



Encouraging and strengthening faith in Jesus, and sharing the joy of God's love.

December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent

10:15am

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor

Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION to the First Sunday of Advent

Advent came to be a four-week season of preparation for Christmas, much as Lent prepares for Easter. The church does not celebrate Christmas until the night of December 24, a celebration that lasts until the Baptism of Our Lord, the second Sunday of January. The color of Advent is deep blue, the color of the sky from which Christ will return, the color of Blessed Mary, the color of hope. The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.



Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Choir Prelude

Welcome

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presider begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,

the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,

the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

To you, O God,

we lift up our souls.

You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you.

Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love.

Show us your ways; teach us your paths;

and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness

in Iesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of + Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

Amen.

The assembly remains standing to sing, turning to the altar as the cross passes by.

GATHERING SONG:

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW #254

The assembly sings the <u>first verse</u> as the procession moves to the Advent Wreath. The wreath is then blessed and the first candle is lit. The blessing concludes as follows:

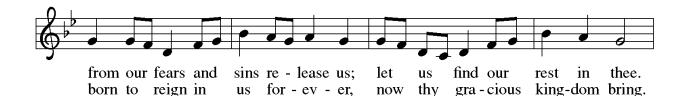
P: O house of Jacob, come,

C: let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

Then the assembly sings the final verse.



- 1 Come, thou long-ex pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
- 2 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king;







Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835



GREETING

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

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept, then the presiding minister leads the prayer.

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The assembly sits.



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122

¹I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

²Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

4to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,

the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be with-in your walls and quietness with- in your towers.

⁸For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans.

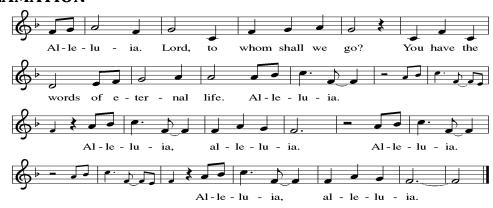
¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

After a brief silence, the assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

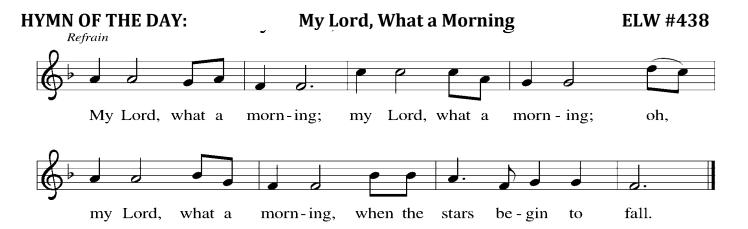
The assembly is seated.

Youth and Children's Message

SERMON

The Rev. Robert Schaefer

Silence for reflection follows the sermon. The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in Song.





- 1 You will hear the trum pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin ner
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

cry,

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

NICENE CREED

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 and the Son, 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 INTERCESSION

A: Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG:

He Came Down

ELW #253



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;

he came down that we may have light;

he came down that we may have peace;

he came down that we may have joy;

hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

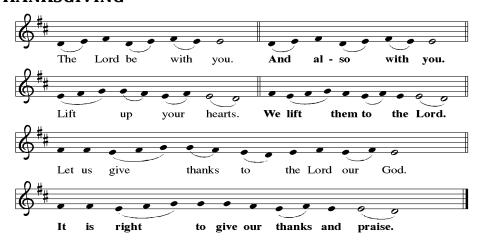
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

OFFERING PRAYER

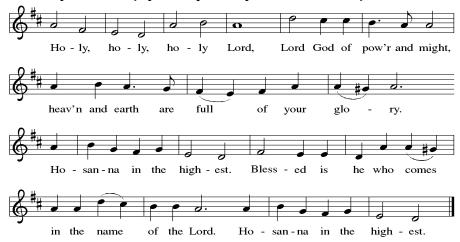
A: Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The presiding minister continues to give thanks:

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup...We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit...Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours... one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion

P: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table. Feast at the banquet of hope and love.

The bread is broken for the communion. The assembly is seated.

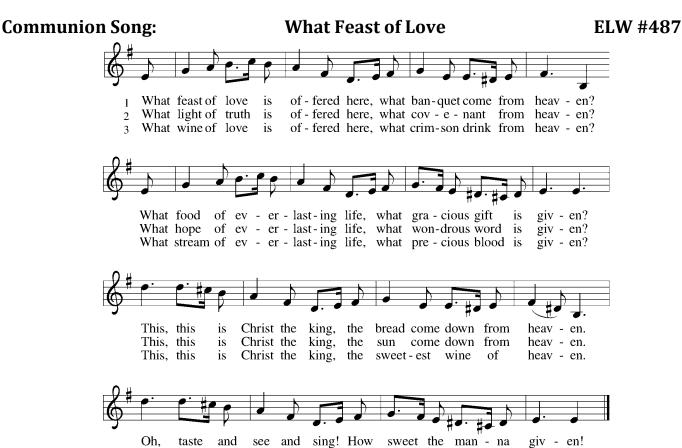
All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of holy communion. Those who are not baptized and children not yet communing may come forward for a blessing, please cross your arms on your chest if you desire a blessing.

