

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1805 West Alabama Street | Houston, Texas 77098



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT MORNING PRAYER & HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

December 4, 2022 | 8:30 a.m.

This Liturgy is taken from *The Book of Common Prayer*

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

We are glad you are with us! St. Stephen's is an inclusive, nurturing, and healing community that seeks and invites all to practice the transformational and empowering work of Jesus Christ among us and in the world. We welcome everyone to join us for worship and life together—no exceptions!

NEW TO ST. STEPHEN'S?

Follow this QR code to our website and complete the online welcome card.



ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP WITH US!

During worship, all are invited to come forward for Holy Communion. If you would like to receive Communion but cannot come to the altar, please let an usher know so the sacrament can be brought to you.

In addition to bread, you may now receive wine. You may intinct (dip your wafer into the chalice) or drink from the chalice directly. You may choose to receive the bread only. If you prefer, indicate by crossing your arms in front of you that you wish to receive a blessing instead.

After church services, please join us for hospitality!

CHILDREN

Children are welcome in the church at any time. We encourage adult caregivers to join their children in the front chapel area as they engage seasonal lessons and materials.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are available adjacent to the Gathering Area. All are welcome to use the restroom consistent with their gender identity. Diaper-changing facilities are available in both restrooms and in the nursery.

PARKING

Parking is available off West Alabama in the lot in front of the church. Additional lots are available on the other side of the block at Woodhead and on both sides of Sul Ross.

COVID PROTOCOLS IN CHURCH

St. Stephen's has a culture of care. We are focused on keeping everyone safe in church, especially our unvaccinated children.

- Masking outdoors on campus is optional.
- Masks are optional at worship services, but they are recommended when there is singing.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO PLEDGE

*Go.
Partner.
Build for LIGHT.*



The stewardship campaign is coming to a close. Help St. Stephen's build a light-filled future by pledging (scan the QR code above).

EVENING MEDITATION CONTINUES WEDNESDAY



Take a 15-20 min. mid-week break at 8:00 p.m. to quiet the mind, breathe, light some candles, and look for God's arrival among us.

Scan QR code for link.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Please join us on Sunday, December 18, 2022, at noon for the Hanging of the Greens. Evergreens symbolize the unchanging nature of God and the everlasting life that is ours through Jesus Christ. All ages are invited!



- The common chalice is used at both Eucharists with options to drink, intinct, or abstain.
- Please be mindful of social distancing throughout the nave and especially when coming forward for communion.

MONTROSE GRACE PLACE GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION

Gather a team to compete or just come watch the fierce decoration of gingerbread houses on Saturday, December 10, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. With Drag Queen hosts and festive refreshments, you get to have all that fun while supporting our MGP partners and home-insecure youth of all sexualities and genders! Scan QR code for tickets.



YOUTH GROUP GATHERING ON SUN., DEC 11@ NOON

Middle and High School youth gather for lunch, games, and conversation. We get into everything from spiritual practices and self care to questions about the differences between axolotls and olms (it's a salamander showdown!).



MORNING PRAYER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PERIOD OF SILENCE

OPENING SENTENCE *Please stand.*

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

THE CONFESSION

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept. Officiant and People together, all standing or kneeling

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Priest alone stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER *Please stand.*

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

People **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

Officiant and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

THE INVITATORY: PSALM 100

Jubilate

Antiphon Antiphon sung by a cantor first, then by all.

Our King and Sa - - vior draw - eth nigh: O come, let
us a - dore him.

Verses All continue to sing.

1. O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his pres - ence with a song. [Ant.] 2. Be ye
sure that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us and not
we our - selves; we are his people and the sheep of his pas - ture. [Ant.]
3. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving and in - to
his courts with praise; be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name. [Ant.]
4. For the Lord is gracious; his mercy is ev - er - last - ing;
and his truth endureth from generation to gen - er - a - tion. [Ant.]
(*Gloria Patri* may be added)
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit:
As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men. [Ant.]

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 *Please remain standing. Refrain sung by a cantor first, then by all.*

Refrain

Mode 1



By God's gift jus - tice and peace shall flour - ish.

from *Gradual Psalms for the RCL*, ed. Bruce E. Ford, Church Publishing Incorporated

Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness. **Refrain.**

He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another. **Refrain.**

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth. **Refrain.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
Refrain.

