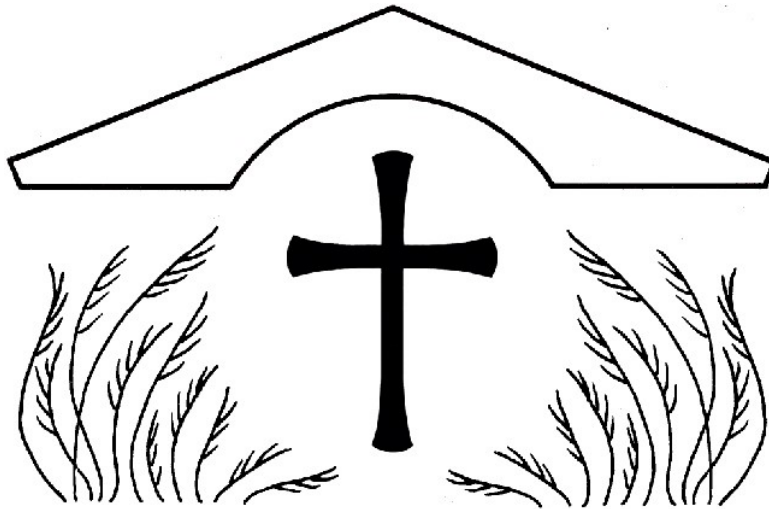


ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 28, 2024



Ministers

Rector

Deacon

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Minister of Music

Cantor

Administrative Assistant

The People of the Parish

The Rev. Christy Laborda Harris

The Rev. Kate Sefton

Jean Farmer

Meg Nalley

Miles McKenzie

Kristina Ibarra

Jun Kim

The Gathering of the Community

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

493 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

please stand

The Lord will be your everlasting light and your God will be your glory.

Thanks be to God.


Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever.

Christ our true and only Light: receive our morning prayers, and illumine the secrets of our hearts with your healing goodness, that no dark desires may possess us who are made new in the light of your heavenly grace. **Amen.**


KYRIE

Cantor or Choir *All*




Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor or Choir *All*



Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Cantor or Choir *All*



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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The Liturgy of the Word

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of liberation, confronting the powers that exclude the unclean and bind us to death: may we receive your word of authority, your rule of peace, your earthy holiness, which comes not to destroy but to set us free; through Jesus Christ, the holy one of God. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY (18:15-20)

please be seated

Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 111



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- 1 Alleluia! I will give thanks to you, O God, with my whole *heart*, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congre-*gation*.
- 2 Great are your deeds, O *God*; *
they are studied by all who de-*light in them*.
- 3 Your work is full of majesty and *splendor*, *
and your righteousness endures for *ever*.
- 4 You make your marvelous works to be re-*membered*; *
you are gracious and full of com-*passion*.
- 5 You give food to those who *fear you*; *
you are ever mindful of your *covenant*.
- 6 You have shown your people the power of your *works* *
in giving them the lands of the *nations*.
- 7 The works of your hands are faithfulness and *justice*; *
all your commandments are *sure*.
- 8 They stand fast for ever and *ever*, *
because they are done in truth and *equity*.
- 9 You sent redemption to your people; you commanded your covenant for *ever*; *
holy and awesome is your *Name*.
- 10 The fear of God is the beginning of *wisdom*; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding; God's praise endures for *ever*.

A READING FROM PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS (8:1-13)

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:21-28

please stand

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

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

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud

voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Christy Laborda Harris

please be seated

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon

HYMN

We Place Our Lives in Your Hands

please stand



1. Heav'n-ly Fa - ther, lov - ing God,
2. Je - sus Christ, the Word of truth, } we place our lives in your hands.
3. Ho - ly Spir - it, flame of love, }

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE—Common Worship from the Church of England

Let us worship the Savior with joy and make our prayer to God. Saying,
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The magi came from the east to worship your Son: God, grant to Christians everywhere the
spirit of adoration.

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh: God, accept the offering of our
hearts and minds at the beginning of this year.

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ: God, grant
an abundance of peace to your world. We pray especially for the Holy Land, Ukraine, and all
lands torn by war and death.

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death: God, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless, and all who suffer, especially those we now name...

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth: God, protect in your love our neighbors, our families and this community of which we are a part. We pray especially for those we love but can no longer see...

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Presider God, we rejoice in our fellowship with the shepherds, the angels, the magi, the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and all the faithful departed. In your unfailing love for us and for all people, hear and answer our prayers through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

Trusting in God's saving grace, let us confess our sins.

**Loving God, hear our prayer:
our hearts are heavy.**

We have trusted too much in our own strength.

We have hidden our faces from those who suffer.

We have turned away from neighbors in need.

We have given up hope instead of seeking your help.

O God, be gracious to us.

Forgive our sin.

Heal our brokenness,

and fill our hearts with songs of joy. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

God the Creator brings you new life, forgives and redeems you. Take hold of this forgiveness and live your life in the Spirit of Jesus. **Amen.**

PEACE

Christ is our peace. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new. The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

*You are invited to pass the peace
distanced and respectfully.*

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

There is a Balm in Gilead

please be seated

DOXOLOGY

please stand

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER—Common Worship from The Church of England (Prayer D)



The Lord_ be with you **And al - so 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 thanks and praise.

Almighty God, good Father to us all, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death. Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise.



We join with them in hea-ven's song:



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.

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.



This is his sto-ry.



This is our song: Ho-san - na__ in the high-est.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.



This is his sto-ry.



This is our song: Ho-san - na__ in the high-est.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food; he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: This is my body, given for you all. Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said: This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.



This is his sto-ry.



This is our song: Ho-san - na__ in the high-est.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.



This is his sto-ry.



This is our song: Ho-san - na__ in the high-est.

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you,



Fa-ther, Son _ and Ho-ly Spi-rit:



Bless-ing and hon-our and glo - ry and power



be yours for ev-er and ev-er. A - men.

As Christ teaches us, we 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Wherever you are on your journey of faith,
You are welcome at this table.

All are welcome at the Lord's table. You are invited to come forward when the ushers indicate. Please extend your hands together to receive the bread. If you are gluten free, please let us know. If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest. If you would like your bread intincted (dipped in the chalice) please let the clergy person with the bread know before the bread is handed to you. It will be intincted for you and handed to you. We are no longer able to allow you to intinct the bread yourself nor are we able to place it in your mouth. Alternately, you may sip directly from the chalice or choose to receive the bread only.

**Come light of lights into my heart.
Come wisdom of spirit into my heart.**

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Refrain



Ev - 'ry time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing
in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the
Spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

Verses



1. Up - on the moun - tain when my God spoke,
All a - round me, it looked so shine,
2. 'Ol Jor - dan Riv - er, chill - y and cold,
There ain't but one train that's on this track,
Out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
I asked my Lord if all was mine.
It chills the bod - y, but not the soul.
It runs to heav - en and runs right back.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

please stand

Let us pray,

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

530 Spread, O Spread, thou Mighty Word

please stand

DISMISSAL

Alleluia. Alleluia. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. Go in light and love.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

