St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Church on Main Street...
where love begets love

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

January 11, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10:00am

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church. We are delighted that you are here.

All of what you need to join us is in this bulletin or in one of two hymnals:

Hymnal 1982 (the blue book)
"H" followed by a number indicates hymns.
"S" followed by a number indicates selections that appear in the front section of the blue hymnal.

St. Stephen's Hymnal (the red spiral bound book):
"SSH" followed by a number indicates hymns.

PRELUDE

Gather
We come together to praise God.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

SSH 36 Shall we gather at the river *Robert Lowry*



Words and Music: Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

WELCOME

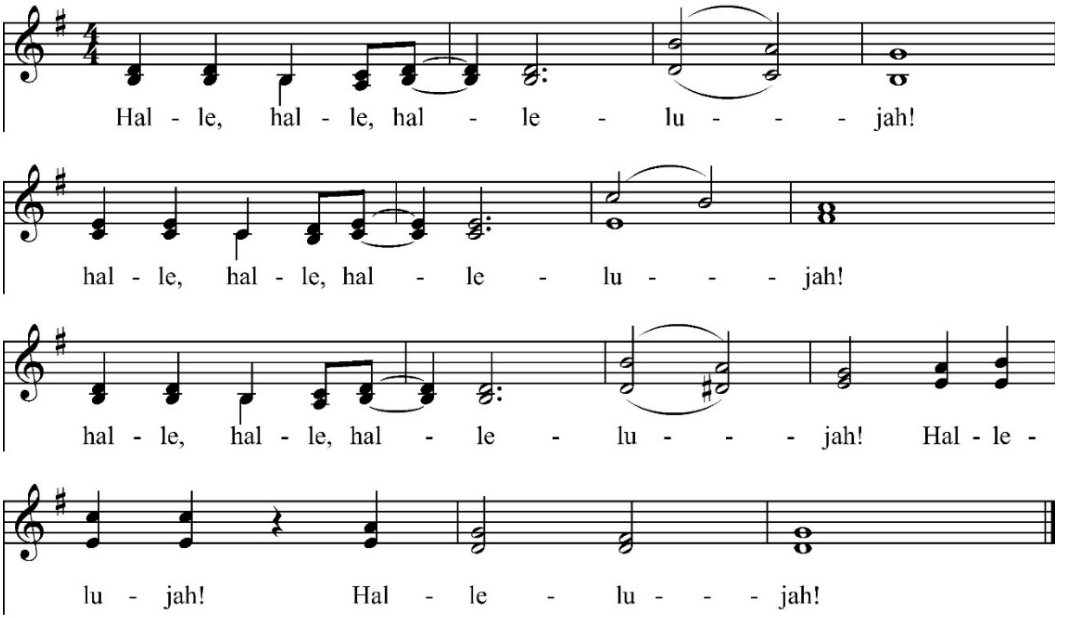
Word

We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts.

Blessed are you, holy and living One.
You come to your people and set them free.

THE GLORIA

Halle, halle, hallelujah! *Traditional Caribbean*



Words and Melody: Traditional Caribbean. Arr. Mark Sedio (b. 1954) © 1995 Augsburg Fortress, PO Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209 [www.augsburgfortress.org]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah ICB 42:1-9

"Here is my servant, the one I support.
He is the one I chose, and I am pleased with him.
I will put my Spirit in him.
And he will bring justice to all nations.
He will not cry out or yell.
He will not speak loudly in the streets.
He will not break a crushed blade of grass.

He will not put out even a weak flame.
He will bring justice and find what is true.
He will not lose hope or give up
until he brings justice to the world.
And people far away will trust his teachings."

God, the Lord, said these things.
He created the skies and stretched them out.
He spread out the earth and everything on it.
He gives life to all people on earth.
He gives life to everyone who walks on the earth.
The Lord says, "I called you to do right.
And I will hold your hand.
I will protect you.
You will be the sign of my agreement with the people.
You will be a light to shine for all people.
You will help the blind to see.
You will free those who are in prison.
You will lead those who live in darkness out of their prison.

"I am the Lord. That is my name.
I will not give my glory to another.
I will not let idols take the praise that should be mine.
The things I said would happen have happened.
And now I tell you about new things.
Before those things happen,
I tell you about them."

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

THE RESPONSE

Let us read Psalm 29 responsively ICB, adapted

Praise the Lord, you angels.
Praise the Lord's glory and power.
Praise the Lord for the glory of their name.
Worship the Lord because they are holy.

