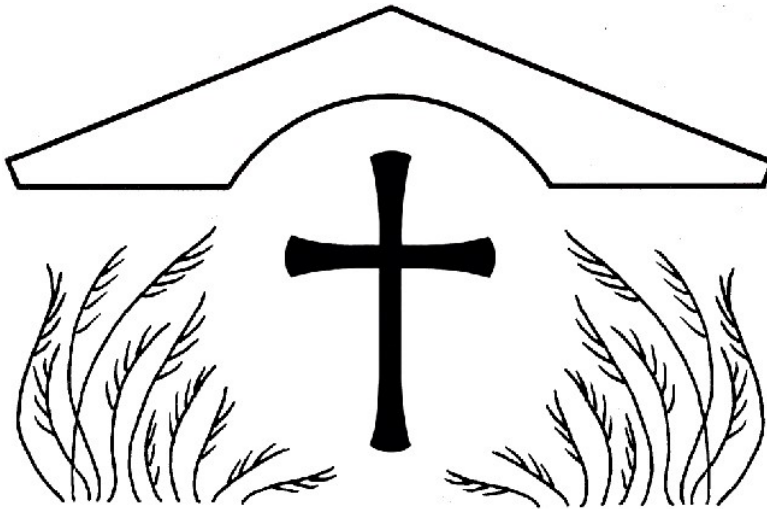


ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Last Sunday after the Epiphany

February 11, 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

135 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

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

The musical notation consists of three staves, each with two measures. The first staff is labeled 'Cantor or Choir' and 'All'. The second staff is also labeled 'Cantor or Choir' and 'All'. The third staff is labeled 'Cantor or Choir' and 'All'. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' for the first staff; 'Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' for the second staff; and 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' for the third staff. The music is in a simple, melodic style with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature.

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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 Moses and Elijah, revealed in burning bush and chariot of fire; you speak to us in freedom, your glory escapes our naming: in your mercy, dwell with us and lift us beyond all fear and empty worship; through Jesus Christ, the glory of the Father. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF KINGS (2:1-12)

please be seated

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be

granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 50:1-6



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- 1 **The God of gods has *spoken*; ***
God has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its *setting*.
- 2 **Out of Zion, perfect in its *beauty*, ***
God is revealed in *glory*.
- 3 **O God, you will come and will not keep *silence*; ***
before you there is a consuming flame,
and round about you a raging *storm*.
- 4 **You call the heavens and the earth from *a-bove* ***
to witness the judgment of your *people*.
- 5 **“Gather before me my loyal *followers*, ***
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with *sacrifice*.”
- 6 **Let the heavens declare the rightness of your *cause*, ***
for you alone are *judge*.

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A READING FROM PAUL’S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS (4:3-6)

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Mark 9:2-29

please stand

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

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Kate Sefton

please be seated

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon

**Lead us to your light, lead us to your love.
Lead us on the road. Lead us home to you.**

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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

The Lord's Prayer
Tom Kendzia

please be seated

**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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Come Light of Lights

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

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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

RECESSIONAL HYMN

God Welcomes All

please stand

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

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GROUND BREAKING AND BLESSING OF THE PLAYGROUND COMMUNITY CAFÉ KITCHEN BUILD

Peace be to this space and all who enter here.

You will show me the path of life;

in your hand there is fullness of joy

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in;

from this time forth for ever more.

Jesus, our good Companion, on many occasions you sat at table and broke bread with friends and strangers, the outcast and the ignored: Be present with all who gather in this space to break bread, to play and rejoice, to build relationship, and to journey together. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (14:13-21)

Jesus withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

LITANY OF BLESSING

Creator God, you created plants yielding seed, fruit trees of every kind and declared them good. You planted a garden and created us to keep and till it, saying, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.' We give you thanks for every plant that yields food.

May those who sit at table in this place be nourished by the abundance of your creation.

You fed and cared for the Hebrew people as they wandered in the desert. At twilight they ate meat and in the morning they were filled with bread.

May we and all who gather in this space know your care and nourishment.

Jesus, God incarnate, you performed your first miracle at a wedding feast,

make us ever mindful of your presence and power in one another and the world around us.

You were known to your disciples in the breaking of the bread,

be known to us as we break bread together in this place.

Jesus, Son of God, you sat at table with those marginalized and excluded by society, living God's love of all.

May we follow in your footsteps of radical inclusion, breaking down barriers, and sitting at table with stranger and marginalized.

We gather at your table week after week, sharing bread and wine, your body and blood, in memory of you.

We give you thanks for nourishing us to live as your beloved children in this world.

God of plenty, you teach us that when we bring together what we have and share it with others, there will be more than enough for all.

May we continue to trust in this promise of abundance as we create this place to share with our wider community.

We give you thanks for the gifts that have made the realization of this vision possible: For those who gave in gratitude to the United Thank Offering and for UTO's generous grant to us. For those who have remembered St. Stephen's in their end-of-life planning and whose gifts now continue to make our life together and the creation of this kitchen possible,

we give thanks.

We give you thanks for the skill of the hands that will create this building,

and we pray for their safety in its creation.

Therefore, we break ground for this building, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May this be a place where food is created and shared, where children and adults play alongside one another, where community is created and deepened, and where we learn to walk with others in the diversity of our spiritual journeys. **Amen. Alleluia!**

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

