

IN THE NAME OF THESE REFUGEES

SECOND SUNDAY OF

CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 4

AID ALL REFUGEES THROUGH INTEREST – FRIENDSHIP – GIFTS

University of Alberta, School of Biological Sciences, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E9, and the University of Alberta, Department of Biological Sciences, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E9.

Worship Leaders January 4, 2026

Presider The Rev. Michael Wright

Musician Riki Davis

Acolyte Niko Hanberg

Altar Guild. Gretchen Niemi, Heather Niemi

Reader Rob Sudar, Rob Painter-Johnson

Greeter. Rob Painter-Johnson

Chalice Bearer. Lisa Sudar, Lloyd Solon

Usher. Mike Claxton

Verger Mary Hoover

Vestry Presence. Gretchen Niemi, Rob Painter-Johnson

Coffee Hour

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: _____



The snow lay on the ground

The Hymnal 1982, #110



1 The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
2 'Twas Ma - ry, daugh - ter pure of ho - ly Anne,
3 Saint Jo - seph, too, was by to tend the child;
4 And thus that man - ger poor be - came a throne;



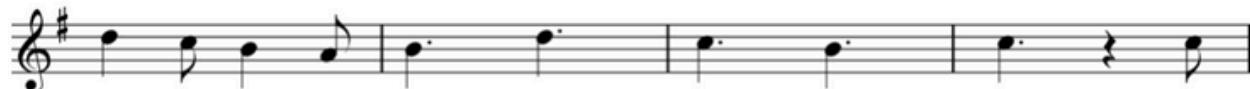
when Christ our Lord was born On Christ - mas night. Ve -
that brought in - to this world the God made man. She
to guard him, and pro - tect his mo - ther mild; the
for he whom Ma - ry bore was God the Son. O



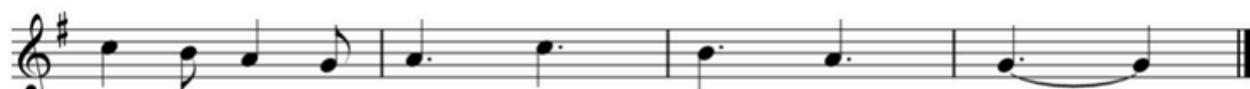
ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve -
laid him in a stall at Beth - le - hem; the
an - gels hov - ered round, and sang this song,
come, then, let us join the heaven - ly host, Ve - to



Refrain
ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
ass and ox - en shared the roof with them.
ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
praise the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Ve -



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve -



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

Words: Source unknown, 19th cent. Music: Venite adoremus, melody adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944); harm. Leo Sowerby (1895-1968).

LITURGY OF THE WORD

We celebrate this day the arrival of the Christ Child!

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

You come to your people and set them free.

Children are invited to follow the procession of the cross from the Church to the Parish Hall for Sunday School. While the program is geared for children 10 & under, ALL children are welcome to attend. Parents are also welcome to attend. Children will return to the church in time for Eucharist (typically returning after the passing of the peace).

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

IRBY

Henry John Gauntlett, 1805-1876

Arr. Hal H. Hopson

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

Choir 1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a
Choir 2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is
Choir 3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, day by
All 4. 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, his shel - ter was a
day like us he grew; he was lit - le, weak and
own re - deem - ing love, for that child so dear and

ba - by in a man - ger for his bed. Mar - y was that
sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the poor, op -
help - less, tears and smiles like us he knew; and he feels for
gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; and he leads his

moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
pressed, and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our is glad - ness.
chil - dren on to the place where he gone.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

A Reading from Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame, those with child
and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;

say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;

their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84:1-8

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! ***
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house**
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! ***
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! ***
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of**
springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, ***
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; ***
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; ***
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

A Reading from Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Procession Hymn 105 verse 1

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,



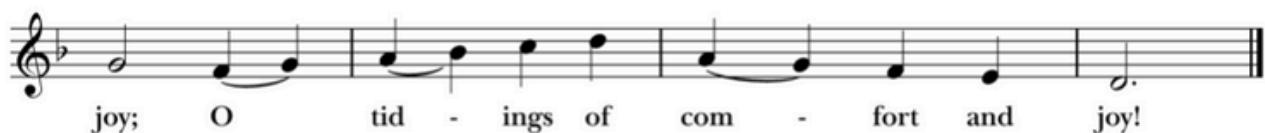
re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ-mas Day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



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.

The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew 2:13-15,19-23.
Glory to you, O Christ.

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

The Gospel of Our Savior.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel Recession Hymn 105 verse 4

Homily - Fr. Michael Wright

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.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRIEST: Creator God, you have formed us for purpose. Enter more deeply into our hearts that we might more fully know you and the role you have created us for, and accept our prayers as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

READER: Empower your church to speak truth and to stand boldly against the dark powers of this world, that it might be a refuge and a place of hope. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Embolden your people to hold to account the leaders of the world, that they might pursue policies of peace and international fellowship. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Grant us discerning and generous hearts that your blessings might be made known to our neighbors through our actions. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Equip us and sustain us to forestall environmental catastrophe, and to preserve the glorious abundance of creation for future generations. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Support those who suffer and make your healing presence known to them. Especially we pray for Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Reed Nunnelee, D. Rowley, Cheryl Karr, Don Willows, Mark Haase, Lois Larson and those you now name either silently or aloud. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Accept the dying into your loving arms and greet us also in the hour of our deaths that we might rise again in your new age. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

PRIEST: Speak to us and guide us in our life's path so that we might be fully the people you created us to be. All we have and all we ask comes from you, O Lord who with the Son and Holy Spirit, reigns forever, One God. **AMEN.**

The Peace

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

The Offertory

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his name, bring offerings and come into his courts.

