecce Deus**  
*Isaiah 12:2-6*



Surely, it is God who saves me; \*  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, \*  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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**



**Today after the 8AM and 10:15AM Services.** Thank you to everyone from the Stewardship Committee--Stefanie Bodine, Debbie Fisher, Karen Tessa Mayer, Gerianne Murphy, Ken Seda, and the Chair, Bill Bodine

**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-- December 9th 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***

*Philippians 4:4-7*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## ***Holy Gospel***

*Luke 3:7-18*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

## Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday of Advent again has as its central theme the ministry of John the Baptist. Jesus said of him, "Among those born of women has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. . . ." In today's Gospel, John, who has been imprisoned by Herod Antipas, is facing death and wishes to know before he dies that he was correct in identifying Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus' reply is to quote from the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah, demonstrating that he is indeed fulfilling the Messiah's ministry as Isaiah foretold.

The Old Testament reading is the passage Jesus quotes in the Gospel reading. The sign of the Messiah is a new order of existence—God's kingdom—in which health and salvation spring forth. The second reading is a call to patient waiting for the Lord to appear to inaugurate the kingdom of God.

The distinction between John and even the least in the kingdom—ourselves—who are even greater, is that our birth is more than natural—it is the new birth by water and the spirit in Holy Baptism, which has made us members of the Body of Christ. We are commissioned for ministry in Baptism; a ministry like that of Jesus. In the Holy Eucharist we affirm our commitment to that ministry to all people which is the ongoing sign of Christ in 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 12, 2021

### Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	JoAnn Smithson
LEM 8:00 am	Richard Smithson
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Debbie Fisher, Linda Chiappetta
Ushers 8:00 am	Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine
Lector 10:15 am	Michael Munson
LEM 10:15 am	Stefanie Bodine
Altar Guild 10:15 am	Ann Solaequi, Beverly Larson
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***

