

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☪ Richmond, Virginia

Welcome! Thank you for joining us as we celebrate the birth of Christ, God's love incarnate among us. On this holy day, the light shines in the darkness and hope comes to a weary world. Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on the journey of life and faith, know that we are so glad you are here. Visitor guides are available in racks at all entrances. When you wish to be known here, please fill out a welcome card (found in each pew) and drop the card into the offering plate as it is passed.

This bulletin includes orienting notes in red to help guide your participation in worship. Hymns may be found in the blue hymnal in your pews. At the time of Holy Communion, all are welcome to come forward; ushers will guide you, and more instructions are in the bulletin. Again, welcome to you on this most holy morning, and Merry Christmas!

A wreath of carols

Margaret Vardell Sandresky

The Word of God

Hymn 83 O come, all ye faithful, vs. 1-3, 6 *Sung by all, standing as 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.* *Prayer Book, 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, vs. 1, 4 *Sung by all, standing as able.* *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 held.*

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson Isaiah 9:2-4, 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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 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 held.*

Psalm 96*Sung by the choir on behalf of the congregation.*

arr. Gerre Hancock

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

*Silence is kept.***Hymn 115**

What child is this?

*Sung by all, standing as able.**Greensleeves***The Gospel**John 1:1-14 *Please remain standing and face the reader of the Gospel.*

Deacon

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Deacon

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon The Rev. John D. Rohrs

The Nicene Creed *Said by all, standing.*

Prayer Book, page 358

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.

The Prayers of the People, Form III

Prayer Book, page 387

Celebrant Let us pray for the church and the world.

You may stand or kneel. The Leader and the People pray responsively.

Leader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People **That we all may be one.**

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and Celebrants;

People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, remembering especially those who suffer in the Holy Land, Eastern Europe, and all places of conflict;

People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader We pray for those who have died [especially _____]. Give to the departed eternal rest.

People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Leader [We pray/give thanks for _____.] Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions.

Celebrant 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.**

The Peace *Please stand.*

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.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts as we participate in God's work in the world. You may offer your gift in an offering plate as they come by or make a gift online by scanning the QR code or texting STSTEPHENSRYA to 73256.



Offertory Anthem Love came down at Christmas *Sung by the choir.* music: Eleanor Daley; text: Christina Rossetti

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Stars and angels gave the sign. Alleluia.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. [Glory be to God on high.]

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and love to all,
Love for plea and gift and sign. Alleluia.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love all lovely, love divine,
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign? Alleluia.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. [Glory be to God on high.]

At the Presentation *Sung by all, standing.*

Cranham

The fruits of our labor are presented to God, along with gifts for our food ministry.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet
what I can I give him: give my heart.

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

The people remain standing.

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

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

Sanctus

Sung by all.

William Trafka

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

Please kneel as you are able.

Celebrant

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

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant

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

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

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

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

Celebrant and People

Prayer Book, page 364

**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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is held.

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.

Translation: Give us your peace.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God.

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 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 Infant holy, infant lowly *Sung by the choir.* Polish carol, arr. David Willcocks
Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, Nowells ringing, tidings bringing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new;
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow,
Christ the babe was born for you!

Hymn 79 O little town of Bethlehem *Sung by all, seated.* *St. Louis*

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

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. *You may stand or kneel.*

All **Almighty and everliving God,** Prayer Book, page 366
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant The peace of God, which passes 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 Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Dismissal Prayer Book, page 366

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary Love came down at Christmas Charles Villiers Stanford



Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. John W.A. Jenkins; **DEACON AND PREACHER:** The Rev. John D. Rohrs; **SUBDEACON:** Iffet Araniti-Davis; **LAY READER/INTERCESSOR:** Deborah Waters; **CHALICE BEARERS:** Charlie Caldwell, Dave Davis, Scott Finn; **ACOLYTE:** Wyatt Hobbs, Abigail Moore; **MUSICIANS:** Sanctuary, Diana Chou, *director and organ*; **VERGER:** Kathy Brock