At St. Stephen we receive Holy Communion by receiving the bread and then either drinking directly from the cup or by intinction: That means that you may **receive the bread in your hand and then dip bread in the wine**.)

Gluten free bread is available on the right side. (please ask) Alcohol free wine is available on the right side. (please ask)

The body of Christ, given for you. *Response:* **Amen.** The blood of Christ, shed for you. *Response:* **Amen.**





sing! The

sing! The

Word

Son

of

of

God

God

is

giv - en!

giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939

Oh.

Oh,

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

and

and

see

taste

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see

hear and

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and

Additional Communion songs are sung as needed

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.



Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P: May God, who gatherers us in love, lead you into pathways of righteousness and justice.

C: Amen.

P: May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom.

C: Amen.

P: May God, who fills us with good things leas you in pathways f equity and abundance.

C: Amen.

All may make the sign of the cross as they receive God's blessing.

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.



Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

In response to the amazing love, mercy and grace of God, St. Stephen Lutheran Church is a community that openly welcomes all who are seeking God's divine love and grace. All are welcome in this place regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic situation or life situation, marital or relationship status, or your doubts about faith and church. Our unity is in Christ. Your family, children, friends, spouses and partners are welcome. Your diversity and uniqueness enriches and expands our community. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Normagene Richardson, Mildred Grady, Laurel Blake, Katie Paff, Dorothy Johnson, Carol Chmelynski, Jimmy Fennelli, Edith Reichenbach, Jim Loggins, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, and Shelley Amato.

Prayers for Friends of the parish: (Please renew your request every 3 weeks)

¥ Jake, Mary Gangloff ★ Greg, Carol, Ann, Valerie, Carmen, Hector, Christian, Jennifer, Melissa, Gary, Cheryl, Craig, Robert, Chandler, Aiden, Braemen, Becky, Nettie, Donnie, Jerry, Edward ★ Jane, Bill, Carol, Edith, Pat Jean, Pat Ruth, Glen, Jorge, Eric, Nicholas, Laurel, Dorothy, Gene, Annette, Joanna, Chuck, Betty, John.

In a facility or homebound:

Barbara Kaptain – The Atrium Assistant Living at Boca Raton.

1080 NW 15TH Room 215 Boca Raton, Fl. 33486

Jane Reinhold – Platinum Loving Group, P. O. Box 410572, Melbourne, FL 32941

Evelyn Braun – 6152 Verde Trail Room 106 Boca Raton, Fl. 33433

Jim Loggins - John Knox Village – Woodlands 700 SW 4th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Bud Danker - 3020 N. Ridge Road Apartment W-316 Ellicott City, MD 21043

Assisting at Worship in December

(w) will give wine at communion. Thank you all for serving.

10:15 AM	<u>December 1</u>	<u>December 8</u>	<u>December 15</u>	<u>December 22</u>	<u>December 29</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Sera Butz	Natalie Prego	Eric Castaneda	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE	Carol Jacobson	Pat Belanger	Sera Butz	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobso
LECTOR	Erika Flanigan	Sera Butz	Catherine Zippay	Rosie Fennelli	Pat Belanger
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Suzanne Loggins Jeanne Pettit Lynda Smith Zachary Smith (w)	Marsha Kibler (w) Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Catherine Zippay	Jimmy Fennelli Karin Breslin Rosie Fennelli (w) Pat Engle	Suzanne Loggins Jeanne Pettit Lynda Smith Lisa Castaneda (w)	Lisa Castaneda (w) Karin Breslin Pat Engle R. Mottesheard
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2	Rose Jones	Caroline Smith	Rose Jones	Caroline Smith	Rose Jones
to Serve	Kelly Jacobson	Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson	Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones	Dennis Magarrell	Sera Butz	Larry Jones
PROJECTION	Jake VanZile	Jake VanZile	Larry Jones	Eric Castaneda	Jake VanZile



Christmas Eve at St. Stephen—two services

 $\textbf{5:30pm} \quad \textbf{Family Christ Mass} \ \textit{with Candle light and Children's Message}$

7:30pm Festival Sung Christ Mass with Candlelight

DARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to worship, its Advent! Welcome returning winter residents!

