# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Church on Main Street, where God's love is lived.

**CELEBRATING 175 YEARS (1851 - 2026)**

# THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
# ADONAI SUNDAY

## Sunday, November 15, 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.

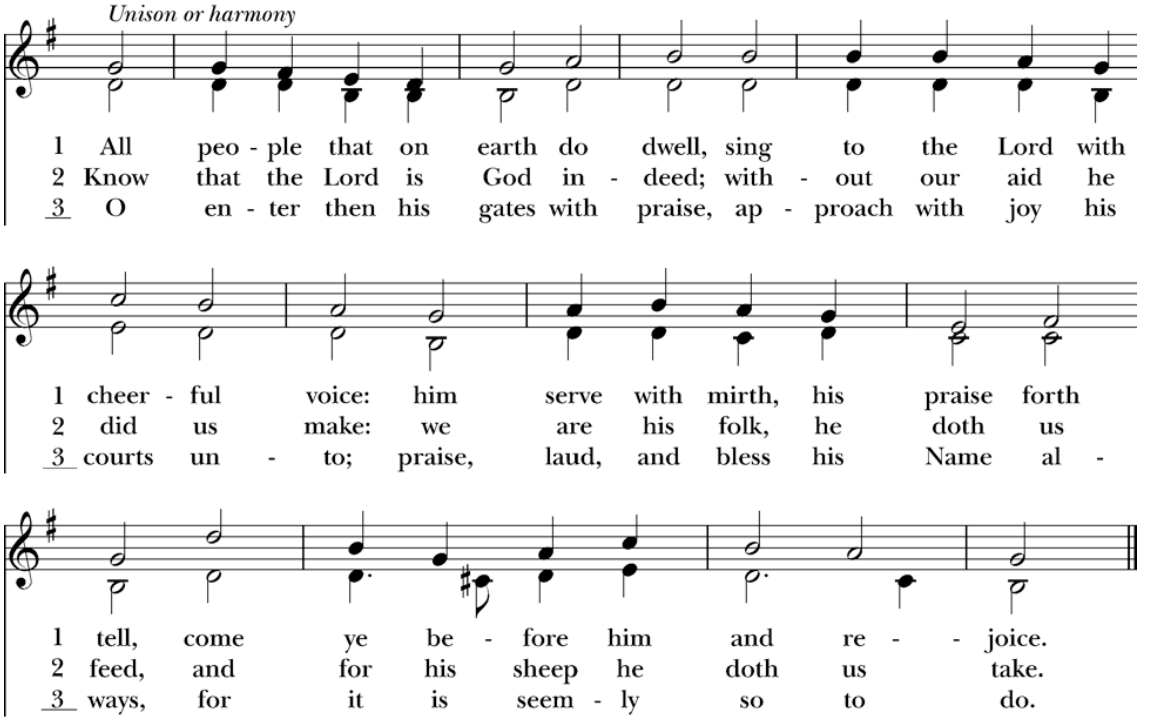
**St. Stephen's Hymnal (the red spiral bound book):**
"SSH" followed by a number indicates hymns.

**PRELUDE**

**Gather**
*We come together to praise God.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GATHERING HYMN**
H 377, st. 1-3 All people that on earth do dwell *Old 100th*




## WELCOME

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As our nights grow longer and our days grow short, we look on these earthly signs--light and green branches-- and remember God's promise to our world: Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come. Listen to the words of Ezekiel the prophet:

"A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God."
(Ezekiel 36:26-28)

*Candle is lit while the congregation sings.*

H 56, st. 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might *Veni, veni Emmanuel*

**O come, o come thou Lord of might,**
**Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height**
**In ancient times didst give the law,**

