

ST. STEPHEN'S

Advent 4B

December 20, 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.
Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
All **Amen.**

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from

before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15 The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior, *
for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you *
from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm *
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones *
and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things *
and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the help of your servant Israel, *
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,

The promise made to our forebears, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

The Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

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

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

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, favored 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 favor 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 forever, 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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

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 pregnant expectation for the coming of Jesus,
let us offer prayers to God who sends his Son in the womb of a virgin.

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, Mission agencies and their ministry throughout
the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world,
the Dioceses of Brasilia, Haiti, and South Sudan,
the Church of the Nativity, Indianapolis,
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 Andrea Bayles (12/20), Elizabeth Buchanan (12/23),
and John Gedrick (12/25).

Come, O Lord, and save us.

Joining our voices with the Blessed Virgin Mary, 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 Wisdom, breath from the mouth of God most high, who reigns from one end of the
earth to the other, and governs all creation with strong and tender care, come and
teach us the way of wisdom.

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

Worship Online: Sunday 10 am