

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24



ST.
STEPHEN'S

SSLV.ORG

Worship Leaders December 24, 2025

Presider The Rev. Nic Mather

Musician. Riki Davis

Acolyte

Altar Guild. Gretchen Niemi, Heather Niemi

Reader. Alison Askeland, Lloyd Solon

Greeter. Karen Miller

Chalice Bearer. John Edmiston, Lucy Claxton

Usher. Lloyd Solon

Verger. Mary Hoover

Vestry Presence. Greg Moore, Gretchen Niemi

We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation want to respectfully **acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People**, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Cowlitz and Chinook People. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths.



St. Stephen's is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love and service to **welcome all people just as God created you**. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we!



Connect with St. Stephen's!

Please leave your name and email/phone number and Fr. Nic will connect with you this week with an invitation to enjoy a cup of coffee on us!

Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Your Email: _____



Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

Church of The Nativity, Bethlehem

THE WORD BECAME FLESH,
AND DWELT AMONG US.

ST. JOHN 1/14

When dark is the world today,
This Child brings
the world the light. MB

The Invitation to Prayer

Beloved in Christ, this day it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe, lying in the manger. Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise. But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save, for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples. And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not our Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude who no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven.

The Blessing

May the almighty God bless us with divine grace, may Christ give us the joy of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above, may the Spirit of Love bring us all. **Amen.**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Love came down at Christmas

The Hymnal 1982, #84

1 Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Love came down at Christmas". It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staff, with three verses of text. The first verse is "1 Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;". The second verse is "2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;". The third verse is "3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,". Below these verses, there is a section of the score with the lyrics "love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign. wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign? love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.".

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), alt. Music: *Gartan*, melody from *Petrie Collection of Irish Melodies, Part II*, 1902; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

A reading from Genesis 22:15-18

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Mosaic, Abraham Sacrifices Isaac, Church of the Holy Sepulchre (site of Jesus' Death, Burial, & Resurrection), Jerusalem

