



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

One of 13,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World



December 4, 2022

For Your Prayers –December 4, -December 11 ,2022

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Psalm 21; Isaiah 24:1-16a;1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Tuesday: Psalm 21; Isaiah 41:14-20; Romans 15:14-21

Wednesday: Psalm 21; Genesis 15:1-18; Matthew 12:33-37

Thursday: Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 1:6-18; 2 Peter3:1-10

Friday Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 4:13-17; 2 Peter3:11-18

Saturday: Psalm 146:5-10; 1 Samuel 2:1-8; Luke 3:1-18

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10;
Matthew 11:2-11

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Karen Einarsen, Marj Gottschalk-Trone, Edith Haecker, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Evelyn Kernan, Henry Mallue, Carole Meyer, Jeane Moore, Jim Mayfield, and Linda Reuben.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Joyce Behlendorf, Martin Bleck, Birdie Burton, York Doerr, Bob and Angie Groom, Jack Harris, Pat Janot, Jeanne Nelson, Joanne Shue, Darlene Simon, Jerry Trone, and Kay Wasaff**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Anastasia, Brian Allebach, Bob Alt, Stephanie Altland, Benny Anton, Philip A. Arnold, Jane Ayers, Gary Baumgarten, Rose Baumgarten, Susan Behrens, The Besser family, Toni Birch, Pamela Bosserman, Harrison Bryant, Bob Burdette, John Butler, Lane Clark, Bob Cummings, Josephine Curcio, Emmeline Daniels, Graham Darnell, Jeris and Tony DeKievit, Jen Dieter, Judy Drezek, Paul Dwiggin, Derald Edwards, Joan Fecondo, Samuel Fisher, Gloria Flamm, Kay Flatin, Betty Frazee, Bob and Linda Friend, Linda Gamble, Andrea Gonzalez, Rex Harder, Michael Harris, Andy Havola, Frank Hayes, Bradley Heintzelman, Nicole Ingle, Crystal Isaac, Nate Jacklin, Hilde Janke, Kirsten Johnston, Sandy Kellogg, John Knestrick, Richard Kochanski, Rebecca Krueger, Margaret Lewis, Jackie Locke, Mary Lott, Isabelle Lutzle, Jonathan Manning, Keith Margrey, Barry Marten, Doug Mayes, Patrick and Kristin McGraw, Harriett Meeks, Detra Michaels, Judy Murphy, Jeremy Nelson, Lori Ott, Danielle Parrish, Louise Peardon, Phil Peters, Vincent Petty, Pastor Jennifer Phelps, Sue Plevelich, Michelle Raphael-Britt, Pearl Retchin, Edith Roberts, Betty Roth, Shann Rufer, Richard Schmaldinst, Inge Seiter, Cindy Sherwood, Patricia Simpson, Kelsey Slay, Mike Slyer, Brant Smith, Jerry and Evelyn Spear, Ken Steinberg, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, Owen Werthmann, Carolyn Williams, Heath Wilson, Travis Wilson, and the people of Ukraine

December 4, 2022 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

I. Gathering: *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

Welcome

Centering Music *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* setting Sylvia Oines

Advent Candle Lighting Litany

In this season of longing and anticipation,
as streets fill with shoppers, bright lights, and tempting offers...

**you lead us, Lord, along a different path
to a desert river and a prophetic voice –**

a call to repentance,

a call to service,

a call to immerse ourselves in living water that will never run dry,

**a call to prepare a way in our own lives for the Savior of the world to
enter in,**

to know the touch of tender mercy and rest in your forgiving love.

Season of Longing and Anticipation, stanza 2
Two candles are lit.

bulletin page 12

Let us pray.

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

ELW 249

Bulletin page 13

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

II. Word: *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David’s royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader: “The Word of the Lord.” Response: “Thanks be to God.”

Psalmody

Psalm 72:1-7,18-19

May the righ - teous flour - ish;

let there be an a - bun - dance of peace.

¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
 and your righteousness to | the king's son;
²**that he may rule your | people righteously
 and the | poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
 and the | hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
 rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**
⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
 from one generation | to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
 like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
 and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;
 you alone do | wondrous deeds!**
¹⁹And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
 and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen. **R**

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name";¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."

Gospel Acclamation

4

Al - le - lu - ia, to

whom, O Lord, shall we go? You have the words of e -

ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

Response after announcement of the Gospel: “Glory to you, O Lord.”