Offertory Music

As with gladness men of old

The Hymnal 1982, #119

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man - ger - bed;
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger rude and bare;
4 Ho - ly Je - sus! ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heaven - ly coun - try bright, need they no cre - a - ted light;

1 as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
2 there to bend the knee be - fore him whom heaven and earth a - dore;
3 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
4 and, when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
5 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down:

1 so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
2 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy - seat.
3 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heaven-ly King.
4 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
5 there for ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our King.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: Dix, melody Conrad Kocher (1786-1872); arr. William Henry Monk (1823-1889); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

HOLY EUCHARIST

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.

What Star Is This



1. What star is this, with beams so bright, More love - ly
2. 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed: "From Ja - cob
3. While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, An in - ward
4. O Je - sus, while the star of grace In - vites us
5. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the



than the noon - day light? 'Tis sent to an-nounce a
shall a star pro - ceed." And lo! The east - ern
light the Lord con - veys. It urg - es them, with
all to seek your face, Let not our sloth - ful
Spir - it, Three in One, May ev - 'ry tongue and



new - born king, Glad tid - ings of our God to bring.
sag - es stand To read in heav'n the Lord's com - mand.
force be - nign, To seek the Giv - er of the sign.
hearts re - fuse The guid - ance of your light to use.
na - tion raise An end - less song of thank - ful praise!

Text: *Quem stella sole pulchrior*, Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. by John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.
Tune: PUER NOBIS, LM; adapt. by Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Postcommunion Prayer (Standing or Kneeling/Sitting)

**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.**

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.**

(You are invited to stand as able.)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

**Following the closing hymn you are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for
Coffee Hour!**

**During Coffee Hour today please help with removing ornaments from the
parish hall Christmas tree.**

**If you are new today, please take a welcome packet, and coffee mug (found at
the front door)!**

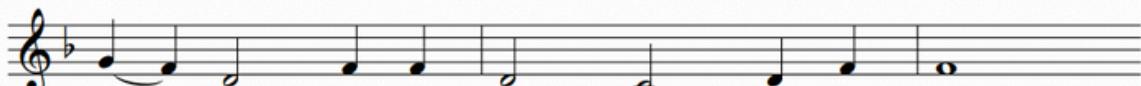
Epiphany Carol



1. Ev - 'ry na - tion sees the glo - ry Of a
 2. Ev - 'ry tongue shall sing the prais - es Of his
 3. Once a - gain may we dis - cov - er Word made
 4. Gath - er, God, the world to - geth - er In the



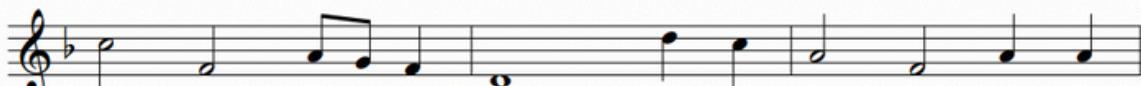
star that pierced the night. As we tell the won-drous
 birth in deep - est night. He is heal - ing for the
 flesh sent from a - bove. In our neigh - bor, sis - ter,
 bright - ness of your day. Fill our hearts with joy for -



sto - ry We are bathed in ra - diant light.
 a - ges; He is Christ, our God's de - light.
 broth - er, In the lone - ly and un - loved.
 ev - er; Help us walk the ho - ly way.



Star sent forth from high - est heav - en, Danc - ing
 He pro - claims with - in his be - ing All our
 May we touch him, may we hold him, May we
 May your jus - tice rule the na - tions; May all



light of God's de - sign, Shine up - on the gift that's
 hopes, our great de - sires. He shall die to rise, re -
 cra - dle him with care As we learn to love each
 peo - ple live as one. Now we see our true sal -



giv - en: Word made flesh now born in time.
 deem - ing All who fol - low with their lives.
 oth - er, Bring - ing hope from out de - spair.
 va - tion In the glo - ry of your Son.

2026 Save the Dates:

- **January Newcomers Class: Sundays in January @ Coffee Hour**
 - Soup Lunch Provided
 - Learn about the Episcopal Church & St. Stephen's
 - See Mary Lyons at 360-560-5272 or Fr. Nic to RSVP
- **Reel Theology Returns in January**
 - Sundays 1/11, 1/18, 2/1 @ 6pm
 - Join us as we watch films exploring the Immigrant Experience
- **Annual Meeting, Sunday January 25 @ 5pm**
 - RSVP to the Office!
- **The Path, A Bible Study Program**
 - Begins Sunday February 1 @ 9am
 - Meets most Sundays for 12 weeks, you can attend as often or as infrequent as your schedule allows
 - Uses **The Path: A Journey Through the Bible**, study guide taking excerpts from Genesis through Revelation to bring forward the consistent themes of our faith as experienced through the text (The Path uses excerpts from the NRSV). Can be purchased at Amazon or Forward Movement (Episcopal Publisher).
- **Ash Wednesday, February 18 @ Noon**
- **Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, & Reaffirmation Class**
 - Wednesdays in Lent beginning February 25 @ 6pm
 - Learning about our faith and preparation for baptism (Easter) or a formal commitment to the Episcopal Church with our Bishop (visiting on Sunday April 12)