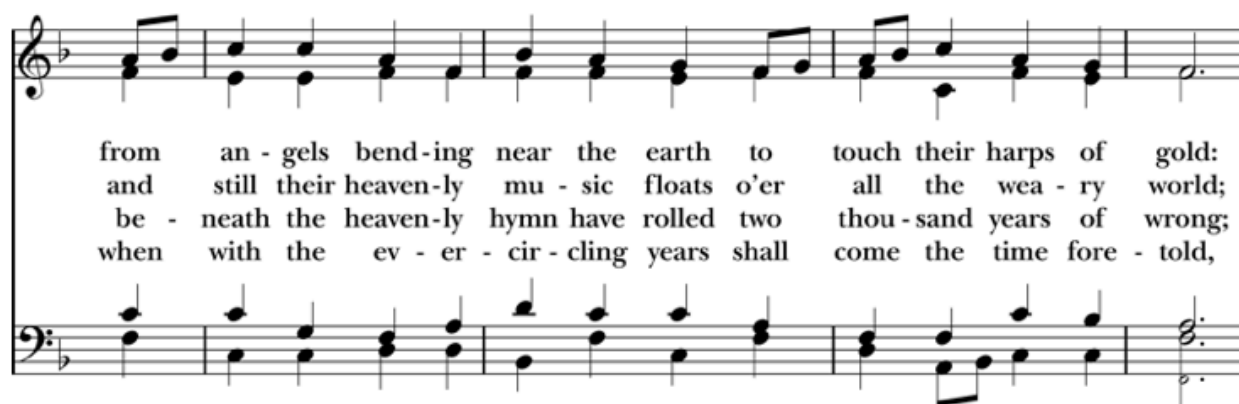


It came upon the midnight clear

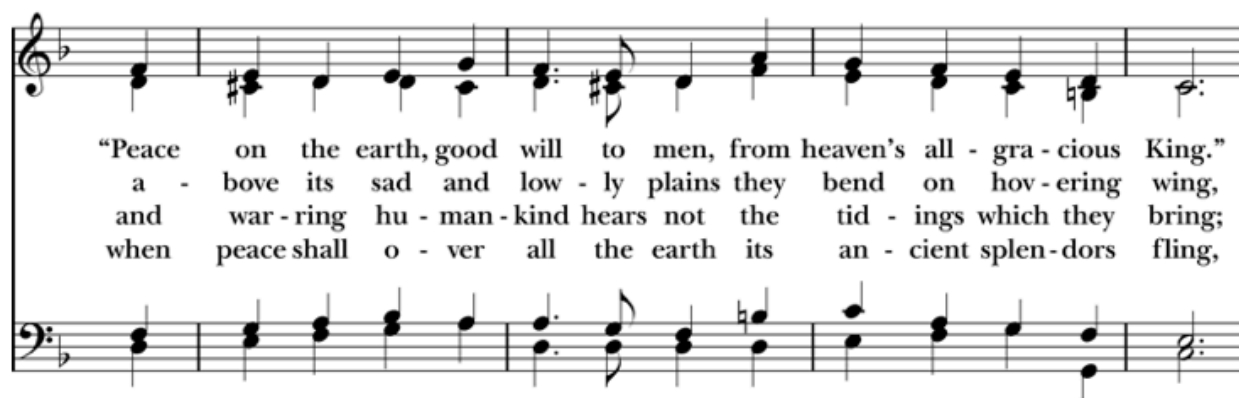
The Hymnal 1982, #90



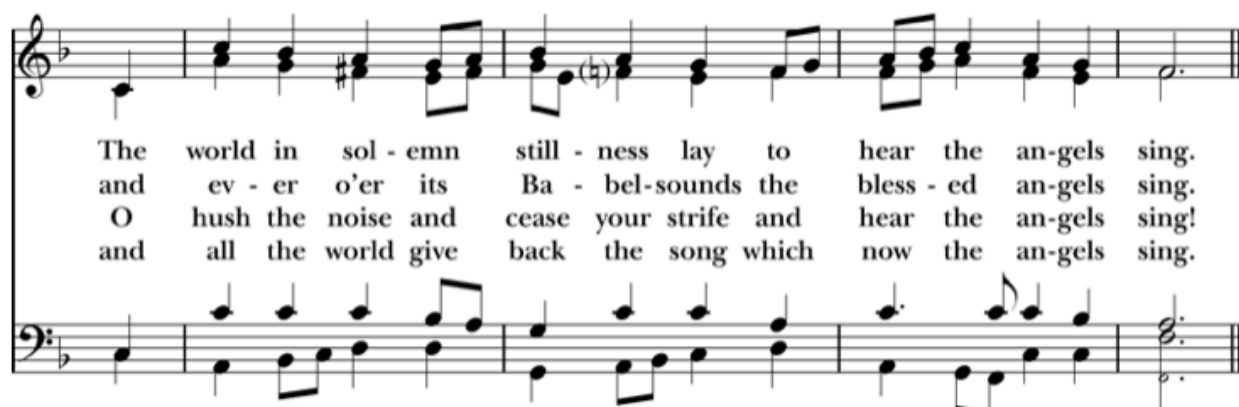
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf - fered long;
 4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by pro - phets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav - en - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 be - neath the heav - en - ly hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all - gra - cious King."
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - ering wing,
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the tid - ings which they bring;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: *Noel*, English melody; adapt. Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900).



*A Star in the
ceiling of a
shepherd's cave,
Bethlehem*

A Reading from Isaiah 9:2-7

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 all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

God rest you merry, gentlemen

The Hymnal 1982, #105



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle-men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Words: London carol, 18th cent. Music: *God Rest You Merry*, melody from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1850; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke 1: 26–35, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The Home of Mary, Church of the Annunciation, Nazareth



The angel Gabriel from heaven came

The Hymnal 1982, #265

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LD, England.

A Reading from the Gospel According to 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

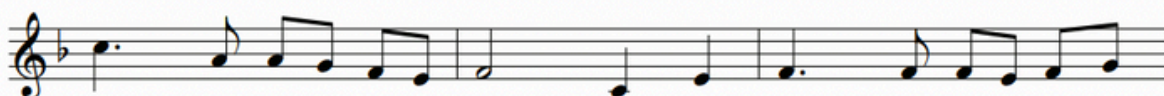
The Site of Jesus' Birth, Church of The Nativity, Bethlehem