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.
Refrain.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

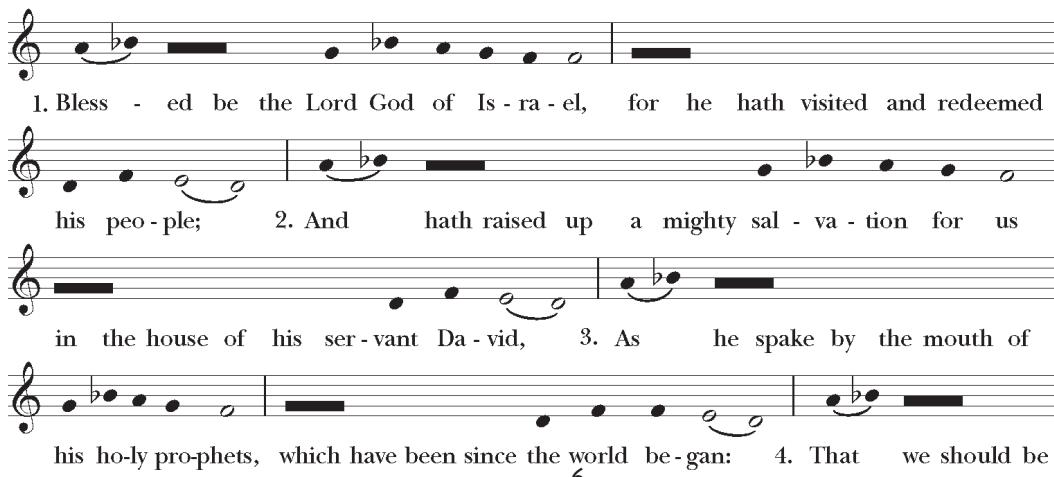
The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 4: THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH

Please stand. Benedictus Dominus Deus



1. Bless - ed be the Lord God of Is - ra - el, for he hath visited and redeemed
his peo - ple; 2. And hath raised up a mighty sal - va - tion for us
in the house of his ser - vant Da - vid, 3. As he spake by the mouth of
his ho-ly pro-phets, which have been since the world be - gan: 4. That we should be

saved from our en - e - mies, and from the hand of all that hate us;

5. To perform the mercy prom - ised to our fore - fa - thers,

and to remember his ho - ly cov - e-nant; 6. To perform the oath which he

sware to our fore - fa - ther A - bra - ham, that he would give us,

7. That we being delivered out of the hand of our en - e - mies

might serve him with - out fear, 8. In holiness and right - eous - ness be -

fore him, all the days of our life. 9. And thou, child, shalt be called the pro -

phet of the High - est, for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to

pre - pare his ways; 10. To give knowledge of salvation un - to

his peo - ple for the remis - sion of their sins, 11. Through the tend - er

mer - cy of our God, whereby the dayspring from on high hath vis -

it - ed us; 12. To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the

shad - ows of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

continued on the next page

(Gloria Patri may be omitted)

13. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit:
14. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-12 *Remain standing.*

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

THE SERMON *Please be seated.*

Silence may follow.

THE APOSTLES' CREED *Please stand.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Suffrages A

- V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
- R. **And grant us thy salvation.**
- V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
- R. **And make thy chosen people joyful.**
- V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
- R. **For only in thee can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let thy way be known upon earth;
Thy saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEOPLE AND PLACE

O God, the Creator, who provides nests for birds and burrows for foxes, open us to your dreams and visions for this land and its people. Empower us in wisdom to join with partners and build spaces that serve communities. Embolden us to . . . Go. Partner. Build for light. Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy Spirit.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN *Please be seated.*

Bereden vag for Herran



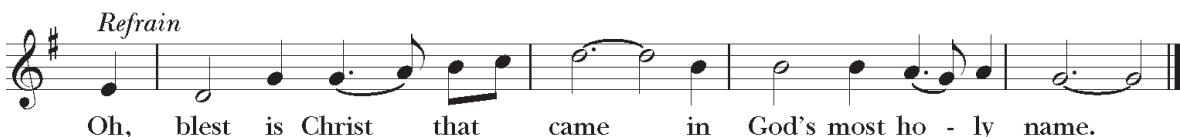
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free-dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Please stand.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy Spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