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

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

Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Ambler	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Duncan	Doris A. Marshall	Nellie Wingo Short
Steven Mackie Andersen	The Rev. D. Donald Dunn III	Sarah and Jim Mason	Samuel P. Simpson IV
The Rev. David T. Anderson	Mr. and Mrs. J. Warren Duston	Eugenia and Alex Mason	Emily Carter and Percy Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Anderson	Barbara Fives Ellington	Jeanne and Jim Mason	Carter Sommers
John Anderson	Tom Emery	Joseph and Ruth McCoy	TeTe and William Henry Spell
Core Mae Armistead	Lindy Emery	Timothy C. McCoy, Sr.	Laurie Spratley
Ann Ashcraft	Nancy Campbell Eubanks	Dinah Dunston McElfrish	David L. Stagg
Marie and Ed Ayers	Elbert E. Eubanks, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. Floyd McLean	Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Stephenson
Kitty Wade Ball	David Eye	Jeffrey Forbes Meadows	Olivia Mae Taylor
Abraham Brumer Barksdale	Frederic A. Fay	Kathleen and Howard Mears	Harold Chandler Thaxton
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Bartenstein	Ray Fewer	Christina Ulmer Moore	Eric Caldwell Todd
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Beck	Linda Fisher	Virginia Tabb Moore	Seldon T. Tompkins
Elaine Nelsen Beck	Adelaide and Garland Flippen	Roderick Moore	Mr. and Mrs. William F. Tompkins
Thomas and Lile Bell	Mary Craigie Flowers	Watson A. Mundy	Dr. and Mrs. William Tucker
Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Bell	Patrick Franko	Christopher Flippen Nash	Anne Bell Turnbull
Billie and Joe Bevis	Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Franko	Dorothy Nelson	Mr. and Mrs. B. Walton Turnbull
Nancy Dodd Blanchard	The Rev. Dr. Reginald Horace Fuller	Jane Downes Nelson	Mary Christine Ulmer
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Borum	Isma M. Gathright	Thomas Edmund Nelson	Mary Ann Ulmer
Mr. and Mrs. Seth Borum	Carroll C. Gathright, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. James H. Newell	Jack Lankford Ulmer, M.D.
William Michaux Buchanan	Fleming W. Gill	Annie Davenport Newsom	Oliver Nathaniel Wade
Mr. and Mrs. John Paul Bullock	Katherine B. Gill	John Franklyn Newsom, Jr.	Katherine Rogers Wade
Robert K. Burns	Emily Woods Gill	Adam D. Nimaga	Seaborn McDonald Wade
Ray Sterling Carpenter	John Ralph Gramling	Michael R. Oman	Thomas Walker
Cora Louise and George Cary	Sandra Farley Graves	Shelby Owen	Elizabeth Fleet Wallace
John and Mary Elizabeth Chenault	The Rev. John E. Hedrick	Mr. and Mrs. William Guthrie	Gordon W. Wallace, Jr.
John W. Christian	Florence G. Hedrick	Packard, Sr.	Holly Walsh
The Rev. Dr. Edward Allen Coffey	David E. Henderson	Ernest Holcombe Palmer	Mr. and Mrs. Edward Winslow Ware
Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Craigie	Mazie Elizabeth Henry	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pinckney	William and Elizabeth Washburn
Walter W. Craigie, Jr.	Ronald M. Henry	Carter and Tom Pollard	Gloria Holloway Waters
Frederick M. Crim, Sr.	Jacqueline F. and Jack N. Herod	Trip Pollard	Carroll Edward Waters
Col. Robert H. Crittenden	Richard and Jean Holland	Martha Munson Pollard	Hugh and Lucy West
Lara Teague Curry	Lelia Holtzman Holloway	Robert N. Pollard, Jr.	Lois and John David White & Family
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harris Daniel	Virginia Henry Holt	Robert N. Pollard III	Emory and Carrington Williams, Jr.
David Watson Daniel	Vicky Ellen Hunt	Helen and Bob Powell	Carolyn Jones Winn
David V. Davis	Anne Taylor Jeffreys	Jake and Rosemary Powers	Sydnor Anderson Winn
Eleanor E. Davis	Ola Epperson Jones	Mr. and Mrs. William A. Raney	Mary Anderson Winn
Nancy B. Davis	Charles Southall Jones	Brenda Patram Reid	T. Foster Witt, Jr.
Peter Nils Davis	Bill Kastelberg	Robert and Corrine Reid	E. Randolph Wootton, Jr.
Douglas W. Davis	Tom and Alice Kidd	The Rev. and Mrs. Alwin Reiners, Jr.	Margaret and E. Randolph Wootton, Sr.
Charles Jones Davis III	Jamie Knight	Catherine Cummings Rennolds	Donald and Anna Mae Wright
David L. Davis, Sr.	Pret Kopecky	Camilla Beck Rohrbach	<i>And in thanksgiving for</i>
Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Dennison	Judith Youngblood Lane	Mr. and Mrs. Stanley M. Rohrbach	Megan Michelle Coffey
W. W. Dennison, Jr.	Anne and Traylor Larus	Timothy Crawford Rose	Clark Edward Hodge
Sam and Sara Frances Derieux	Pepper and Stuart Laughon	William and Beunie Rose	James McDowell Hodge
Vachel Augustine Downes	Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Leitch	Dr. Ronald Victor Row	Elliott David Hodge
Alma Baker Downes	John Garland Lester	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schumacher	Lt. Jonathan Dean Hudson
Elizabeth Holley Downes	William Edward (Skip) Lester, Jr.	William D. Selden IV	Heath Andrew-Austin Packard & Family
William Harvey Downes	Bill, Rowena and Tom Longan	V.R. Shackelford III	Dr. Lisa Packard
Vachel Augustine Downes, Jr.	John Lewis Low IV	Mr. and Mrs. Gordon D. Shackelford, Jr.	
John Robert Draper	Alan and Jean Mander	David Sherman	
Mary C. Dull	The Rev. Dr. McAlister Crutchfield		
Carl A. Dull, Jr.	Marshall		

The pine roping is given in loving memory of Camilla Rohrbach by her husband Philip Rohrbach, and L. Anthony Austin, M.D., by his family.

Wreaths are given in loving memory of Lowndes Burke and Billy Hardy by their families.

The vigil candle in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit is given in loving memory of Jeffrey Forbes Meadows.