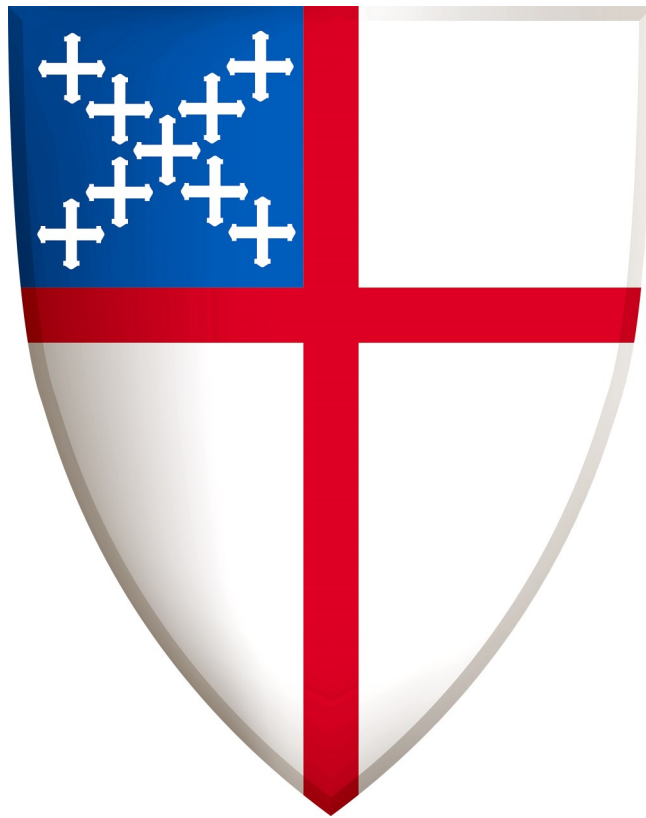




ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcomes You!



THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2023

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite II

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

Thank you for joining us!

Please fill out a visitor card located in your pew and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. We'll be in touch with you later in the week.

Morning Prayer

The tradition of Morning Prayer started with the Jewish tradition, which Jesus followed, of praying at the synagogues at sunrise. Many elements of Morning Prayer come from the monastic hours of prayer. Morning prayer used to be the chief tradition in most Anglican churches three out of four Sundays. Since the eucharist is now recognized at the "principle act of worship on the Lord's day," this has not continued. However, Morning Prayer is clearly designated as a daily service for the worship of the church.

JOIN US THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 31-JANUARY 6

WORSHIP | PRAYER | STUDY

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Morning Prayer Service
9:30 AM Chancel Choir Practice
10:30 AM Morning Prayer | Facebook Live
11:45 AM Coffee Hour Fellowship

MONDAY

Church Office and Food Closet Closed

TUESDAY

7:00 AM Brotherhood of St. Andrew
7:00 PM Lectio Divina

WEDNESDAY

12:15 PM Holy Communion
6:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice

THURSDAY

1:00 PM Super Seniors
7:00 PM St. Dunstan's Bell Choir

FOOD CLOSET OPEN

MONDAY - FRIDAY | 9 AM - 12:00 NOON
THURSDAY | 4 - 6 PM

SERVING TODAY

CLERGY:

8:00 AM The Rev. Tom Hayes
10:30 AM The Rev. Wilma Houston White

OFFICIANT:

8:00 AM Billy Green
10:30 AM Jamie Adams

READER

8:00 AM Marty Moon
10:30 AM Barb Rosica

USHERS

John Hallett, Julie Yowell,
Kerry Bonfadini, Peyton Cramer

ACOLYTES: Grace Warner
Jack Warner

ORGANIST:

Craig Ames

Chancel Choir

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2023
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite II

*The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in appreciation
of our Hospitality Committee.*

PRELUDE - “Noel Nouvelet” (*Sing We Now of Christmas*) *French Carol arr. Richard Hudson*

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN - “How Bright Appears the Morning Star ” *497, Hymnal 1982*

OPENING SENTENCE

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people,
and God himself will be with them, and be their God. ~ Revelation 21:3

CONFESSION OF SIN

Please sit or kneel as you are able

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People:

*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.*

Officiant:

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

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Please stand as you are able.

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

Officiant and People:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Officiant: Alleluia. To us a child is born:

People: *Come let us adore him. Alleluia.*

VENITE: Psalm 95:1-7

Read in unison

Come, let us sing to the lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

THE RESPONSE OF THE DAY: Laudate Dominum: Psalm 147

Read in response by half verse

Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.

He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?

He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

*All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Read in unison)

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land;
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise,
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open;
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord,
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land,
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation,
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day;
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.*

Officiant and People:

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

THE SECOND LESSON: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 20: Glory to God - *Gloria in excelsis*

(Read in unison)

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only 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,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE THIRD LESSON: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOMILY

*The Rev. Tom Hayes (8:00 AM)
The Rev. Wilma White (10:30 AM)*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand as you are able.

Said in unison.

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
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.
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. Amen.***

THE PEACE

Officiant: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

Officiant: Let us walk in love as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to thee.

People: ***All things come of thee Oh Lord, and of thine own have we given thee. Amen.***

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: “Rise Up Shepherd and Follow” *African-American Spiritual/Osterland*

THE DOXOLOGY

#380 (v. 3), Hymnal 1982

Celebrant and People sing:

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Officiant: Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**Our Father, 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

Reader: Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray, “Glorious Lord, *grant us your peace.*”

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts. Strengthen your church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil.