The Lord's voice is heard over the sea.
The glorious God thunders.
The Lord thunders over the great ocean.

The Lord's voice is powerful.
The Lord's voice is majestic.
Worship the Lord because they are holy.

The Lord's voice breaks the trees.
The Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
They makes the land of Lebanon dance like a calf.
They make Mount Hermon jump like a baby bull.
Worship the Lord because they are holy.

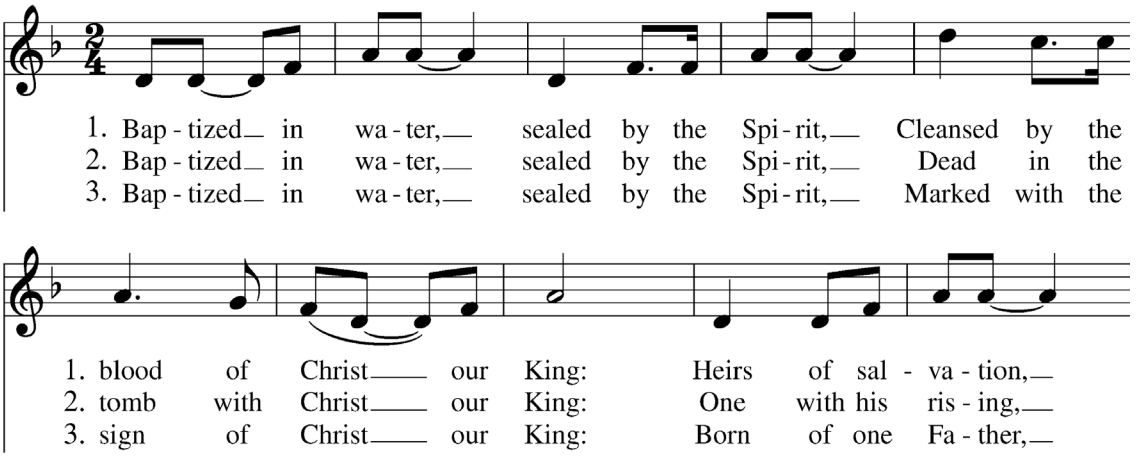
The Lord's voice makes the lightning flash.
The Lord's voice shakes the desert.
The Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh.
The Lord's voice shakes the oaks.
The leaves fall off the trees.
Worship the Lord because they are holy.

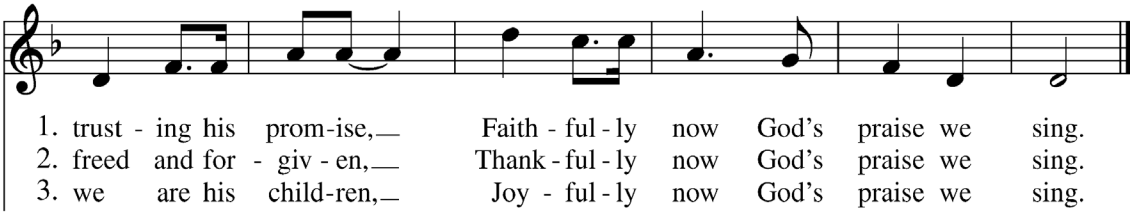
In his Temple everyone says, "Glory to God!"
The Lord controls the flood.
The Lord will be King forever.
The Lord gives strength to their people.
The Lord blesses their people with peace.
Worship the Lord because they are holy.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit — *Eugene Hancock*





THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew. ICB, 3:13-17
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River. He came to John and wanted John to baptize him. But John tried to stop him. John said, "Why do you come to me to be baptized? I should be baptized by you!"

Jesus answered, "Let it be this way for now. We should do all things that are right." So John agreed to baptize Jesus.

Jesus was baptized and came up out of the water. Heaven opened, and he saw God's Spirit coming down on him like a dove. And a voice spoke from heaven. The voice said, "This is my Son and I love him. I am very pleased with him."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON *The Rev. Paula J. Toland*

Please stand as you are able.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
I will, with God's help.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form III, BCP

God, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; Bless all who lead and teach Christians in this community; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Carlye, our Diocesan Bishop; Paula, our Rector; Karen, our Deacon; Maryalice and Roger, our Wardens; our Vestry and delegates;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; Guide Donald, our President; J.D., our Vice-President; Philip, our Governor and Frank, our Mayor, that they would lead with compassion and mercy;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Bring healing and peace, to all who have been harmed, live in fear, or experience anxiety because of the words and actions of leaders anywhere;
That they would live an awareness of your unconditional love for all people.

