St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 8, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10:00am

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

The second Sunday of the month we have our "Second Sunday Intergenerational Service." Our children and youth join us for the entirety of the service, with some serving as liturgical ministers. We use child specific resources for some of the readings and prayers, and make other changes so the liturgy is more accessible to the younger among us.

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.

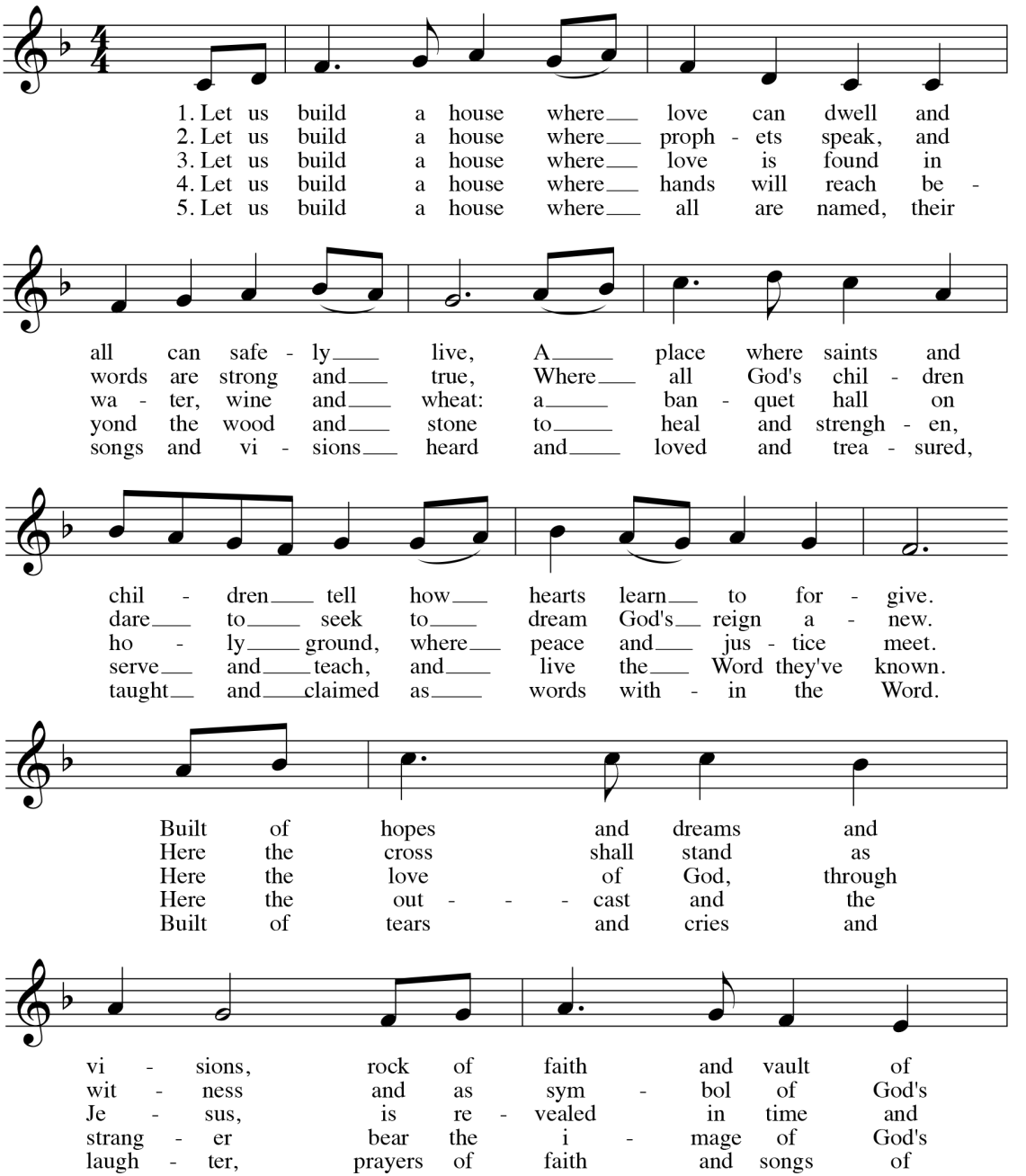
