

# ST. STEPHEN'S

---

## Advent 3B

December 13, 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](http://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.  
Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the

peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 126**

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The Lord has done great things for them."
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

## **The Gospel**

John 1:6-8,19-28

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

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

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not

know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*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 wait with joy for Jesus Christ, the one who is to come,  
let us offer prayers to God who sent his Son as the true light into the world.

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

*People* **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For Michael our presiding bishop, Jennifer our bishop, Drew our priest, Deby our deacon, Joanna our transitional deacon, 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 Falkland Islands,  
the Dioceses of Brasilia, Haiti, and South Sudan,  
St. John's, Bedford, 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 Richard Hillier (12/14), and Eirik Wagley (12/17),

those celebrating baptismal anniversaries, especially Megan Allen (12/13),

Ross Hubbard (12/14), and Sandra Hunter (12/16),

those celebrating confirmation anniversaries, especially Ben Bush (12/14),  
Rachel Carl (12/14), Kim Streeter (12/14), Peggy Allen (12/15),  
Anne Buchanan (12/15), and Sandy Bush (12/16),  
those celebrating marriage anniversaries,  
especially Sandy and Ben Bush (12/16).

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Joining our voices with the Blessed Virgin Mary, John the Baptist, and 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 Emmanuel, our king and lawgiver, desire of all nations and Savior of all peoples, come and save us, O Lord our God.

**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

*Presider* May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.  
*All* **Amen.**

## Dismissal

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



## *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church*

*215 North Seventh Street  
Terre Haute, Indiana 47807-3103*

*812-232-5165  
[www.ststephensth.org](http://www.ststephensth.org)  
Worship Online: Sunday 10 am*