

ST. STEPHEN'S

Advent 2B

December 6, 2020

Welcome! We are excited to share in this service with you. You can see in our order of worship that you too can participate through presence and response.

To learn more about St. Stephen's, visit ststephensth.org. For pastoral assistance, please call 812-232-5165.

The Word of God

One Blessed are you, holy and living God.
All **You come to your people and set them free.**

One Lord, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**
One Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

One God be with you.
All **And also with you.**

One Let us pray.
Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

First Reading

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

One The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

One The Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Response

The Rev. Drew Downs

The Nicene Creed

All 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

Deacon As we prepare for Jesus to come among us, let us offer prayers to God
 who feeds his flock like a shepherd.

Leader
People

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For Michael our presiding bishop, Jennifer our bishop, Drew our priest, Deby our deacon, Joanna our candidate for ordination, for all bishops, priests, and deacons, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God,

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the church throughout the world, the Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain, the Dioceses of Brasilia, Haiti, and South Sudan,

Trinity, Anderson, our 7th Street neighbors, and the faithful in every place,

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority,

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth,

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the wall around Bethlehem and all other barriers to come down,

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering,

for the hungry and the oppressed, and for those in prison,

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For those who have asked our prayers:

Sheila Carl, Sally Newlin, Ray Snyder, Linda Hegedus, Robin Rolt, Megan Price, Richard Hillier, Jonnee Western, Terry Persinger, John Bonner, Martha Hafner, Ellie Thomas, Joe Kuhn, Justin Mendoza, Aaron Campbell, Kay Griswold, David Mier, Patrick Murphy, Jeff Vicars, Dave Thomas,

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the dying and the dead,

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need,

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For ourselves, our families, and all those we love,

those celebrating birthdays,

especially Karen Rutherford (12/09), Jane Conner (12/10),

Matthew Balensuela (12/12), and Chip Chillington (12/12),

Come, O Lord, and save us.

Joining our voices with the Blessed Virgin Mary and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord.

Presider O Key of David, scepter of the house of Israel, who opens and none can shut, who shuts and none can open, come and free the captives from prison, who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.
Glory to you for ever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

One As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
All **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.**

Prayer

One God of hope and wonder, we are full of thanks for your unfailing presence during these uncertain times. Help us to live into this season of anticipation, with inspired hearts and deep gratitude. May we be generous in receiving your gifts of hope, peace, love, and joy and eager in sharing them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

One Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
All **Thanks be to God!**



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Worship Online: Sunday 10 am | Thursday 12 Noon