Give courage to allies and advocates everywhere that they may continue the fight to uphold the dignity and worth of every human being as they walk alongside those who have experienced dehumanizing or demoralizing treatment of any kind;

That they will continue to have the strength and courage to do this holy work.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; we pray for our partners in ministry: Apostles' House, Cross Roads, Family Promise, North Jersey Pride, and North Porch. We pray for our sister congregations in the Evelyn Underhill Region: Calvary, Summit; Christ Church in Short Hills; Grace, Madison; St. George's, Maplewood; and St. Paul's, Chatham.
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, including those on our parish prayer list:

Gina del Russo
Mary Loucas
Evie Larson
Donna Riggi
Mary Ruth Stone
Anne Burg
Kris Hunt
Aldaiza DaSilva
Antonio DaSilva
Kyle McManus
Martha Lipowski
Keith Taber
Maryann Ekberg
Lizzie Ekberg
Boyd Hunnaman
James K.
Walter
Ron G.
Daniel F.
Marvin
Kayt and Adam Zielinski
Inge Bass Mill
Victor Calantoni
Jenna Mitchell
Brian Nusom
Rob Agree
Melissa Biren
Karen Eberhardt

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

We give you thanks for St. Stephen's Staff and Preschool.

The Presider offers a concluding collect

Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Table

We offer our gifts, give thanks, and we gather at Christ's banquet.

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Down to the river to pray/Lord, listen to your children — *Traditional spiritual; Ken Medema*
Kim Williams, soloist

Please stand as you are able.

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise we bring to God the Father — *Hyfrydol*

Praise we bring to God the Father,
Praise we bring to God the Son,
Praise to God the Holy Spirit,
Praise to you, the three in one.
Trinity of love inspire us,
may we always strive to be
one in love and one in worship
-- children of eternity.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER — *EOW 2*

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 God thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord *Glover*



Words: from The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of the Episcopal Church USA.
Music: Rob Glover (b. 1950), from *Mass of Plenty* © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 [www.giamusic.com].) All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us,

Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with St. Stephen and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father, our Mother, 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE INVITATION

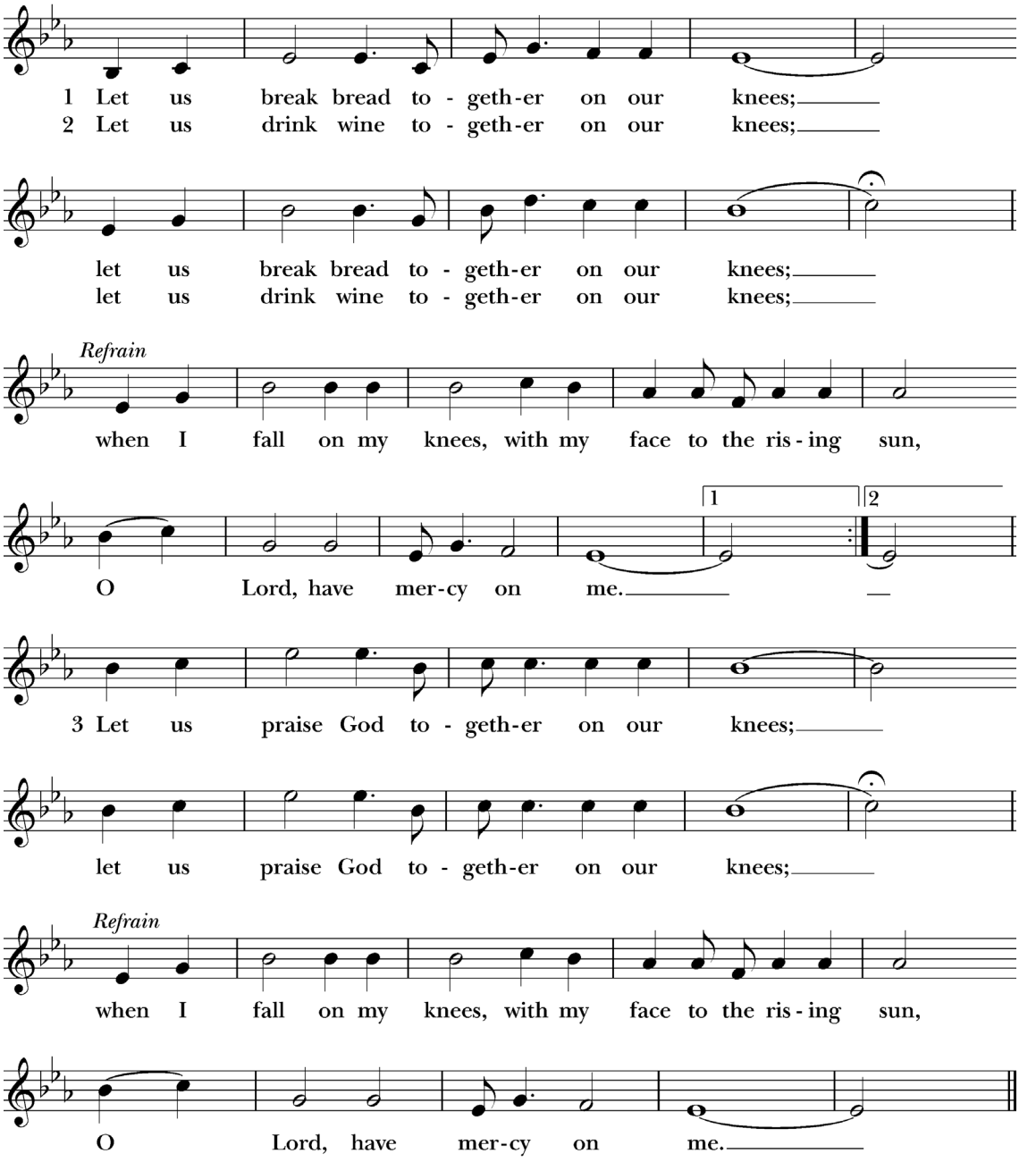
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Whoever you are, where ever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at Christ's table.