**In cloud, and majesty, and awe.**
**Rejoice! Rejoice!**
**Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

## 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.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31)

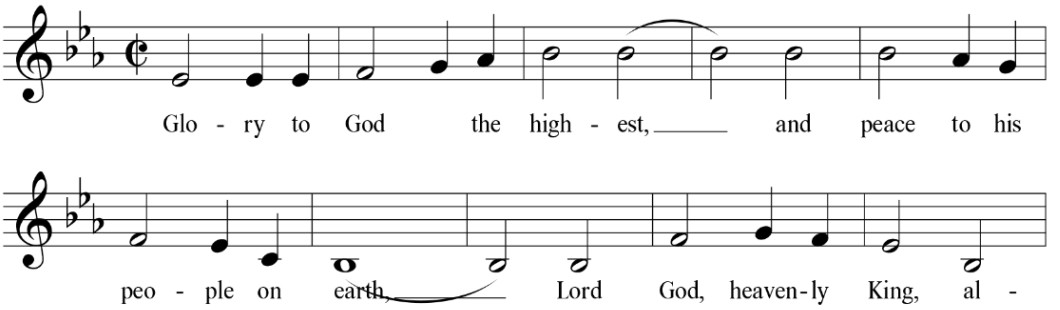
Let us confess our sins to God.
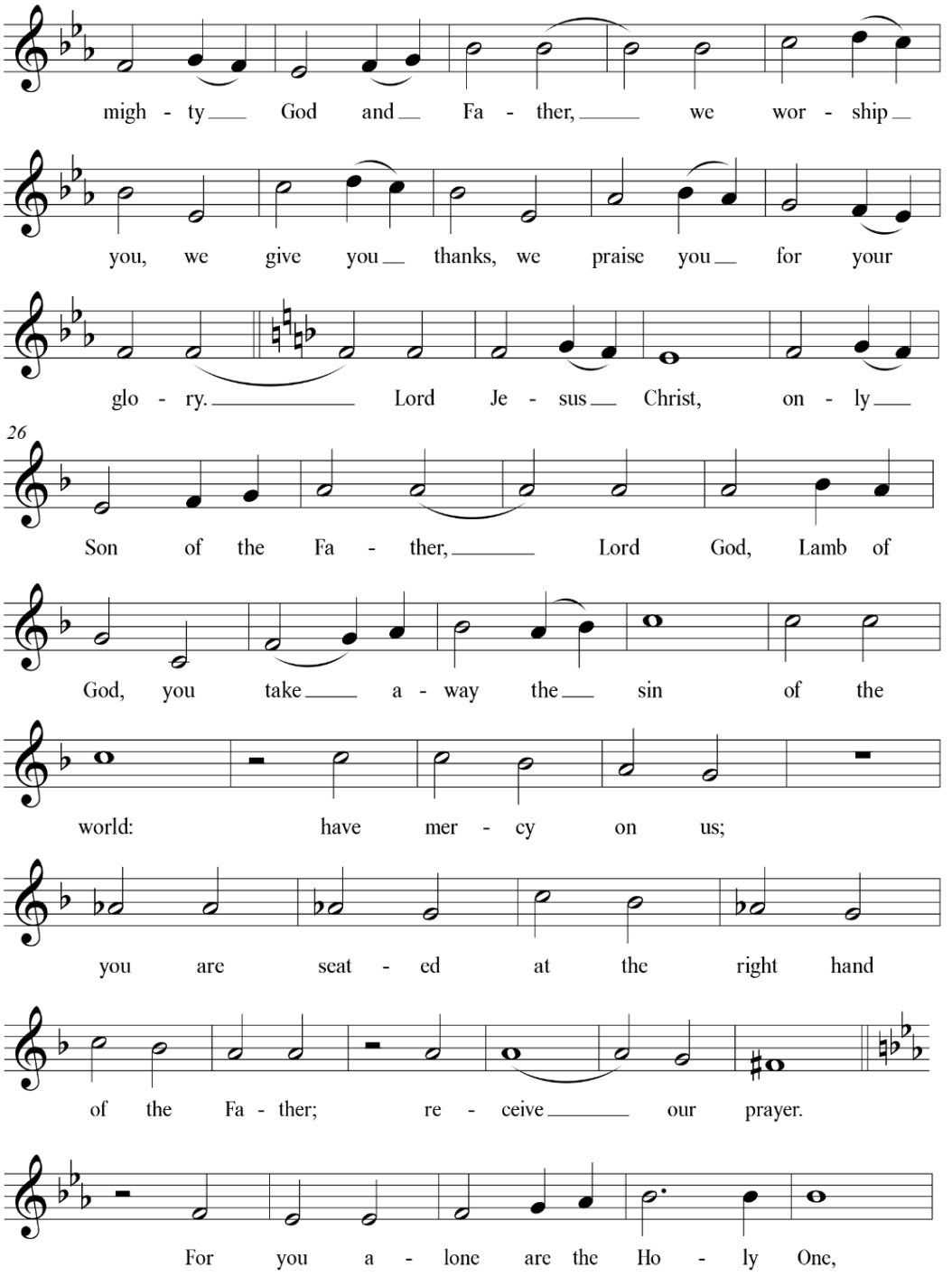
**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