PRELUDE

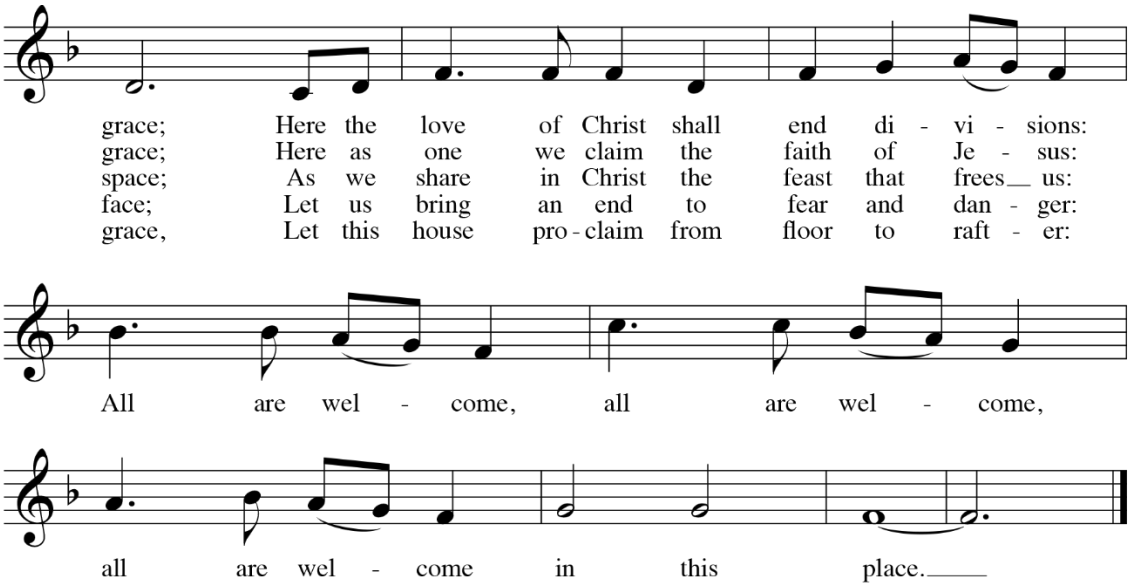
Gather
We come together to praise God.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

SSH 41 All are welcome — *Marty Haugen*





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WELCOME

Word
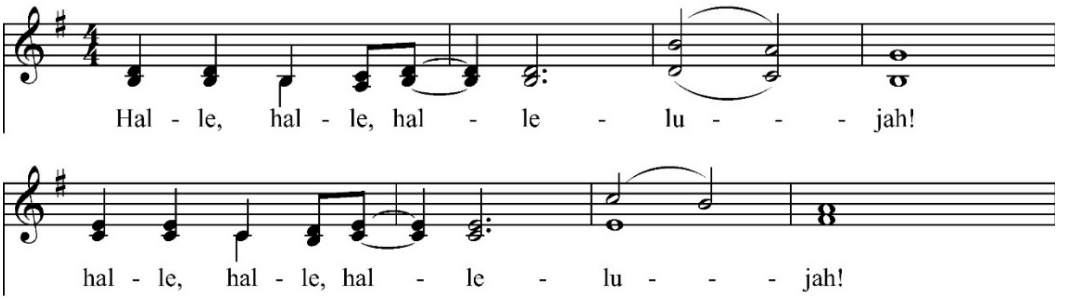
We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts.
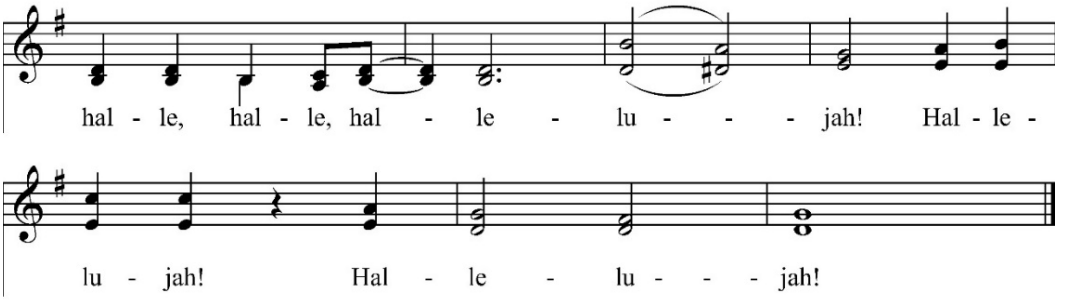
Blessed are you, holy and living One.
You come to your people and set them free.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE PSALM

ICB, adapted

Let us read Psalm 112 responsively.