All are welcome at God's table to receive Communion or a blessing. Gluten-free hosts are available.
Please use the hand sanitizer available in the pew before coming forward.

COMMUNION HYMN

H 325 Let us break bread together on our knees *Let Us Break Bread*



Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy God, let us not leave your Table unchanged, but as people committed to loving one another as we are loved by you. Let Jesus' birth remind us to look for your image in all people, especially the most vulnerable among us. May the light of the guiding star illuminate our path as we move out into the world to share your love with others. And may the peace and promise of the Christ-child dwell within us and around us in ways that touch the lives of others and honor your creation. Amen.

Sending

We go forth as Christ's body in the world.

Please be seated.

GUEST SPEAKER

Helen Payanzo
Program Director, Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center

ANNOUNCEMENTS

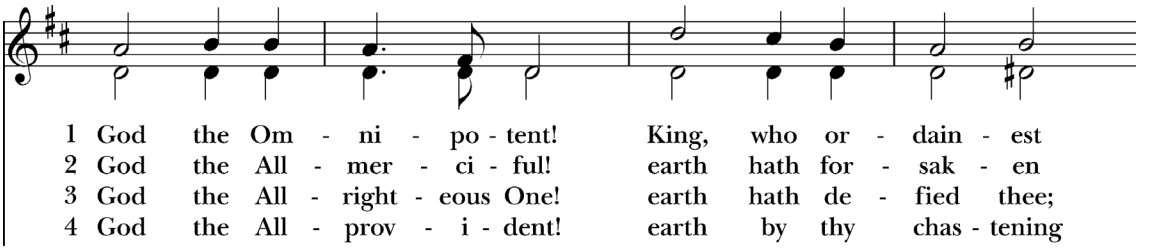
Please stand as you are able.