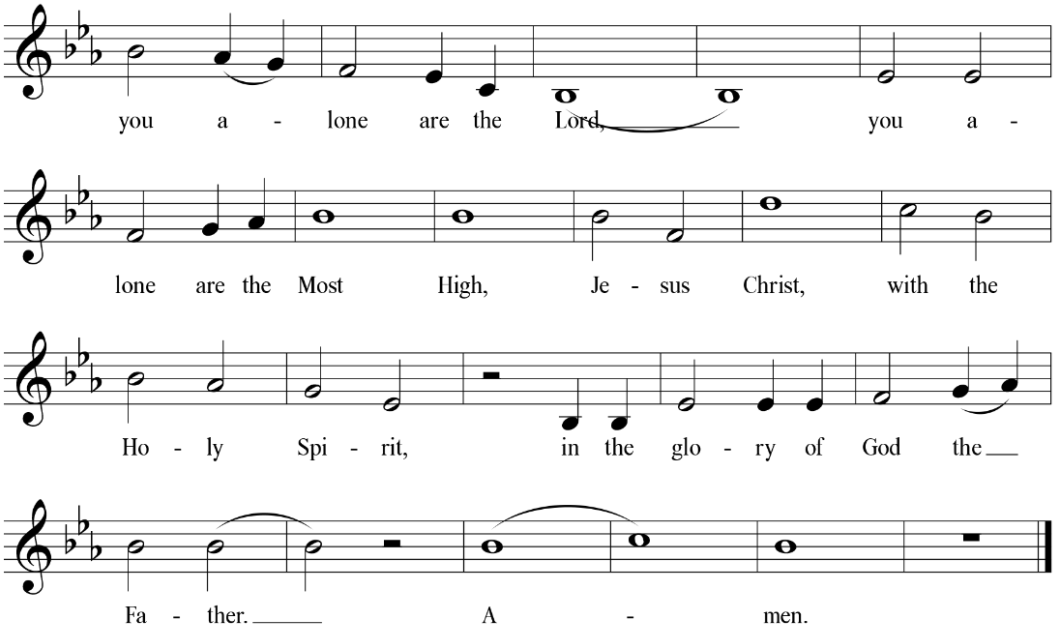
Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## THE GLORIA

From *St. Stephen Mass* — *Warren Michel Swenson*




mighty God and Father, we worship
you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only
26
Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of
God, you take away the sin of the
world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father; receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,




From *St. Stephen Mass,* composed for the 150th anniversary of St. Stephen's Church, Millburn, NJ

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah. 1:7,12-18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast;

the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

## THE RESPONSE

Psalm 90:1-12

Lord, you have been our refuge *
**from one generation to another.**

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
**from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say, *
**"Go back, O child of earth."**

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
**and like a watch in the night.**

You sweep us away like a dream; *
**we fade away suddenly like the grass.**

In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
**in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

For we consume away in your displeasure; *
**we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.**

Our iniquities you have set before you, *
**and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

When you are angry, all our days are gone; *
**we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**

The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty; *
**yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,**
**for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

Who regards the power of your wrath? *
**who rightly fears your indignation?**

So teach us to number our days *
**that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