Happy is the person who fears the Lord.
They love what the Lord commands.
Their descendants will be powerful in the land.
The children of honest people will be blessed.
Their house will be full of wealth and riches.
Their goodness will continue forever.
A light shines in the dark for honest people.
It shines for those who are good and kind and merciful.

It is good to be kind and generous.
Whoever is fair in their business
will never be defeated.
A good person will be remembered from now on.
A light shines in the dark for honest people.
It shines for those who are good and kind and merciful.

They won't be afraid of bad news.
They are safe because they trust the Lord.

That person is confident. They will not be afraid.
They will look down on their enemies.
They give freely to the poor.
The things they do are right and will continue forever.
They will be given great honor.
A light shines in the dark for honest people.
It shines for those who are good and kind and merciful.

The wicked will see this and become angry.
They will grind their teeth in anger and then disappear.
The wishes of the wicked will come to nothing.
A light shines in the dark for honest people.
It shines for those who are good and kind and merciful.

THE LESSON

A reading from the letter to the Corinthians. 2:1-16

Dear brothers, when I came to you, I did not come as a proud man. I preached God's truth, but not with fancy words or a show of great learning. I decided that while I was with you I would forget about everything except Jesus Christ and his death on the cross. When I came to you, I was weak and shook with fear. My teaching and my speaking were not with wise words that persuade people. But the proof of my teaching was the power that the Spirit gives. I did this so that your faith would be in God's power, not in the wisdom of a man.

Yet I speak wisdom to those who are mature. But this wisdom is not from this world or of the rulers of this world. (These rulers are losing their power.) But I speak God's secret wisdom, which he has kept hidden. God planned this wisdom for our glory, before the world began. None of the rulers of this world understood it. If they had, they would not have killed the Lord of glory on a cross. But as it is written in the Scriptures:

"No one has ever seen this.
No one has ever heard about it.
No one has ever imagined
what God has prepared for those
who love him."

But God has shown us these things through the Spirit.

The Spirit knows all things, even the deep secrets of God. It is like this: No one knows the thoughts that another person has. Only a person's spirit that lives in him knows his thoughts. It is the same with God. No one knows the thoughts of God. Only the Spirit of God knows God's thoughts. We did not receive the spirit of the world, but we received the Spirit that is from God. We received this Spirit so that we can know all that God has given us. When we speak,

we do not use words taught to us by the wisdom that men have. We use words taught to us by the Spirit. We use spiritual words to explain spiritual things. A person who is not spiritual does not accept the gifts that come from the Spirit of God. That person thinks they are foolish. He cannot understand the Spirit's gifts, because they can only be judged spiritually. But the spiritual person is able to judge all things. Yet no one can judge him. The Scripture says:

"Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Who has been able to teach him?"