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Response at the conclusion of the Gospel: “Praise to you, O Christ.”

The Hymn of the Day will be announced in a few moments. First, please take time during the silence: What are your prayers in response to the sermon?

Hymn of the Day *Prepare the Royal Highway*

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Prayers

*Each petition concludes, “Lord in your mercy.” Response: “**Hear our prayer.**”*

III. Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church: preaching and teaching the good news of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, and caring for the poor. During the offering, the table is set for the Lord’s Supper.

Offering of Music

8:30	<i>Come, O Lord</i> <i>St. Stephen Matins Choir</i>	<i>arr. Wayne L. Wold</i>
11:00	<i>Comfort, Comfort Now My People</i> <i>St. Stephen Chancel Choir</i>	<i>arr. Michael Larkin</i>

Offertory Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

2

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav'n and earth ring forth your glo - ry. Ho - san -
are full of
na! Bless'd is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na!

The musical score is written on four staves of a grand staff (treble clef). The first staff begins with a '2' above the staff, indicating a second ending. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words like 'are' and 'full of' in italics. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and Forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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 forever. Amen.**

Holy Communion

*When receiving Communion, either stand or kneel at the Rail.
Pastor will distribute the bread and a Communion Assistant will come with a tray of pre-filled cups of wine and grape juice. The juice will be in the middle of the tray.
Gluten-free wafers are available as an alternative to bread.
St. Stephen is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
so all are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.*



Lamb of God

2
Assembly



Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us, have
mer - cy on us, Lamb of God.
Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world, grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Music

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People/
Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

Setting Sylvia Oines

Communion Hymns

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

ACS 901
Bulletin page 15

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

IV. Sending: *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

Blessing

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DismissalGo in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.****Postlude***All Earth Is Hopeful*

Setting Lynette Maynard

Postlude Notes:

The text writer and composer of our final hymn is Alberto Taule, a Roman Catholic priest and musician born in Sabadell, Catalonia. More than thirty of his hymns are in the Roman Catholic hymnal *Cantoral Liturgico Nacional* (1982). Taule's work first appeared in the US in *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989) where this hymn was titled "All earth is waiting." Lynette Maynard is a composer/arranger from Woodinville, Washington

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On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry; Setting, Sylvia Oines ; *Hymns of Joy and Grace Vol.1*

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Come O Lord, ; Wayne L. Wold; Take My Voice and Let Me sing

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Comfort, Comfort Now My People; Setting Michael Larkin;

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Comfort, Comfort Now My People/Now the Heavens start to Whisper;setting Sylvia Oines ;*Hymns of Joy and Grace Vol.1*

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All Earth Is Hopeful; setting Lynette Maynard

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Season of Longing and Anticipation

Candlelighting Song

Cantor/Choir:



In this sea - son of long - ing and an - ti - ci - pa - tion,



God is at work in the heart of cre - a - tion, of - fer - ing all new



life and sal - va - tion:

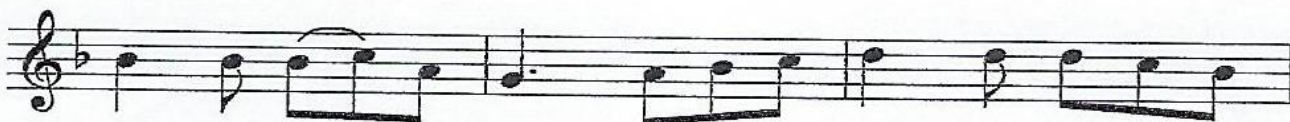
Advent:

1. A righ - teous branch springs up!
2. A voice cries out, "Pre - pare!"
3. Re - joi - ce, the Lord is near!
4. A wom - an ans - wers God's call!