## THE SECOND LESSON

A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians. 5:1-11

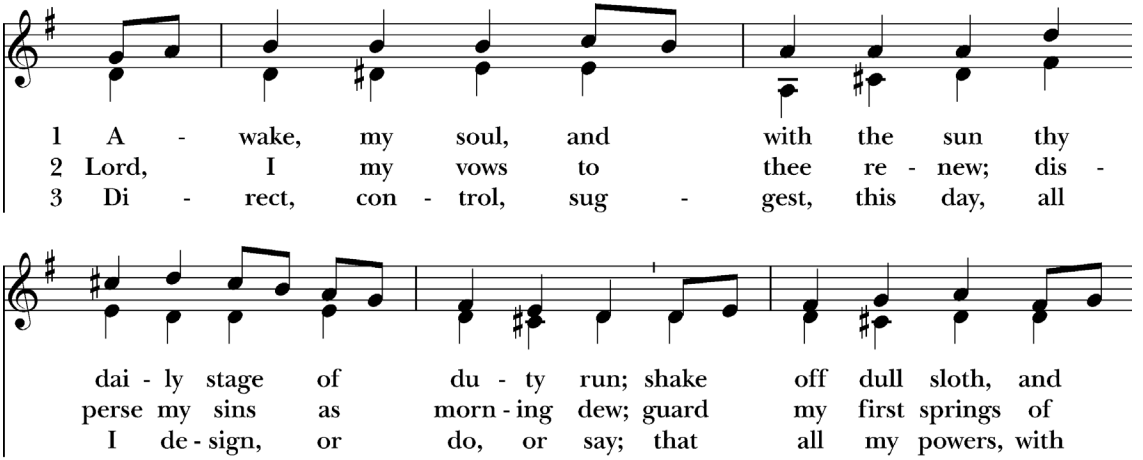
Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

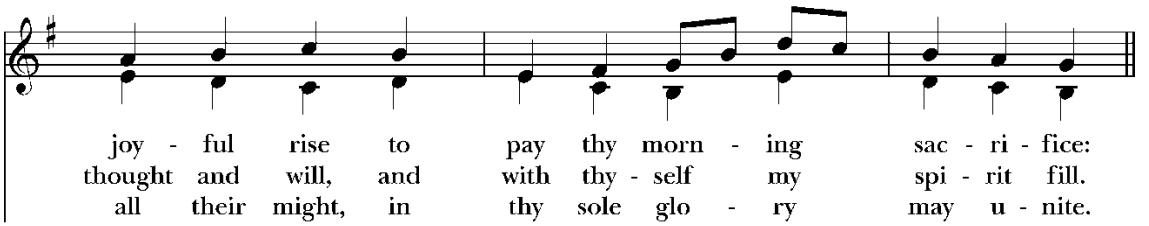
The Word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## SEQUENCE HYMN

H 11, st. 1-3 Awake, my soul *Morning Hymn*






**THE GOSPEL**

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew. 25:14-30

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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.**

## ADVENT LITANY OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT

*Rowthorn*

*In this Advent season, we will pray this litany, holding in our hearts those on our parish prayer list and in the Diocesan and Anglican Communion cycles of prayer. The names of those for whom we pray are found in this bulletin after the Postlude.*

*Presider*
*We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully.*

Intercessor
The darkness is our friend. In the darkness of the womb, we have all been nurtured and protected. In the darkness of the womb, the Christ-child was made ready for the journey into light.

***People***
**You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.**

*It is only in the darkness that we can see the splendor of the universe – blankets of stars, the solitary glowings of distant planets.*

It was the darkness that allowed the Magi to find the star that guided them to where the Christ-child lay.

**You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.**

*In the darkness of the night, desert people find relief from the cruel relentless heat of the sun.*

In the blessed darkness, Mary and Joseph were able to flee with the infant Jesus to safety in Egypt.

**You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.**

*In the darkness of sleep, we are soothed and restored, healed and renewed.*

In the darkness of sleep, dreams rise up. God spoke to Jacob and Joseph through dreams. God is speaking still.

