

Welcome to St Stephen's

BELVEDERE

The first thing that ever happened was wind blowing across water, the Spirit of God hovering or dancing over it, God by fiat separating light from darkness. Today, Jesus comes to his herald, John. He stands by the river's edge of a wilderness into which the Spirit will drive him. He consents to go under the waters and into the dark: where you cannot breathe, or dance, or speak. And he moves headlong into your wilderness and mine.

When Jesus came up out of the water the sky was split open, light shone upon him, and God said, "This is my beloved Son." In an echo of the dove that alighted upon the ark of Noah, the Spirit of God descends upon him like a dove, signaling the end of chaos and the beginning of a new creation. That Spirit is come near to every human being. It has spread its wings across the whole world, has come to this coast, this island, this church.

Welcome to St Stephen's.

To our visitors, newcomers, and seekers:

- If you're new via the livestream, please email office@ststephenschurch.org to let us know who you are, to ask questions, or to make comments.
- Donations and Contributions can be made online at <http://ststephenschurch.org/styled-23%20Contribute/index.html>.
- If you are ready to inquire about membership, want us to pray for you or someone you name, or you'd like a call from one of our priests, please email office@ststephenschurch.org.
- All currently available Livestream links, Christian Education forums, and classes can be accessed on the church website St Stephen's Central page.
- Visit *Together Apart*, the daily clergy blog, at <https://ststephensbelvedere.squarespace.com/>

10th January 2021 | The First Sunday after Epiphany

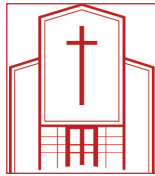
— Altar Flowers —



The flowers at the altar today are given by Mike North,
in loving memory of his wife, Marty.

Serving at the Altar Today

Reader	[Genesis lesson & Acts lesson] The Clergy
Soprano	Judith Ward Hall
Alto	Mateus Coura
Tenor	Douglas Mandell
Bass	Wilford Kelly
Director of Parish Music	John Karl Hirten
Stream Team	Oliver Dugan, Ciara Hall, Alec Marasa, Kelly Perasso, Jack Putney, Phoebe Putney, Madeline Thiara
Preacher	The Rev'd Christine Trainor
Celebrant	The Rev'd Phillip C. Ellsworth, Jr.



Everyone's welcome. Nobody's perfect. Anything's possible.

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH

BELVEDERE

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

10th January 2021 | 10:00 o'clock in the morning

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Worship is a verb. From the Altar of this sacred space to the altar of your heart in the sacred space of your home, we welcome you to join us in the active worship of God. This service is based on the Holy Eucharist Liturgy of Eucharistic Prayer B in the Book of Common Prayer [BCP] on page 367, printed herein.

For ease of use, this leaflet contains the live stream congregation portions of the liturgy, service music, and hymn lyrics.

The Prelude

At the Procession

Hymn 76 *On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry*

WINCHESTER NEW

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let our hearts prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou are our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thy hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness
once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit, evermore.

— Charles Coffin (1676 – 1749); *tr.* Charles Winfred Douglas (1867 – 1944)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity *Said by all.*

BCP 355

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

Please stand and sing.

Gloria Missa Simplex

John Karl Hirten (b. 1956)



**

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ,



with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

The Collect for the First Sunday after the Epiphany

Celebrant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The First Reading Genesis 1. 1 – 5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Antiphon: Worship the Lord in his holy temple.

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, *
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; *
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; *
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; *
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; *
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord *
all are crying, "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; *
the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people; *
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Antiphon: Worship the Lord in his holy temple.

The Epistle Reading Acts 19. 1 – 7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — altogether there were about twelve of them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

At the Sequence *Alleluia*

William R. Trafka

Alleluia. We have seen his star in the east,
and have come to worship the Lord. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel Mark i. 4 – 7

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The preacher says a prayer and then bids the people to sit.

The Homily

Christine Trainor

After the homily, the people stand to say the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed *Standing*

BCP 358

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

The Prayers of the People

Cantor: O Christ Incarnate.



All: Be born in us a - gain.

During the Prayers of the People, please join the intercessor in reading aloud the names on the prayer list.

We pray for those needful or desirous of our prayers, including

**Giovanna, Marjorie, Vicki, Ron, Tim, Pam, Jeanie, Liana, Rod,
Luke, Mary, Bill, and Frederick.**

We pray for those who have died including **Tina Faasisila,**

**Tim Haseltine, Mina Malaguti Hirten, Barry Stiteler, and
Doug Stiteler.**

And, on their Year's Mind, we remember **Martha North, Michael Prisco,
and Joan Barbour.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession *Said by all, kneeling or standing.*

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister 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.