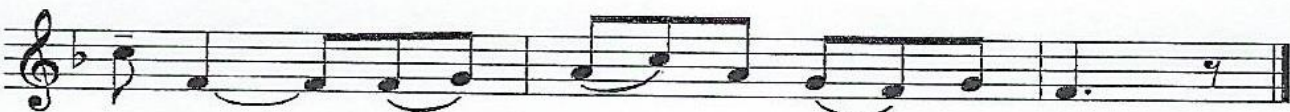
All:



O - pen our eyes to sights, signs, and won - der; o - pen our



ears to hear your word; o - pen our hearts to live with each

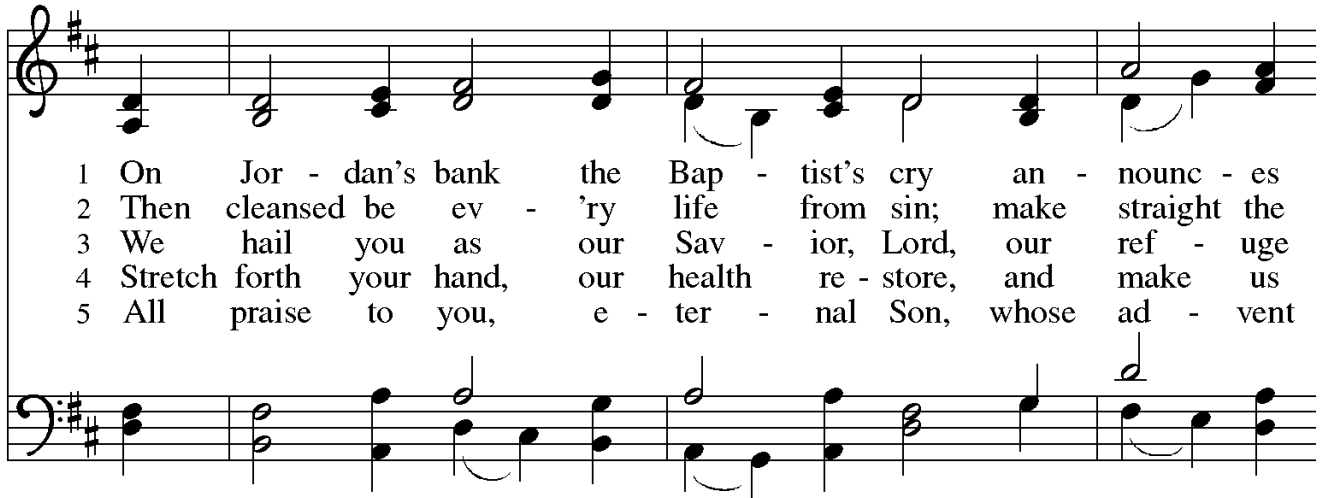


oth - er in

Advent:

1. hope, In - car - nate Lord!
2. peace,
3. joy,
4. love,

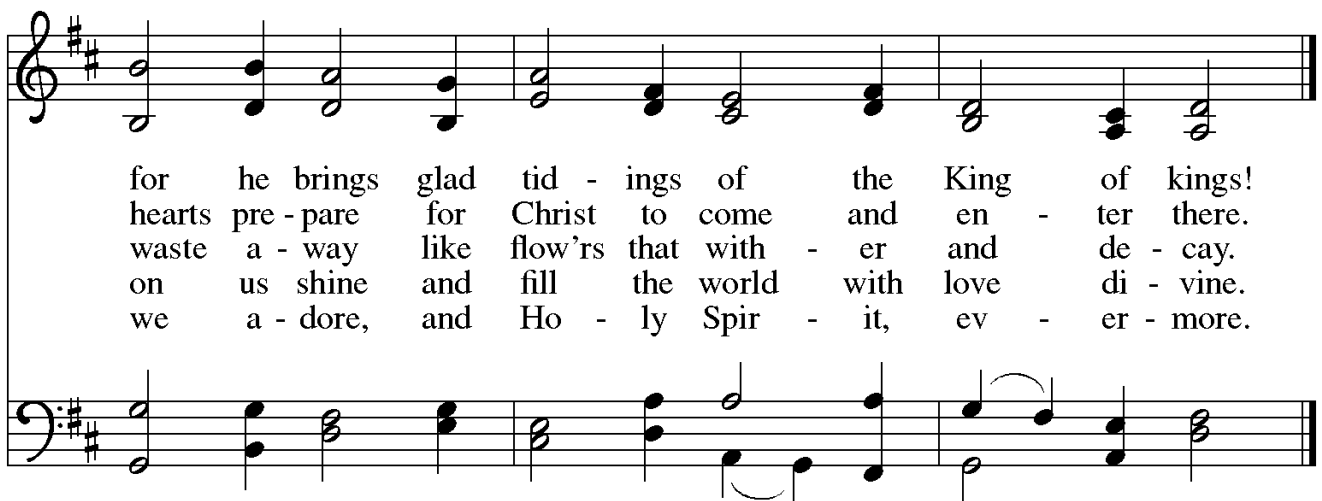
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

