



The Second Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church & Richmond, Virginia

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. We are glad you are here. We welcome and include all people without exception and we extend a special greeting to any visitors. Throughout this bulletin, helpful guidance is printed in italics. Visitor guides are found in racks at the entrance doors. When you wish to be known here, please fill out a welcome card (found in each pew or online); you may drop the card into the offering plate as it is passed. Children are very welcome in this service, and child care is also available for infants and children through age four in our nursery on the lower level near the main parking lot entrance; greeters are happy to guide you. The church is open for prayer from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We hope to see you again soon!

Voluntary

Prelude on *Greensleeves*

Richard Purvis

The Word of God

Hymn 83, vs. 1-3, 6 O come, all ye faithful

Adeste fidelis

Sung by all, standing as you are able. All hymns are found in The Hymnal 1982, the blue book in your pew rack.

The Bidding Prayer *Please remain standing.*

Reader

Welcome to all on this Second Sunday of Christmas.

This morning, let it be our care and delight to hear again
the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go unto
Bethlehem, to see the babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving
purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto
the glorious redemption brought us by God's holy child; and
let us rejoice in the yearly remembrance of his birth
with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for
peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and
unity of the church, and especially for the people of this church
and this city.

And because this of all things would rejoice God's heart, let us
at this time remember those who are poor or hungry, those who
are oppressed, those who are sick and those who mourn, those who
are nearing death and those whose lives have just begun.

We offer special prayers for those on our parish prayer list,
and for all others whom we hold in our hearts and in our hands.

We also remember today those who have died, [especially _____],
and all others we name now, either silently or aloud.

The Almighty God bless us with grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens
above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

First Lesson*Please sit.*

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the LORD God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.** *A period of silence is kept.*Hymn 81 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming *Sung by all, standing as able.**Es ist ein Rose***Second Lesson***The congregation may be seated.*

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.** *A period of silence is kept.*Hymn 79, vs. 1-3, 5 O little town of Bethlehem *Sung by all, standing as able.**St. Louis***Third Lesson***The congregation may be seated.*

Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.** *A period of silence is kept.*Hymn 87 Hark! the herald angels sing *Sung by all, standing as able.**Mendelssohn***Fourth Lesson***The congregation may be seated.*

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

Hymn 96 Angels we have heard on high *Sung by all, standing as able.*

Gloria

Fifth Lesson

The congregation may be seated.

John 1:1-14

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

Hymn 82 Of the Father's love begotten *Sung by all, standing as able.*

Divinum mysterium

The Peace

Prayer Book, page 360

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. After exchanging the Peace, please be seated.

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.



At the Offertory New Year Carol *Sung by the choir.*

Benjamin Britten

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
for to worship God with, this happy New Year.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.


Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

At the Presentation

Sung by all, standing as able.

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

Prayer Book, page 367

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 Tarka



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.

You may stand or kneel.

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,

**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 kept.

William Trafka

Cantor: Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer-cy on us.

Je-sus, bear - er of our sins, have mercy on us. Je-sus, Re - deemer, Re-

deemer 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. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

At the Communion of the People

All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the chancel steps and in both side chapels. 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, cross one hand over the other, 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

Hymn 107	Good Christian friends, rejoice	Sung by all, seated.
Hymn 82	It came upon the midnight clear	Sung by all, seated.

In dulci jubilo
Carol

Sending Forth Eucharistic Visitors

When a Lay Eucharistic Visitor is scheduled to visit a parishioner, the following is said.

Deacon	N., we send you out to share Communion with N.
People	Carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ's presence.
Deacon	We who are many are one body because we share one bread and one cup. Amen.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. You may stand or kneel.

All **Eternal God, heavenly Father,**
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer Book, page 365

The Blessing *The Celebrant pronounces God's blessing.*

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

Antioch

Dismissal

Prayer Book, page 366

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary Chorale Prelude on *In dulci jubilo*

Wilbur Held



Memorial

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of the Rev. Charles Sydnor Cook, Jr., by his family.

Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. John W.A. Jenkins; **DEACON:** The Rev. Judy Webb Davis; **SUBDEACON:** Barbara Massey; **READERS:** Patrick Forrester, Abby Kocher, Cotesworth Pinckney, Gayle Royals; **ASSISTING CLERGY:** The Rev. John D. Rohrs, the Rev. William S. Stanley; **CHALICE BEARERS:** Ifet Araniti-Davis, Gibboney Huske, Elizabeth Spell, Deborah Waters; **ACOLYTES:** Sadie Kidd, Lowndes Peple, Olivia Randolph, Isabel Schaaf, Tripp Schnell, Collin Weis; **LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR:** Kim Spensieri; **MUSICIANS:** St. Stephen's Choir, Chris Edwards, *director*; Greg Vick, *organ*; **VERGER:** Ben Emerson

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, *Emma Bolduc*, 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, Tracy Councill, 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, *Debbie Ferguson*, Guy Frank, April Greenwood, Janis Hall, Rodger Hardy, Katie Hellebush, Dan Hill, Anna Hurdle, Alan Jamesieson, John Turner Jenkins, 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, Josh Spain, 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 those who have died**, especially *Kristeen Cruz Schlak* and *John Wick*. **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 *Church of the Province of Central Africa*. **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.



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