**You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.**

*In the solitude of darkness, we sometimes remember those who need God's presence in a special way – the sick, the unemployed, the bereaved, the persecuted, the homeless, those who are demoralized and discouraged, those whose fear has turned to cynicism, those whose vulnerability has become bitterness.*

Sometimes in the darkness, we remember those near to our hearts – colleagues, partners, parents, children, neighbors, friends. We thank God for their presence and ask God to bless and protect them in all that they do – at home, at school, as they travel, as they work, as they play.

**You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.**

*Sometimes, in the solitude of darkness, our fears and concerns, our hopes and our visions rise to the surface. We come face to face with ourselves and with the road that lies ahead of us. And in that same darkness, we find companionship for the journey.*

In that same darkness, we sometimes allow ourselves to wonder and worry whether the human race is going to make it at all.
**We know that you are with us, O God, yet we still await your coming.**

**In the darkness that contains both our hopelessness and our expectancy, we watch for a sign of God's Hope. 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.*

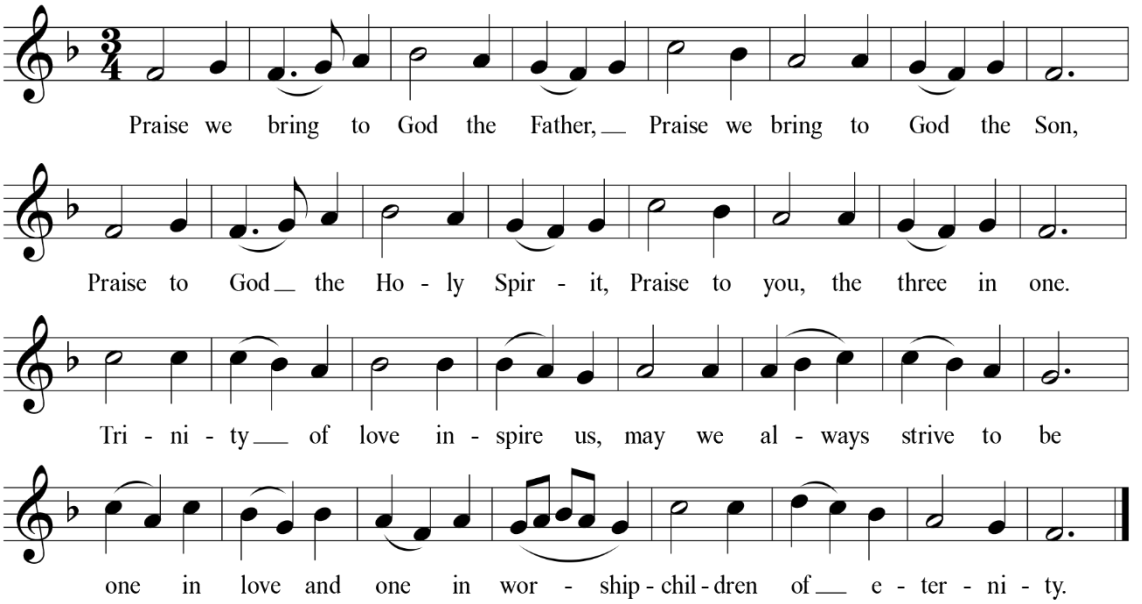
*Please be seated.*

## AT THE OFFERTORY

*Organ Meditation*
*Please stand as you are able.*

## THE DOXOLOGY

Praise we bring to God the Father




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## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER *EOW1 EP3*