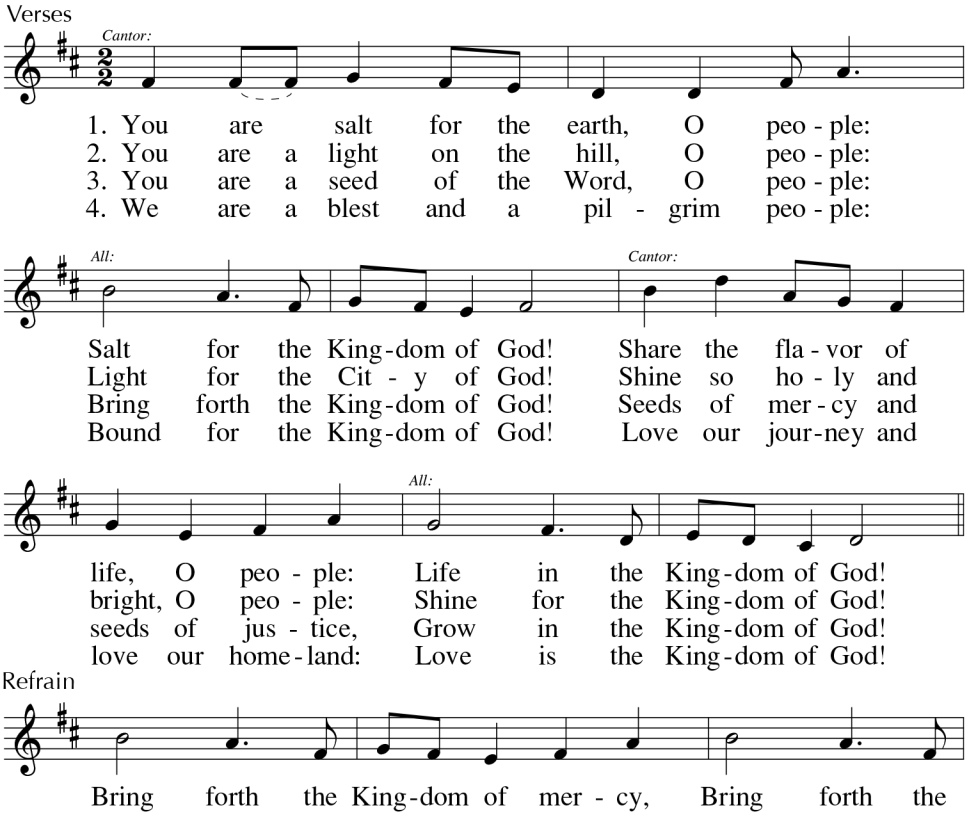
But we have the mind of Christ.
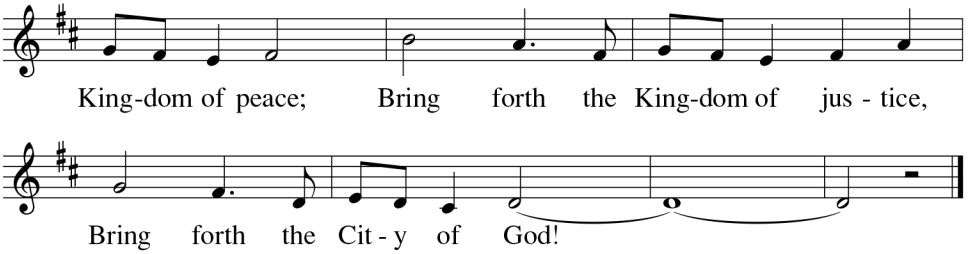
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Bring forth the Kingdom *Marty Haugen*





Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
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THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew. 5:13-20
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its salty taste, it cannot be made salty again. It is good for nothing. It must be thrown out for people to walk on.

"You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. And people don't hide a light under a bowl. They put the light on a lampstand. Then the light shines for all the people in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven.

"Don't think that I have come to destroy the law of Moses or the teaching of the prophets. I have not come to destroy their teachings but to do what they said. I tell you the truth. Nothing will disappear from the law until heaven and earth are gone. The law will not lose even the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter until all has happened. Whoever refuses to obey any command and teaches other people not to obey that command will be the least important in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys the law and teaches other people to obey the law will be great in the kingdom of heaven. I tell you that you must do better than the teachers of the law and the Pharisees. If you are not better than they are, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

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 NICENE CREED *Enriching Our Worship*

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 *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; Mikie, 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	Aldaiza DaSilva	Boyd Hunnaman	Marvin
Mary Loucas	Antonio DaSilva	James K.	Brian Nusom
Evie Larson	Carol & Kyle McManus	Walter	Melissa Biren
Donna Riggi	Martha Lipowski	Ron G.	Karen Eberhardt
Mary Ruth Stone	Keith Taber	Kayt and Adam Zielinski	Shelley T.
Anne Burg	Maryann Ekberg	Victor Calantoni	
Kris Hunt	Lizzie Ekberg	Jenna Mitchell	