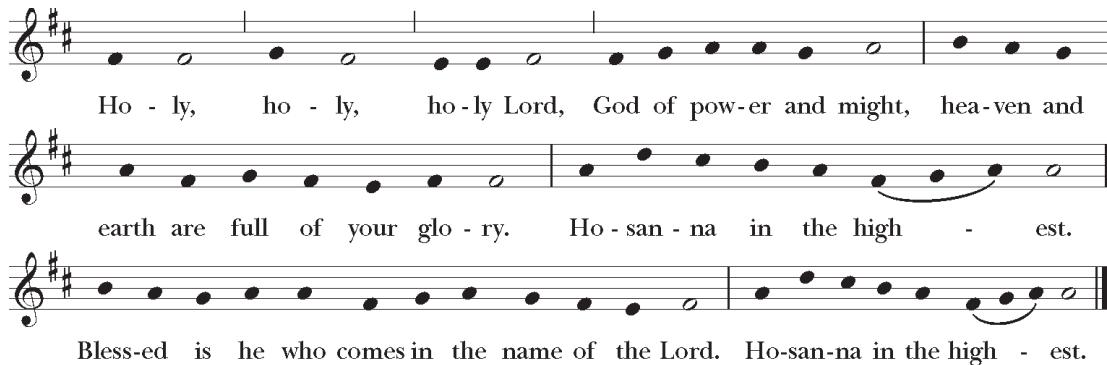
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death,

and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS

David Hurd



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son

hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

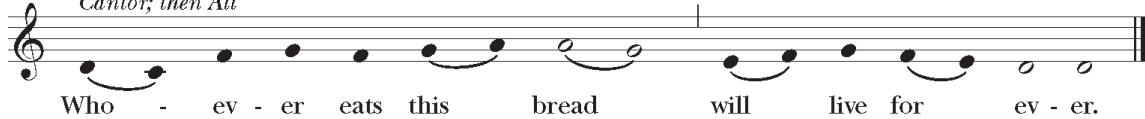
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Mason Martens

Antiphon
Cantor; then All



Who - ev - er eats this bread will live for ev - er.

1. This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. *Antiphon*.
2. Whoever believes in me shall not hunger or thirst, for the bread which I give for the life of the world is my flesh. *Antiphon*.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Carlton Young

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *Please stand.*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end.

Amen.

BLESSING

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. **Amen.**

HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice

1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less

geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THOSE WHO ASSISTED IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES

Altar Guild – Mark Edge, Ademian Pinder

8:30 Service:

Reader – Nancy Cook

Usher – Gail Creech

Hospitality – Christina Lovely

Tech/Sound System – Raul Avila

10:30 Service:

Readers – Jonathan Gonzalez (1st Reading), Ken Spain (2nd Reading),

Cathlyne Camp-Murray (Prayers)

Usher – Phyllis Frye

Hospitality – Rudy Elizondo

Counting – Steven Brethauer, Cathlyne Camp-Murray

Tech/Sound System – Sofia Barbee

ST. STEPHEN'S VESTRY

Judith Ambler

Steve Brethauer

Cathlyne Camp-Murray

David Kelley

Lee Lozano

Christina Lovely

Emily Paul

Susan Raine, Sr. Warden

John Rovell

Owen Tredennick, Jr. Warden

Julia Wolf

Bill Wooton

ST. STEPHEN'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Rev. Lisa Hunt, President

Tyler Swanson, Vice-President

Tamala Singleton, Secretary

Aly Dossa, Finance Committee Chair

Cathlyne Camp-Murray, Vestry Liaison

Thomas Cordell

Gail Creech

Aaron Davis

Jaime Espinoza

Ryan Hackney

Sam Marsh

Dan Maxwell

Paula Patterson

Nikki Payne

Esteban Tirado

Lucie Tredennick

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Visit ststephenshouston.org/this-week/ or scan the QR code on the right for links to online content.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (In-Person & Online) • YouTube Channel

9:30 a.m. – Adult Formation in the Havens Center & Online

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (In-Person & Online) • YouTube Channel

2:00 p.m. – Presence Group meets In-Person at Havens Center and via Zoom

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

Noon – Bible Study – Online Only

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

6:30 p.m. – In-Person Bible Study in the Gathering Area

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:00 p.m. - Online Evening Meditation • Facebook Live

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:00 a.m. – Rosary Group – Online Only

ST. STEPHEN'S STAFF

Rector: The Reverend Lisa Hunt

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