Silence.

Reader: Glorious Lord,

***People:* Grant us your peace.**

Reader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor the lowly. Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation.

Silence.

Reader: Glorious Lord,

***People:* Grant us your peace.**

Reader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you.

The congregation is invited to add their petitions, follow by silence.

Reader: Glorious Lord,

***People:* Grant us your peace.**

Reader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon your people to yourself. May all of the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence.

Silence.

Reader: Glorious Lord,

***People:* Grant us your peace.**

Reader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your arms to the sick and the lonely.

The congregation is invited to add their petitions, follow by silence.

Reader: Glorious Lord,

***People:* Grant us your peace.**

Reader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection.

Silence

Reader: Glorious Lord,
People: ***Grant us your peace.***

Silence may be kept.

Officiant: Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

SUFFRAGE B

Officiant: Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

People: ***Govern and uphold them, now and always.***

Officiant: Day by day we bless you;

People: ***We praise your name for ever.***

Officiant: Lord, keep us from all sin today;

People: ***Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.***

Officiant: Lord, show us your love and mercy;

People: ***For we put our trust in you.***

Officiant: In you, Lord, is our hope;

People: ***And we shall never hope in vain.***

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

A COLLECT FOR SUNDAYS

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

A COLLECT FOR GRACE

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with you mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Please read in unison.

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Celebrant and People: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “All Creatures of Our God and King”

400, Hymnal 1982

BENEDICTION

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Celebrant:

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

POSTLUDE: “El Desembre Congelat ” (Cold December Flies Away)

Kris Rizzotto

PRAYERS

We hold in our prayers the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially:

Barbara C	Amy K	Pam A & family	Barbara A
Carol G	Marrietta E	Sarah A	Faith G
Catherine	Rick B	Luke H	Carole S
Haley C	Wayne S	Caroline H	Ernest L
Jeanette G	Bo C	Cheryl U	Lillibet & Dave C
Kirsten B	Sarah T	Theresa W	Haylee W
Martha T	Bob M	India B	Benjamin O
Nadine	Thomas family	Greg & Linda L	Aaron F
Robert D	Brad H	Family of Zach &	Thomas & Carol O
Sally J	Mary M	Lauren H	
Wayne G	Wills A	Art P	

In addition, we pray for members in the military, those serving our country at home and abroad, and their families, especially:

Caleb B	Abigail B	Nate C	Taylor C	Allahvel F
Jessica H	David H	Samuel M	Taylor G	Matthew S
Carrington T	Daniel V	Braedon W	John F, Jr	Earl E
Matthew G	Peyton F	Christopher J	Ian M	Chris S

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially:

Dec. 31 Troy E & Lavina H	Jan. 1 Gayle B
Dec. 31 Barbara A	Jan. 5 Laura W
Dec. 31 Debbie H	Jan. 6 Susie B

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Year's Day

The Church Office and Food Closet will be closed on New Year's Day, January 1st.

Please Give a Poinsettia a Home

Please take a Poinsettia after the service to enjoy at home so they don't have to be thrown away.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21st in the Parish Hall between the two worship services. A simple breakfast will be served at 8:45 AM, followed by the meeting at 9:00.

Pictures From the Past Year

If you have photos of church events from 2023, please share them with Karyn in the church office. You can email them to ssac@ststephensculpeper.net.

Super Seniors

Join the Super Seniors on January 4th and 18th at 1:00 PM in the Gathering Room. Enjoy games, refreshments and catch up with old friends, or make a new friend. Everyone is welcome!

Lectio Divina

It has been said when we listen to the stories Jesus tells, we are not passive listeners; we become co-creators in an ongoing story that changes us. This is what happens as we continue to reflect on the "parables of Jesus" in Lectio Divina in January. Please consider joining us on Zoom, Tuesday evenings at 7 pm in January. Contact Kitty Whitman or Faith Dickerson for further information. All ladies are welcome to try this ancient form of reflection and silent prayer.

STAY
CONNECTED

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Located: 115 N. East Street, Culpeper, Virginia 22701
Parking: 120 N. Commerce Street, Culpeper, VA 22701
Phone: 540.825.8786

Email: ssec@ststephensculpeper.net
Website: ststephensculpeper.net
Find Us on Facebook

HOURS

CHURCH OFFICE: Monday - Friday | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend Trent Moore, **Rector** - tmoore@ststephensculpeper.net
Craig Ames, **Music Director** - comes@ststephensculpeper.net
Karyn Sizemore, **Administrative Assistant** - ssec@ststephensculpeper.net
Lynn Gore, **Communications Coordinator** - info@ststephensculpeper.net
Abbey Newton, **Bookkeeper** - bookkeeper@ststephensculpeper.net
Ray Johns, **Sexton**

THE CULPEPER FOOD CLOSET

Hours: Monday - Friday | 9:00 AM - 12:00 p.m.,
Thursdays 4:00 - 6:00 PM
Mail: P.O. Box 343, Culpeper, VA 22701
Located: 120 N. Commerce Street
Phone: 540.825.1177

Email: culpeperfoodcloset@gmail.com