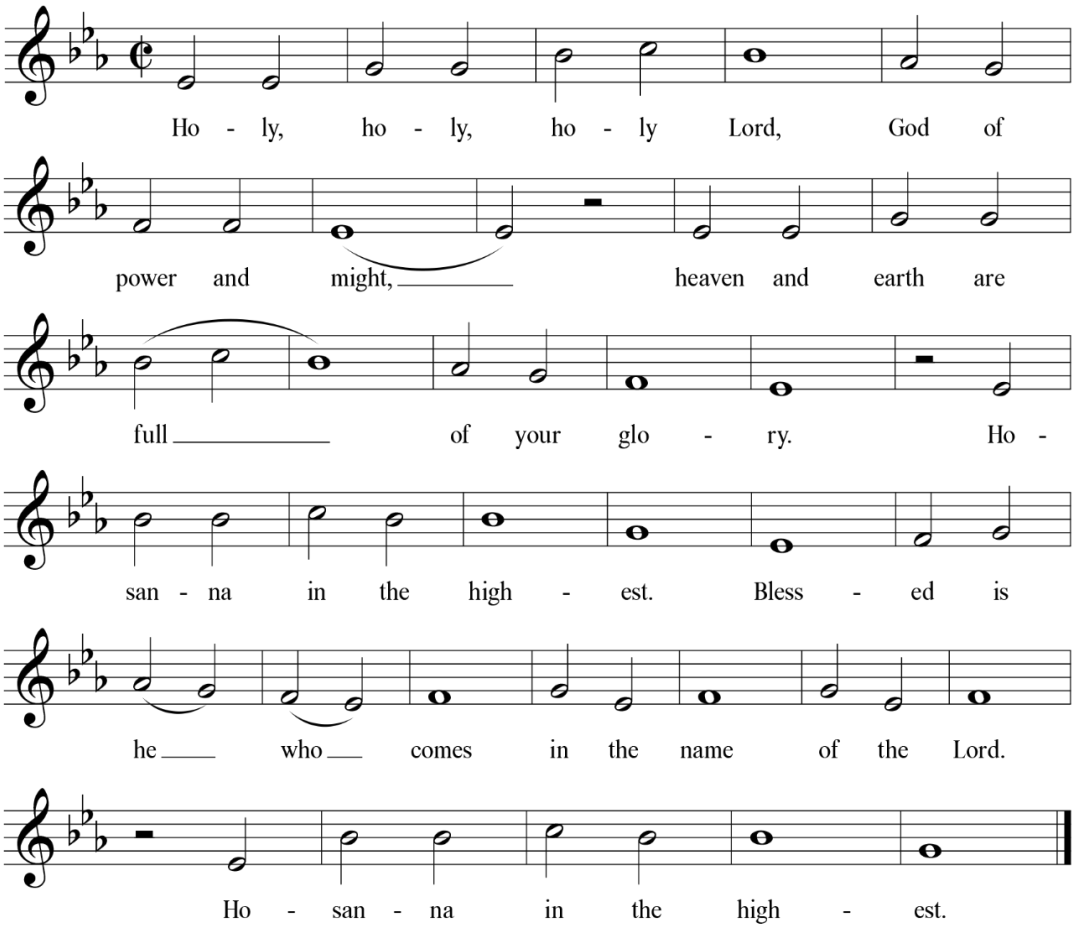
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

## SANCTUS

From *St. Stephen Mass* *Warren Michel Swenson*




From *St. Stephen Mass,* composed for the 150th anniversary of St. Stephen's Church, Millburn, NJ

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

"Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

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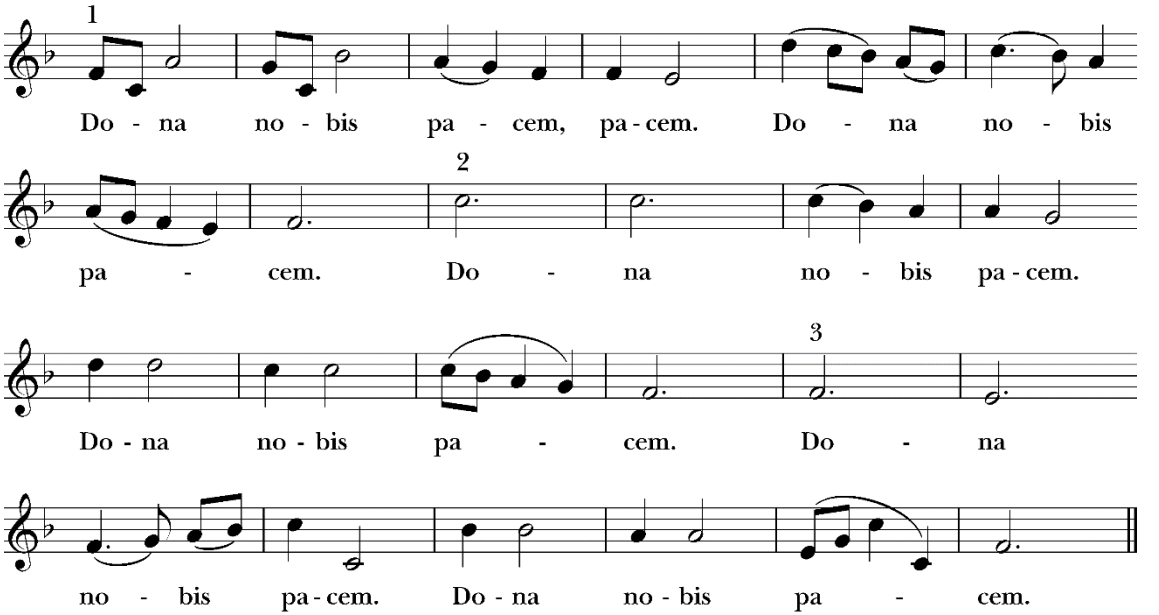
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
**We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