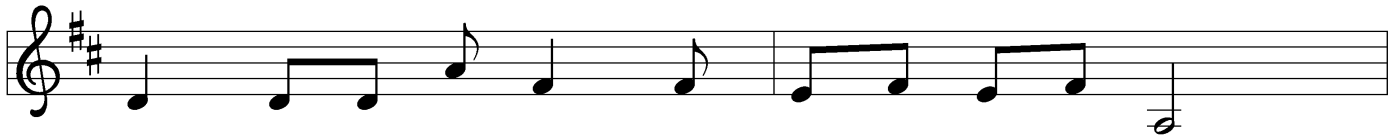


Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version
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Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



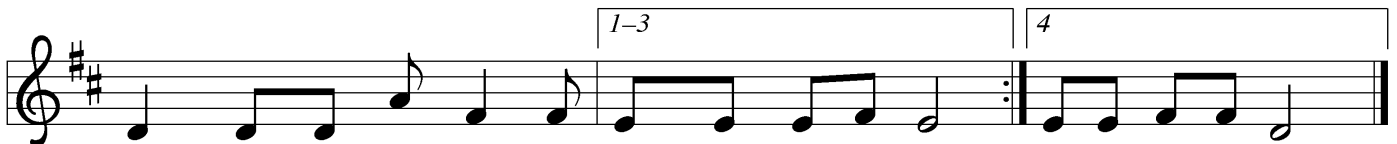
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

As We Gather

Parents! Thanks for bringing your children to worship.

- Did you know that intergenerational worship is the single most important activity encouraging children's faith formation? (See vibrantfaith.com)
- In order to pursue the faith value of inclusivity, you will find a dedicated space (aka "pray ground") in the east wing of the Worship Space. A pray ground is a developmentally appropriate space within the Worship Space for children and their parents to be present and active within worship.
- Age-appropriate activity bags are also available in the Gathering Space if you prefer to be in the pews – ask an usher for assistance.

Assistance is Available for You:

- **An induction loop** is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T."
- **Large print** worship materials are available - ask an usher.
- **Rest rooms** are accessible through the door in the wing to the left of the altar.
- **If someone should need emergency medical assistance**, CPR supplies, and a first aid kit are located in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall.

COVID-19 Guidelines:

- Community transmission of COVID-19 in **James City, Williamsburg and York County** are **low**. Following CDC guidelines, masks are optional in public, indoor settings.
- Masks, if needed, are available in the Gathering Space.

What's Happening Today

Sunday Morning Faith Formation for children and youth: Parents and young children gather in the Fellowship Hall with Music Director **Karen Ives** for the Christmas Program rehearsal.

Flowers are given to the Glory of God by **Bob** and **Carol Harmon** in honor of Lazarus Ickes, great-grand child

Preschool Art Showcase The preschoolers art will be showcased thru out the month of December at the Williamsburg Regional Library, located on 515 Scotland St. Every child has a piece displayed along the walls leading to the children's area.



This year St. Stephen will be collecting gifts for the Williamsburg House of Mercy Christmas Giving 2022. These gifts will be for the children of Greater Williamsburg Area families, ages birth – eighteen. Parents that sign up will be able to “shop” for their children and choose gifts for each child. The House of Mercy anticipates parents shopping for 800 children this year.

What can I buy?

- Age-appropriate gifts including toys, small electronics, or gift cards.
 - Gifts are to be new and unwrapped.
 - Choose something from the WHOM Christmas Giving 2022 list:
- <https://williamsburghouseofmercy.org/christmas-giving-2022/>

Do I have to buy from Target or Amazon and/or from their lists?

- No, buy them anywhere.
- They can be of your own choosing, but age appropriate, safe, and new.

What do I do with the gifts when I buy them?

- Drop them off at church, downstairs near Hollie’s office
- Call Jim Ivey to have them picked up from your porch or home
- Order online and send them to the church at:
612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg Va. 23185

When is the deadline?

- Gifts should be at the church or picked up by Sunday, December 11.

Who do I call if I have questions?

- Call or text Jim Ivey 757-608-8990.