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

This little light of mine — *Mabrey*
Senior Choir

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*

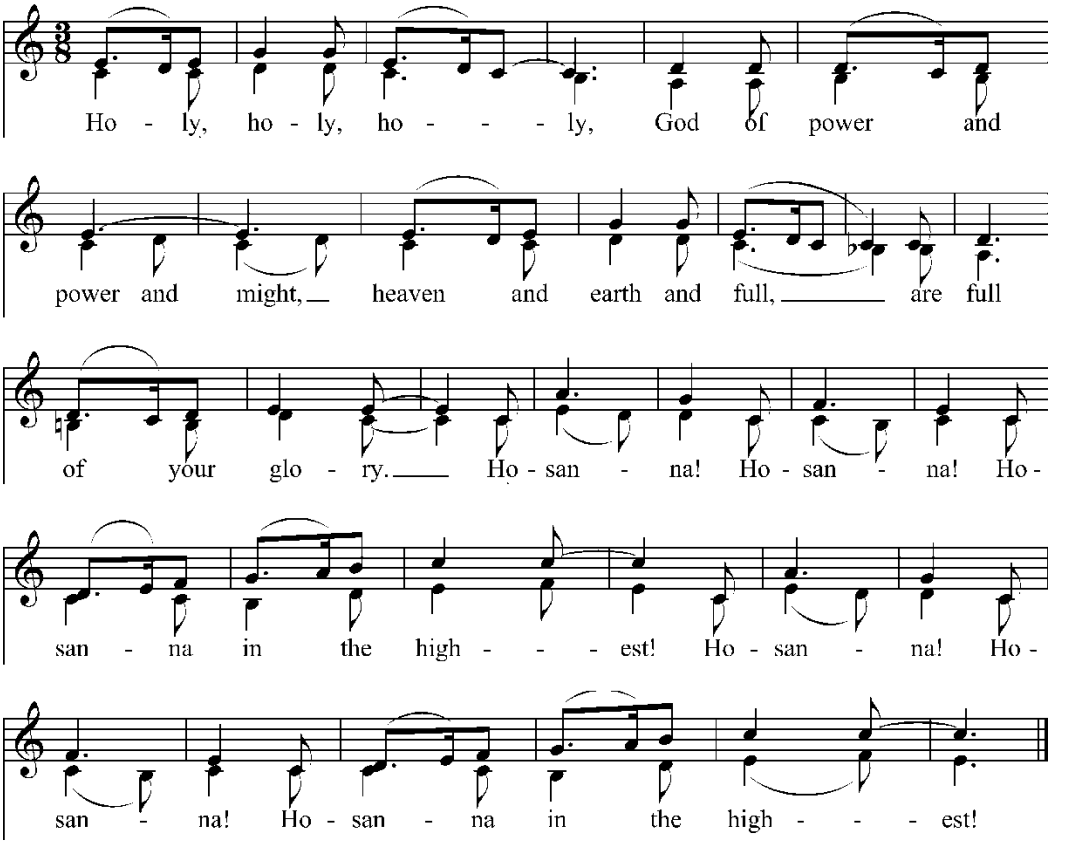
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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 *John L. Bell*



Words: from The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of the Episcopal Church USA.
Music: John L. Bell (b. 1949) © WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland) (admin. 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

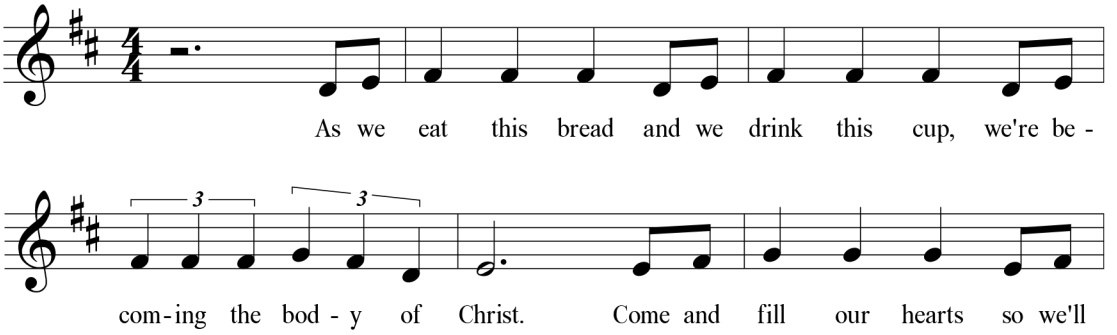
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