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 712 Dona nobis pacem *Don nobis pacem*




*Please stand as you are able.*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

**O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 our Drumming Camp Families

## BLESSING

*BOOS 2003 adapted*

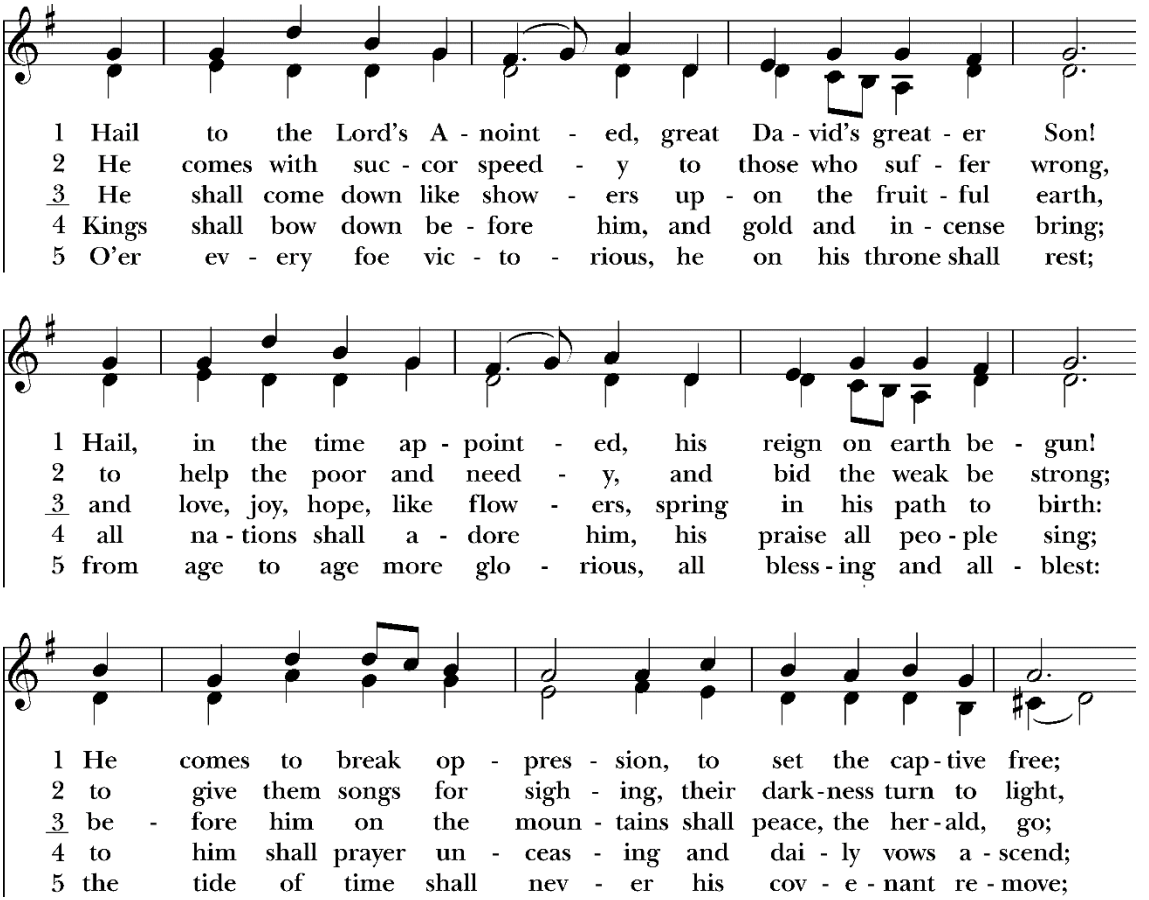
May almighty God, by whose providence our Saviour Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