Once in Royal David's City



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
 2. He came down to earth from heav - en Who is
 3. And, through all his won - drous child - hood, He would
 4. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
 5. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, And his shel - ter was a
 hon - or and o - bey, Love and watch the low - ly
 day like us he grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and



ba - by In a man - ger for his bed. Mar - y
 sta - ble, And his cra - dle was a stall. With the
 maid - en In whose gen - tle arms he lay. Chris - tian
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us he knew. And he
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove. And he



was that moth - er mild; Je - sus
 poor and meek and low - ly Lived on
 chil - dren all should be Kind, o -
 feels for all our sad - ness, And he
 leads his chil - dren on To the



Christ, her lit - tle child.
 earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 be - dient, good as he.
 shares in all our glad - ness.
 place where he is gone.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895, alt.
 Tune: IRBY, 8 7 8 7 77; Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876; harm. by Arthur H. Mann, 1850–1929

The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According to Luke 2:8-19
Glory to you O Christ.

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 Saviour, 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 favours!'

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 Gospel of Our Savior.

Praise to you O Christ.

Angels appear to the Shepherds, Shepherd's Field, Beit Sahour (outside Bethlehem), West Bank



What child is this, who, laid to rest

Unison or harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds
 guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to
 bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: Greensleeves, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871.

CREED

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Invitation

As we celebrate Jesus' birth, let us offer our gifts in thanks for God's precious gift to us this night. Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his name, bring offering and come into his courts.

Offertory Music

Choir

Nativity scene, Shepherd's Field, Beit Sahour (outside Bethlehem), West Bank



HOLY EUCHARIST

(PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and God of
might. Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - nah in the
high - est. Blest is He com - ing in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - nah
in the high - est. Ho - sa - nah in the high - est.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

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

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine.

By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Blessed Mother Mary, Stephen and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Fraction (to the tune of Greensleeves)

**What feast of love is offered here
What banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life
What gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
The bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!**

The Gifts of God, for the People of God.

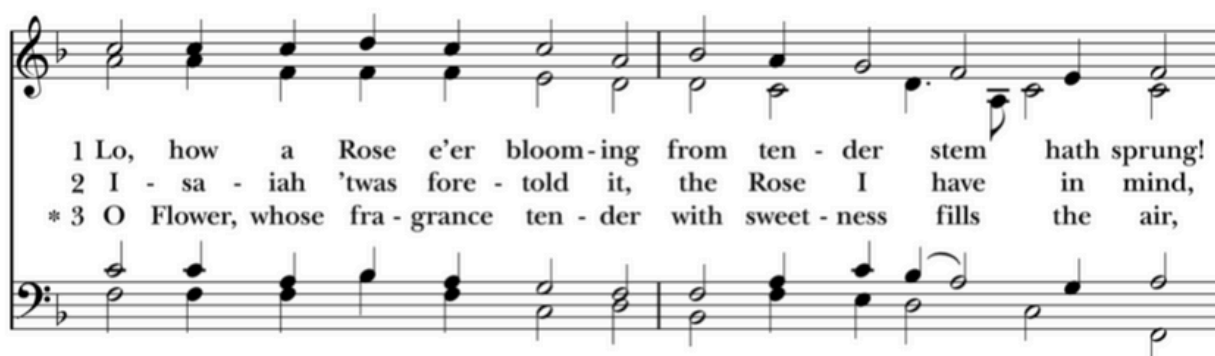
You are invited to come forward and receive Eucharist at this time. We will be sharing wine from a common chalice, so if you would prefer intinction please leave the bread in your hand and the chalice minister will intinct for you. Gluten free communion is available and a non-alcoholic option in place of the wine is also available upon request.