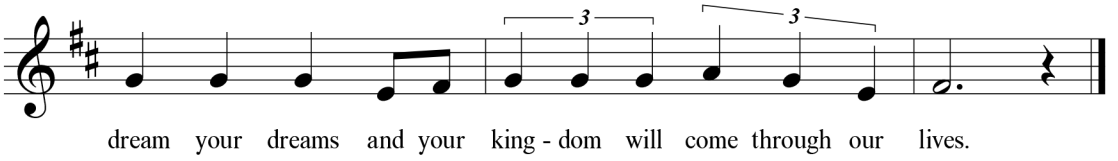
Whoever you are, where ever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at Christ's table.

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

As we eat this bread — *Stephanie Spellers*





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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING OF THE SECOND SUNDAY SPECIAL GIVING
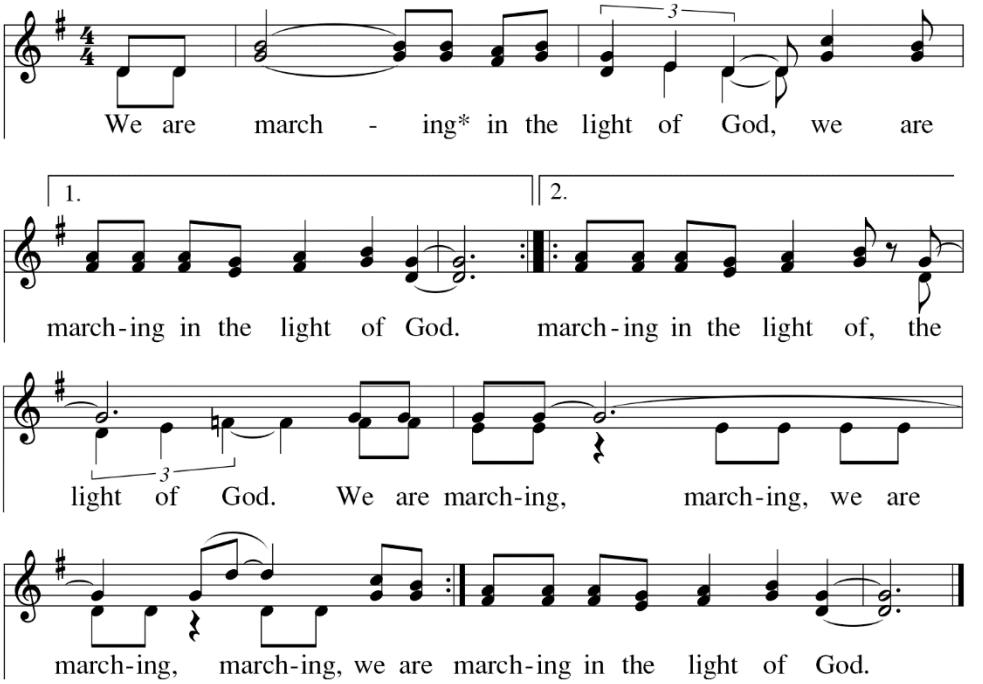
To benefit Apostle House

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

Siyahamba *South African*



2. We are singing in the light of God
3. We are praying in the light of God
4. We are marching in the light of God

Text: South African
Tune: South African
© 1984, Utryck, Walton Music Corporation, agent

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, Barbara R., Barbara C.
Greeter/Usher:	
Altar Guild:	Nancy, Irene, Maria N.
Tech Verger:	Ron
Coffee Hour Hosts:	Barbara R.

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
2/8	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting
2/9	7:30 PM	MA Meeting
2/15	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	11:30 AM	Vestry Meeting
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – Thank you to everyone who contributed cans of soup for our Apostles' House food barrel. Stats will be posted in next week's newsletter!

ASH WEDNESDAY – Lent begins!
Ashes to go at Millburn Train Station at 6:30-8:30am
Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at 12:00pm & 7:30pm

ANNUAL MEETING – Mark your calendars and plan to join us on Sunday, March 8th! We will meet in the Parish Hall following Sunday service. The Vestry will be hosting coffee hour. All annual reports are due by Wed, February 11th. Please email all reports to Maria.

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.