The Absolution *The Celebrant pronounces an absolution.*

Welcome and Announcements

The Blessing of the Chalk

Offertory Sentence

Please remember to support the church financially through your pledge or contribution, which you can send by mail to St Stephen's Episcopal Church, PO Box 97, Belvedere, CA 94920 or donate online by way of St Stephen's Paypal account button at <http://ststephenschurch.org/styled-23%20Contribute/index.html>.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

At the Offertory *The Blessed Son of God* Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

The blessed son of God only
in a crib full poor did lie;
With our poor flesh and our poor blood
was clothed that everlasting good.

Kyri'eleison.

The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear,
was a guest and a stranger here;
Us for to bring from misery,
that we might live eternally.

Kyri'eleison.

All this did he for us freely,
for to declare his great mercy;
All Christendom be merry therefore,
and give him thanks for evermore.

Kyri'eleison.

— Miles Coverdale (1488 – 1569) *after* Martin Luther

The Doxology *The people stand and sing.*

PUER NOBIS

To God the Fa - ther, heav'n - ly Light, to
Christ, re - vealed in earth - ly night, to
God the Ho - ly Ghost we raise our
e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

Celebrant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Preface for the Feast of the Epiphany *Celebrant*

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels
and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to
proclaim the glory of your Name:


Sanctus *Missa Simplex*

John Karl Hirten (b. 1956)


The people remain standing and sing.




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



God of pow - er and might,




heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of our God.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

from MISSA SIMPLEX by John Karl Hirten.

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The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that

they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Ever Blessed and Glorious Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, Blessed Stephen and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer *Together*

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.

At the Breaking of the Bread *Missa Simplex*

John Karl Hirten (b. 1956)

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G minor (one flat). The first staff is for the Agnus Dei, with the lyrics "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world." The second staff is for the Communion, with the lyrics "Have mer-cy on us. Grant us peace." The second staff includes a first ending bracket labeled "1st & 2nd time" and a second ending bracket labeled "Last Time".

The Peace

Invitation

At the Communion

How will I receive the Sacrament if not by mouth? By faith. The Church has been through pestilence and passed its wisdom down to us in the Book of Common Prayer. Here's the rubric [instruction] from the 1689 Prayer Book translated into contemporary Californian: "But if a person, either by reason of extremity of sickness or . . . by any other just impediment, cannot receive the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood: the Clergy shall instruct them that if they repent of their sins, and believe that Jesus Christ has suffered death upon the Cross for them, and shed his Blood for their redemption, earnestly remembering the benefits they have received thereby . . . they eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Savior Christ profitably to their soul's health, although they do not receive the Sacrament with their mouth."

Via live stream you will receive what Tradition calls Spiritual Communion. Inclining your hearts, you will eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ to your soul's health, although you do not receive the Sacrament with your mouth.

The Celebrant continues

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer *Together*

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.

Communion Music *The people sit.*

Communion Hymn *Baptized in water* Eugene W. Hancock (1929 – 1994)

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise —
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptised in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptised in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of one Father, we are his children —
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

— Michael Seward (b. 1932)

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The Post-Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving *The people stand.*

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The people remain standing and respond **Amen** at the conclusion.*

The Epiphany Benediction

Celebrant

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord and to lay your treasures at his feet. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always, unto ages and ages. **Amen.**

At the Retiring Procession

Hymn 449,

stanzas 1 – 3, 6 *O love, how deep, how broad, how high* DEO GRACIAS

O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how passing thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God should take our mortal form for mortals' sake.

For us, baptized, for us he bore his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew; for us the tempter overthrew.

For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his daily works he wrought:
by words and signs and actions, thus still seeking not himself, but us.

All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad;
the Trinity whom we adore for ever and for evermore.

— Latin 15th C. *Tr.* Benjamin Webb (1819 – 1885)

The Dismissal

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The Postlude

— Music Notes —

Eugene Hancock attended the University of Detroit where he studied music, and then went on to the University of Michigan for a Master of Music degree, and later earned the Doctorate in Sacred Music from Union Seminary in New York City. Hancock was a professor of music at Manhattan Community College and held positions in a number of churches in the city, including the Cathedral of St John the Divine and St Phillip's. From 1984 – 1990, Hancock was Director of Music at West End Presbyterian Church.

