



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist: Rite One
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☙ Richmond, Virginia

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church. We are so glad you are here. This service of Holy Eucharist follows the order found in the Book of Common Prayer (the red book in the pew rack) beginning on page 323. This bulletin provides page numbers and other information to guide you through the service.

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation	<i>Please stand as you are able.</i>	The Book of Common Prayer, page 323
The Collect for Purity		page 323
The Summary of the Law		page 324
Kyrie, Trisagion or Gloria		page 324
The Collect of the Day	<i>Found on page 3.</i>	
The First Lesson	<i>Found on page 3; please sit.</i>	
The Psalm	<i>Found on page 3; please remain seated and read responsively by whole verse.</i>	
The Gospel	<i>Found on page 3-4; please stand.</i>	
The Sermon	<i>Please sit.</i>	
The Nicene Creed	<i>Please stand.</i>	page 326
The Prayers of the People	<i>Please kneel as you are able.</i>	pages 328-330
The Confession of Sin		page 330
The Peace	<i>Please stand.</i>	page 332
Welcome and Announcements	<i>Please sit.</i>	

The Holy Communion

At the Presentation of Alms

All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts to sustain God's work in the world. If you wish to make your offering electronically, please scan the QR code or text STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256.



All things come of thee, O Lord.
And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving Please stand. pages 340-343
Please kneel after the Sanctus.

The Lord's Prayer page 336The Breaking of the Bread page 337The Prayer of Humble Access page 337

The Distribution of Holy Communion

All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the Communion rail in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, and you may stand or kneel to receive. To receive Communion, extend your hands, one over another, 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 the smaller cup. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms against your chest. If you need us to bring the sacrament to you, please let the usher know.

The Post-Communion Prayer page 339The Blessing and Dismissal page 339-340

The Collect and Readings

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Collect of the Day

The Book of Common Prayer, page 160

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, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson Isaiah 7:10-16 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.** *A period of silence is kept.*

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *Said responsively by whole verse, seated.*

Prayer Book, page 702

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Gospel Matthew 1:18-25 *Please stand as you are able and face the reader of the Gospel.*

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary

as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Participants

CELEBRANT AND PREACHER: The Rev. William S. Stanley; **READER AND CHALICE BEARER:** Tony Anthony

Memorials

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Rebecca Holcomb Dickinson by Dr. and Mrs. Richard M. Clary and family; Mary Pearson Moore and Thomas Justin Moore, Jr., Carolyn and Howard McCue, Mary and Rives Fleming, Jr. and Jeannette Bray Moore by their family; and John W. Tadlock by his family. The vigil candle in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit is given in memory of the Rev. D. Donald Dunn III.

The Parish Prayer List

Leilani Allwine, Patricia Atkins-Smith, Sue Atkinson, Robert Baker, Elizabeth Bannerman, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, *Linda Bennett*, Ken Blaisdell, Christine Boeteger, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Gene Bowles, Sturges Brian, Leslie Brockman, Alex H. Brown, Pat Brown, Sarah Jo Bryce, Turner Bruneau, Matt Boyd, Patti Bullen, Tammy Carleton, Scott Carnohan, Paula Chambers, *Michael Click*, Nancy Cole, Sarah Cole, Susan Collier, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, Kathy Conrad, John Corey, Don Cowles, Michelle Crim, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, *Debbie Cuseo*, Chris Davis, Patricia Delany, Jackie Dering, Ham DeRosa, Terry Dickinson, Davis Dunn Dillard, Susan Dull, Guy Frank, April Greenwood, Janis Hall, Rodger Hardy, Katie Hellebush, Dan Hill, Anna Hurdle, Alan Jamesieson, Lena Jones, Justin Jones-Nickerson, Jane Kelly, Dana King, Linda Lewis, Genie Lucyk, Joy Luke, Margaret Lyle, Pam Lynch, Ross Mackenzie, Barbara Mathison, Satin Matthews, Adrienne Maxwell, Michael McCabe, Schnucki McCabe, Morgan McCall, Stratton and Robin McCrady, Gertrude McLean, Nancy Meath, Jack Miller, Mary Miller, B. Millner, Susan Minyard, Sallie Moncol, *Carolyn Mae Morgan*, Ashley Nickerson, Mary Beth Noel, Sallie Nolte, Jan Orgain, Tricia Payne, Beth Pearce, Ernest Perry, Courtney Phillips, Scott Pittman, Lyn Presson, *Alma Price*, Luke Robertson, Ramona Ransone, Jason R., Ray, Jennifer Reed, Aleta Richards, Ryan Rohadfox, Kaley Rosenthal, Robert Sass, James Saunders and Harriet Covey, Melissa Schick, T. Logan Scott, Todd Shelton, Bette Shiflett, Maj. David Shuford, Jr., Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Regena Stith, Margaret Thompson, Kenneth Valke, Timothy W., Ozzie Wade, Suzanne Wallace, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Donna Williams, Steve Williams, Martha Wilson, Claire Wood, Emily H. Wood, Rosalyn Wootten, Sue Wootton, Young, Margaret P. Young. **For the blessings of this life**, especially *the birth of Murphy McCabe Williams to Guy and Elizabeth Williams*. **For those who have died**, especially *V. Cassel Adamson, Jr. and Ida Hall*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Maddie and Matthew Clites, Ian Hayes and Corinne Torres, Preston and Cate Kendig, and Michelle and Dane Olsson. **For our missionaries**, Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega, and the people they serve in Argentina. **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the *Anglican Church of Burundi*. **For ReWork Richmond**. **For an end to gun violence**. **For peace and reconciliation** in Haiti, Iraq, Iran, Israel/Palestine, Nigeria, North Korea, South Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine, and at our borders. **For those serving overseas in the military or diplomatic service:** CPT Anna Broadbent-Evelyn, Lt. Jonathan Dean Hudson, and Lt. Alex Whitmire. *Names in italics were added to the prayer list this week.*

In order to keep our prayer list current and facilitate the intentionality and mindfulness with which we pray, we print names on the list for three months or less. If you would like for someone to remain on the list for more (or less) time, please call the office or email Kitty Ball at kball@ststephensRVA.org.

The Rite Stuff, Copyright©1998 by Church Publishing Incorporated, All rights reserved; from Copyright©1977; used by permission. Adapted from Common Worship, Copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2006; All of the official Common Worship publications are being published by Church House Publishing.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☙ 6000 Grove Ave. Richmond, VA 23226 ☙ 804.288.2867 ☙ ststephensRVA.org