Upcoming

Weekly Bible Study. Come join us as we study the upcoming Sunday's texts! **Tuesday's at 10:00 AM** in the **Library/Conference Room**. It will be led by the **Rev. Jim Larsen** and the **Rev. Harvey Nelson**

Advent Midweek Services. Please join us the Wednesday evenings of Dec. 7, and Dec. 14 in the Worship Space and on our YouTube channel at 7:00 PM for "**Behold Our Light,**" our Advent Midweek liturgy. In lieu of a fourth Wednesday evening service, this year we will have a "Longest Night Eve" service on Dec 20 at 7:00 PM

Game Night! Join us on **Saturday, December 10th at 5:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall for a board game night! Learn a new game or bring an old favorite. **Please bring a dish or snack to share**, water and lemonade will be provided.

Christmas Caroling. We will go Christmas Caroling on **Sunday, December 11 starting at 4:00 PM**. Groups of carolers will visit several families of our congregation, singing to them outside their homes. Returning to Church, we will enjoy chili and cornbread. Come join us as we bring some Christmas cheer to our sick and home-bound members. Bring your favorite chili and/or cornbread to share afterward in the Fellowship Hall

Committee chairs, Council officers and staff: Annual Reports for 2022 are due to the church office no later than Friday, **December 23**. Please send your annual reports electronically to Parish Administrator **Hollie Jones**.

Christmas Decorating! **Friday, December 23rd at 2:00pm**. If you would like to help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas eve and Christmas services please sign up on the Blue sheet.

Have Fun and Support our St. Stephen Preschool during our annual Winter Carnival **Sunday, January 29, 2:00 – 4:00 PM**. Want to help with Winter BINGO, Ice Fishing, Winter Putt-Putt, Penguin Bowling, and more? See the insert and mark the blue sheet if you're able to help! The first meeting will be **December 15 at 7:00pm**.

Supporting Godparents 4 Tanzania

We can do God's work by helping Rehema in pursuing a Bachelor of Education degree. She expects to graduate in late 2024. Her goal is to become an advanced level secondary school teacher for history and Swahili. Please make checks payable to St. Stephen, and write G4TZ on the memo line. Rehema sent this letter in July.

Dear Friends at St. Stephen

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope that you are fine. Back to my side I am proceeding well with my studies. The aim of this letter is to inform you that for now I am in university level – that is, at St. Augustin University of Tanzania which is located in the Mwanza region. The university, in terms of environment and academic issues, is good. Our university is owned by the Catholic Church.

So for now I have already finish the first semester and at the end of this month I am going to finish the 2nd semester. Thereafter we shall start our holiday – almost four months, that is, until November.

Lastly I would like to thank you for your support in my education since I started up to now. I have nothing to pay for what you have done for me, but our Lord gives you more than what you have.

Please pass my greetings to your family and all your relatives. I will always pray for you.

Your loving daughter,
Rehema Peter

HEALTH MINISTRY

An Apple a Day

We are encouraged to eat at least two servings of fruit daily to keep our bodies thriving. Some really are better than others. The top six chosen by a dietician are:

- **Blueberries** - they help reduce age related memory loss. They help fight off cancer. They boost heart health while helping to protect your body's cells.
- **Raspberries** – These berries are full of antioxidants and polyphenols. They are also great sources of vitamin C, manganese and potassium.
- **Blackberries** – They share many of the attributes of blueberries and raspberries. They taste a little different and are also low in calories and, a good source of fiber.
- **Oranges** – One orange a day will give you your daily recommended dose of vitamin C. They boost your immune system, help to keep skin looking radiant, strengthen bones and ease muscle pain. Better to choose a real orange rather than a glass of orange juice.
- **Apples** – apples are connected to improved heart health, fewer asthma symptoms, and a reduced risk of cancer.
- **Star fruit** – This one is a bit more exotic. Also known as carambola, it is shaped like a star when you cut it. It is low in calories and has good fiber.