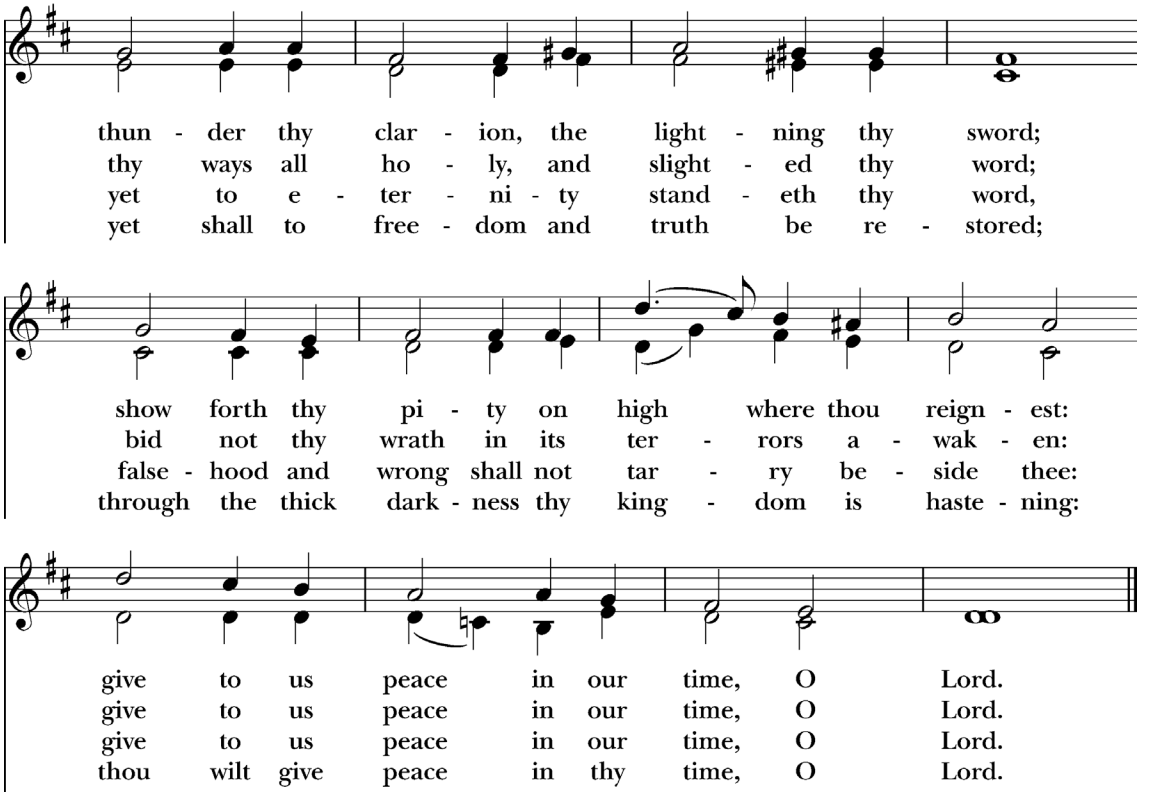
BENEDICTION

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

H 569 God the Omnipotent *Russia*





THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in love to follow the Incarnate God.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

LITURGICAL STEWARDSHIP

Officiant:	The Rev. Paula J. Toland
Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Karen Eberhardt
Minister of Music:	Kim Williams
Organist:	John Schucker
Crucifer/Chalicer:	Eric
Reader/Intercessor:	Gabriel, Martin, Vinny
Gospel Bearer:	Clara
Oblations Bearer/Offering:	Rosie
Greeter/Usher:	Margaret, Katie
Altar Guild:	Julia, Nancy
Tech Verger:	Ron
Coffee Hour Hosts:	Connor, Blake

Source for today's lectionary: The Children's International Bible
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Upcoming Events

Details can be found in the weekly e-newsletter, which is available on our website.

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
1/11	10:00 AM	Intergenerational Sunday Worship
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting
1/12	7:30 PM	MA Meeting
1/15	7:00 PM	Preschool Committee Meeting
1/18	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	11:30 AM	Vestry Meeting
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"A diverse Episcopal parish, a life-giving sanctuary, a place where love begets love. Seekers, doubters, and believers find a comfortable place in our midst."

119 Main Street, Millburn, NJ 07041 / 973-376-0688 / ststephensmillburn.org
Rector: The Rev. Paula J. Toland; Emergency Contact: 508-542-1327
Parish Administrator: Maria T. Card

Minister of Music: Kim Williams; Organist: John Schucker

Members of the Vestry
Maryalice Chech: Warden, People & Programs; Roger Riedel, Warden, Property & Preschool;
Ashley Morgan: Treasurer; Fran Taber; Kira Hanson; Linda Soughan; Steve Moran;
Tom Hillemeier; Barbara Riedel: Recording Secretary & Clerk

Sheelagh Clarke; Eugene Foley: Vestry Emeriti

If you wish to receive the weekly e-newsletter, please contact the parish office at 973-376-0688 or church@ststephensmillburn.org.