We are thankful you are here! We especially welcome our guests and our first time guests today. Stop at the desk to pick up a **name tag** if you don't have one. Please take a moment to fill out the attendance cards in the worship folder with your name, number and email—especially if you are visiting so that we can welcome you. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Pr. Schaefer. Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the gathering area at the back of the church (Narthex) following the liturgy this morning. St. Stephen members: don't forget to put a little something in the jar on the table to help support this ministry! We thank **Linda Hanzlik** for her generous stewardship of this ministry of hospitality!



Wear your name tag every Sunday

If you signed up for one, it is waiting for you. If you need one, just ask! Members and friends, please wear your name tag to every church function. We want St. Stephen Church to be a place where everyone knows your name!

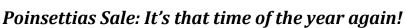
Change for Change Tower: Hurricane Relief in the Bahamas

For the final three months of 2019, we will be forwarding all money collected in the Change for Change tower to the Office of the Bishop in the Florida-Bahamas Synod to assist our brothers and sisters there recover from Hurricane Dorian.



Congregation Meeting following the liturgy this morning.

There will be a Meeting of St. Stephen Congregation today, immediately following the 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion in the church, for the sole purpose of electing persons to the congregation council. No other business will be transacted at this meeting. Voting members are those who have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding calendar year.



Now through December 15, we will be selling poinsettias as a fundraiser. The poinsettias can be dedicated to loved ones and will decorate our altar until after the 7:30pm Christmas Eve--Christ Mass when you can take them home. If you wish to leave them for the duration of the Christmas season, we would welcome that! Christmas will continue this year through January 5, Epiphany Sunday. Donation: \$10.00.



Sign up today: Annual Wine and Cheese Fundraiser December 7

This fun and helpful annual event is around the corner on Saturday, December 7 from 4:30—7:30pm. As always there will be wine, cheese, soft drinks, gift cards, and a raffle, as well as a 50/50. Sign up today to bring food. This wonderful St. Stephen holiday event is a \$15 donation at the door. Don't miss the fun. Invite your neighbors and friends now!





Live Generously Commitment Sunday at St. Stephen: Next week, The Second Sunday in Advent.

Our stewardship theme is **LIVE GENEROUSLY**. St. Paul gives the following advice to Christians: "They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life." (1 Timothy

6:15-19). You will be receiving material in the mail to help you discern your financial stewardship through St. Stephen in 2020. Please take time to pray about this and return your **Live Generously Estimate of Giving Card** during Holy Communion on December 8.

Holy Grill needs:

Breakfast continues to be served Wednesday at 9am and dinner at 5pm in the same location in our east lot in front of the sanctuary. Please check the box on the attendance card if interested becoming a volunteer. Be sure to include your email. Pr. Bob will contact you. We continue to collect for these clothing needs: Men's/women's underwear, socks, T-shirts, shorts, towels.



DECEMBER HOLY GRILL VOLUNTEERS

WEDNESDAY 9AM

12/4 Judy Dooge – Juliet Crawford **12/11** Carol/Kelly Jacobson – Karen Breslin

12/18 Suzanne Loggins – Juliet Crawford

WEDNESDAY 5PM

Judy Hoyer – Anne Mandler Joe Leone Erika Flanigan

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

Last Sunday Attendance: 68 Last Sunday Income (all sources): \$ 2,454 WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY! THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!!



Sunday Schedule

10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion

Tuesday Bible Study 7:00pm (Luther Room)

Church Staff

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer – Pastor pastoratststephen@gmail.com 941-716-5687
Cesar Vidaud – Director of Music Clarence (Teddy) Rowe – Sexton Aidee Koach – Administrative Assistant sslcpompano@gmail.com
Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Mon- Fri

Congregation Council

Larry Jones - President
councilpresident@ststephenlutheran.net
Christian Hecker - Vice-president
Eric Castaneda - Treasurer
Natalie Prego - Secretary
Lynda Smith
Patricia Engle
Harry Ambrose
Dennis Magarrell
Erika Flanigan



Weekly Calendar

Sunday 1-First Sunday of Advent

10:15am Worship 11:30am Congregation Meeting

Monday 2

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Tuesday 3—St. Francis Xavier, Missionary to Asia, 1552AD 9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Wednesday 4-St. John of Damascus, Theologian, c.749AD

9:00-10:00am Holy Grill Feeding Ministry 9:00-12pm Threads of Love 9:30am-12:30pm Office Open 5:00-6:00pm Holy Grill Feeding Ministry

Thursday 5

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday 6—St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.342AD 9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Saturday 7-St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397AD

Sunday 8—Second Sunday in Advent 10:15am Worship

Online Giving

We offer you the opportunity to give online through our website and also to set up automatic offerings so you don't wish to fill an envelope each week, if you choose. Electronic gifts are fast and secure.

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