Nativity painting, Shepherd's Field, Beit Sahour (outside Bethlehem), West Bank



Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

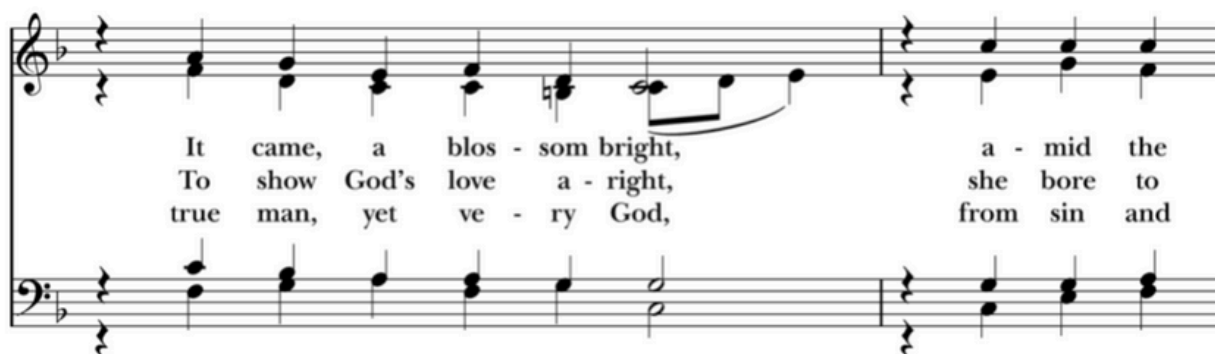
The Hymnal 1982, #81



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 * 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,



Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;



It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and



cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940*. St. 3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

Postcommunion

(please stand in body or spirit)

**God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

Lighting of the Candles

Jesus as a Child, Creche Orphanage, Bethlehem



The Hymnal 1982 - #111 Silent night, holy night

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

The blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah,
and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary,
and of the Holy Spirit, who Broods over the world as a mother over her children,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We gratefully acknowledge the gifts of the following donors who make it possible to adorn the church with poinsettias, greens and other decorations for our celebration of Christ's Mass:

*Heather Karnoski
in Memory of Glenn Brice*

*John & Becky Edmiston in Memory of
Walt Edmiston and Steve Larson*

*Robin Lewis in
Memory of Ruth & Eric Werts*

*Karen Miller in Memory
of Judy Hixson*

*Jeanne O'Connor in
Memory of Doug O'Connor*

*Janice Stixrud in
Memory of Joel Rupley*

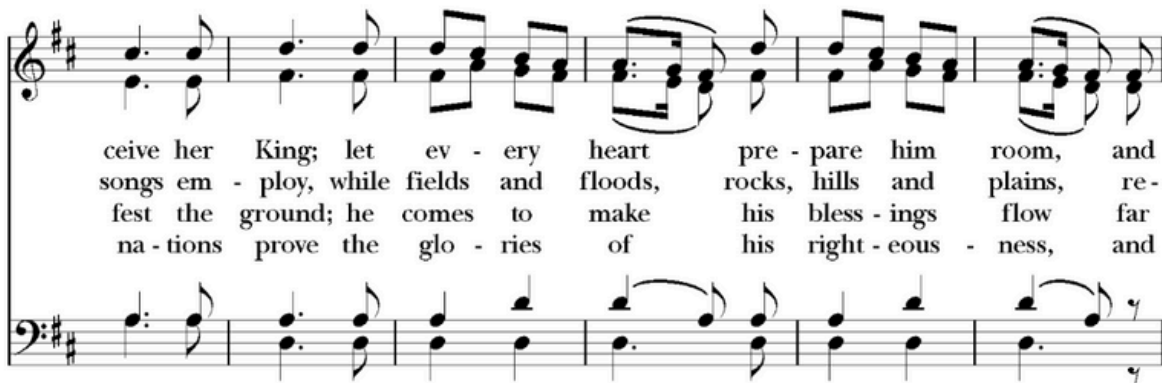
*Michele Waite in Memory of
Ian & Marion Wright*

Anonymous donation

The Hymnal 1982 - #100 Joy to the world! the Lord is come



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and



heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

An Invitation to Join us @ St. Stephen's in 2026

On behalf of the people of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, I want to invite you to join us in this upcoming year to see how St. Stephen's may be meeting you on your faith journey and how you can make a real impact on both this community we call St. Stephen's and the larger community around us through a regular faith practice.

St. Stephen's is a congregation of people who are active in their faith, taking the lessons they learn from the gospel out into this world. We have many outreach ministries that are always welcoming new volunteers, we continue to expand our understanding of what it means to be the church in the world today, and we support one another in our personal spiritual growth as we come together in worship each Sunday.

We hope that you will join us this upcoming year to experience how St. Stephen's can make a real difference in your life. We encourage you to start by committing one Sunday a month to attending worship at St. Stephen's. This is the perfect way to start a faith practice with our community and will let you develop a sense of this place, our worship, and our people.

We look forward to welcoming you back into these pews when you feel so moved, and we wish you a very Merry Christmas this day and all days.

For more information about St. Stephen's visit our website: sslv.org

In God's Peace & Love,

Fr. Nic