A good rule to follow is if you like a fruit and will eat it, buy that fruit. Look for locally grown fruit in season. Pair fruits with proteins to improve satiety. While fruit will make you fill full faster, be aware of the sugar content of fruit.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel
Parish Nurse
health.clevelandclinic.org

Worship and Fellowship for Advent and Christmas –

Behold our Light Allow the Spirit to nourish you with some moments of contemplation, as we gather at **7:00 PM** on these **Wednesdays in Advent**:

- December 7, **7:00PM**
- December 14, **7:00PM**

Children's Christmas Program

- **Sunday, December 18** at our **11:00 AM** Worship Service

Christmas Caroling outside to some of our ill and homebound folks

Sunday, December 11

- **4:00 PM** – We meet in the Fellowship Hall to organize.
- **6:00 PM** – We'll return to the Fellowship Hall to share a meal together. Bring chili and/or cornbread to share! (If you're not able to make the caroling, feel free to join the meal gathering – and vice versa!)

Blue Christmas Eve (also called the Longest Night Eve) This worship service honors people that have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief.

- **Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 PM**

Christmas Eve (all services with candle light):

- **7:30 PM** – Worship featuring sermon, choir and Holy Communion
- **10:00 PM** – Worship featuring sermon, choir and Holy Communion

First Sunday of Christmas, December 25:

10:00 AM – Worship and Holy Communion

St. Stephen Calendar –December 4- December 11, 2022

SUNDAY, December 4 ~ Advent 2

- 8:00 AM Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)
9:30 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class (Library/Conference Room)
10:00 AM Children’s Rehearsal for Christmas Program (Fellowship Hall)
10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion
6:00 PM Lutheran Student Association Dinner (College Room)

MONDAY, December 5

- 10:00 AM Staff meeting
7:00 PM Book Study (Fellowship Hall)

TUESDAY, December 6

- 8:00 AM Women’s Breakfast (Colonial Pancake House)
10:00 AM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)

WEDNESDAY, December 7

- 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal (fellowship Hall)
7:00 PM Evening Prayer- Behold our Light
7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, December 8

- 12:00 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)
1:30 PM Book Study (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 PM Worship and Music committee

FRIDAY, December 9

SATURDAY, December 10

- 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
5:30 PM Board Game Night

SUNDAY, December 11 ~ Advent 3

- 8:00 AM Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)
9:30 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class (Library/Conference Room)
10:00 AM Children’s Rehearsal for Christmas Program (Fellowship Hall)
10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion
4:00 PM Caroling (Meeting in Fellowship Hall)
6:00 PM Lutheran Student Association Dinner (College Room)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer.....	(8:30) Theo Bergh
.....	(11:00) Liam Janke
Altar Guild	(8:30) Amy Bergh & Rita Kristiansen
.....	(11:00) Hedi Flatin & Susan Neidlinger
Audio-Visual Team.....	(8:30) JR & Diana Lyons (11:00)
Bread Baker.....	Carol Wiers
Cantors	(8:30) Ellen Bushman (11:00) Marj Gottschalk-Trone
Communion Assistants	(8:30) Amy & Brian Bergh
.....	(11:00) Margaret Steel & Liam Janke
Flower Delivery	Diane McCurry
Greeters/Hosts.....	(8:30) Paul & Rita Kristiansen (11:00) Alison Carney
Lectors.....	(8:30) John McCurry (11:00) Russ Dabel
Tellers.....	Jane Gingerich, Ursula Recktenwald, & Russ White
Ushers.....	(8:30) Reed & Karen Nester (11:00)

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road

Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

www.saintstephenlutheran.net

(757) 229-6688

We gather to worship and study God's Word to deepen our faith and live our Christian witness and service in the community.

(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All of Us, Called Through Our Baptisms

Pastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)

Karen Ives – Director of Music (828-242-1133)

Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (229-6688)

Diana Tiller-Dichtel – Parish Nurse (232-5924)

Kristie Kelley – Preschool Director (229-6688)

Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)

Doing Ministry in the World

Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net

MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net

Office@saintstephenlutheran.net

Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net

Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!

*Please fill this out and drop it in the offering plate
or give it to an usher.*

December 4, 2022

Name: _____

For guests and members with changes:

Address (Home) _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____

E-Mail Address _____

Guests Only:

I belong to _____

Church Address _____

Please check as many as pertain:

____ Member

____ First time guest

____ Regular guest

____ Guest (out of town)

____ Student at William & Mary

____ Looking for a church home

____ Desire to speak with pastor

____ Would like more information about Stephen Ministry

____ Would like a Parish Nurse to contact me

Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessary.

Prayer Requests

Please **add** to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's *Quill*:

Name: _____

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: _____

_____ I need a name tag

_____ I will help decorate the sanctuary

_____ I would like to help with the Preschool Winter Carnival