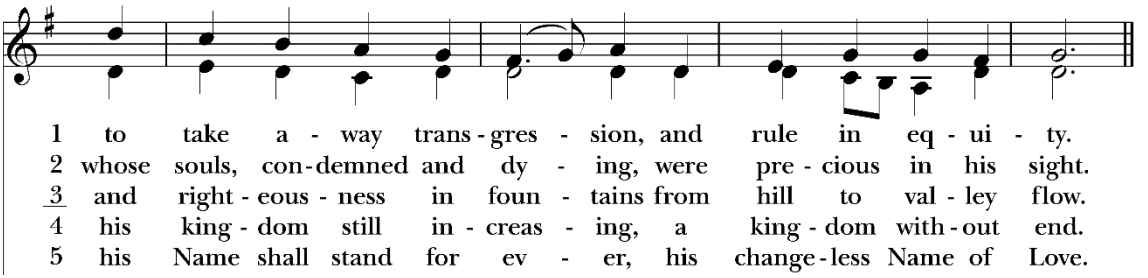
May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**
May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of the Almighty Triune God be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

H 616 Hail to the Lord's Anointed *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*






## THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## LITURGICAL STEWARDSHIP

| | |
|---|---|
| *Officiant:* | The Rev. Paula J. Toland |
| *Deacon:* | The Rev. Deacon Karen Eberhardt |
| *Minister of Music:* | Kim Williams |
| *Organist:* | John Schucker |
| *Altar Guild:* | Irene, Julia, Maria N. |
| *Chalicer/Crucifer:* | |
| *Reader/Intercessor:* | Barbara R., Barbara C. |
| *Greeter/Usher:* | Maryalice, Barbara R. |
| *Tech Verger:* | Ron |
| *Coffee Hour:* | Steve |

*Source for today's lectionary: The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL).*
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## Upcoming Events

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

| DATE | TIME | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|---|
| 11/15 | 10:00 AM | Sunday Worship |
| | 11:30 AM | Vestry Meeting |
| | 1:00 PM | AA Meeting |
| 11/16 | 7:00 PM | Bible Study |
| | 7:30 PM | MA Meeting |
| 11/18 | 7:30 PM | Finance Meeting |
| 11/19 | 6:30 PM | Preschool Committee Meeting |
| 11/22 | 1:00 PM | AA Meeting |
| | 3:00 PM | Sunday Worship \| Bishop Visit<br>175th Anniversary Celebration & Reception |

## OUR 175th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We will celebrate St. Stephen's 175th anniversary with a special Sunday service at 3:00 PM on November 22. There will be no 10:00 AM service. The bishop and other guests will join us for this festive occasion. Volunteers are welcome to help with cooking or decorating for the reception—please let Rev. Paula know if you'd like to help.

**Helpers Needed:** On Friday, November 20th, beginning at 10:30, we'll be preparing the church to welcome our guests, including Bishop Hughes. Like any big celebration, we want to present our best. Volunteers are needed to help tidy and beautify our space for the Bishop's visit and the Advent Season.

## 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
Children & Youth Minister: Julia Kaluzna

Minister of Music: Kim Williams; Organist: John Schucker

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

Sheelagh Clarke: Vestry Emerita

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