Ralph (pronounced 'Rafe') Vaughan Williams' Christmas cantata *Hodie* ("Today") was written late in life between 1953 and 1954. It was premiered under his direction at Worcester Cathedral in September of 1954 as part of the Three Choir Festival. The libretto for the piece is a combination of biblical and poetic texts, a form that he experimented with earlier in his "Dona nobis pacem." Although the premiere was not well-received by critics at the time, the general audience response was positive. *The Blessed Son of God* is taken from the work and is set for a cappella chorus, even though most of the cantata included a large orchestra. Miles (a.k.a. Myles) Coverdale, who wrote the text of this short and lovely piece, was one of the early reformers of the English Christian Church, and an early translator of the Latin Bible into English.

The text of our closing hymn today has been attributed to Thomas of Kempen (aka à Kempis). Born around 1380 to a German peasant family, he eventually became an inmate of a poorhouse connected to a religious brotherhood known as the Brethren of the Common Life at Deventer. He would become known as a religious writer and the possible author of *Imitatio Christi* (Imitation of Christ), a book which has been published into many languages. Benjamin Webb was an English clergyman who was known as an editor, translator, and hymn writer.

– Announcements –

For all St Stephen's live streams and virtual offerings, please go to the **ST STEPHEN'S CENTRAL** page on our website at <http://ststephenschurch.org/>.

Indoor Worship is on hold until the Bishop and the County revise the shelter-in-place regulations.

Godly Play: Baptism of Christ link: <https://youtu.be/Juatr2NVOeY>

Thank you for your Christmas gifts for Adopt A Family and for the homeless.

Visit *Together Apart*, the almost daily clergy blog, at <https://ststephensbelvedere.squarespace.com/>

Stay Connected with Bible Studies and discussions that continue online via Zoom. Go to St Stephen's Central at ststephenschurch.org for all links. Please see the next set of pages for all St Stephen's Bible Studies and Forum offerings.

10th January 2021, 9:00 am | Zoom Discussion

Slow Religion: The Foundations of Christian Faith in the 21st Century
Incarnation: St John, Book of Signs, led by the Rev'd Zoila Schoenbrun and Joe Jennings. See the Bible Studies and Forums page at the back of this leaflet for detailed information.

Live Stream | We seek your feedback on your experience with the quality of the livestream. Are you having technical difficulties with livestream sound? Video? Glitches? Please email Elizabeth Gravely to let us know.

- Go to what is now St Stephen's unique url for this channel: <https://www.youtube.com/ststephensbelvedere> and save this in your browser favorites. If you have difficulty finding the livestream after the service, look for the videos button, and look under past videos.

Floral Donations | In order to protect the health of St Stephen's Altar Guild members, the floral display will remain a living plant, until the church can resume physical services, and it is once again safe to create changing floral arrangements. Your continued floral donations help support the livestream

— Pledge Appeal 2021 —

Pledge and Participate in St Stephen's Growing Ministry Today

Margaret Abbott
Meg & Steve Abbott
Sam Abbott
Martha & Bruce Auld
Kim Baltzell & John Main
Frances Barbour
Debbie & Shawn Bennett
Linda Berg
Susan & Robert Bernheim
Barbara Berling
DeWitt Bowman
Randi & Bill Brinkman
Maureen Broderick &
David Thompson
Cindy & George Brown
Janet Brown
Gretchen & John Busterud
Birgit & Matt Cameron
June & Jack Campbell
Lois Cannady
Elyse Carr & Ethan Jackson
Jean & Thomas Cromwell
Timothy Curtin
Janice & Lance Dalzell-Piper
Jim Davenport
Olive DePonte
Nida DeVoto
Ginny Doyle
Chuck Eaton
Kristen & Evan Ellsworth
Victoria & Phillip Ellsworth
Jean & Jerry Fair
Claudia Feurey
Heather Findlay
Barbara Finnegan
Dylan Finnegan
Karen & William Foss

Barbara Garcia-Romero
Phyllis Garrick
Joan & Jim Gillette
Barbara Gloger
Ann Green & John McComish
Catherine & Richard Grey
Karen & Jan Gullett
Ann & Ken Hammer
Kay Moore Harris
Liz & Robert Hart
Jennifer & Chris Hartung
Nicholas Hartung
William Hartung
Jo Ann Haseltine
Gina & Byron Hector
Jennifer & Eric Henerlau
William Heydorn
Kay & George Hill
Sharon & Dale Hilpert
Jill Hinds & Charles Allen
John Karl Hirten
Martha & David Irmer
Auban & Bart Jackson
Jane Jacobs
John Jenkins
Barbara Johnson
Anne Johnston
Dorothy Jones
Sharon & Bob Kahn
Marla & Tim Kelly
Gretchen Kimball
Valerie & Dan King
Kathleen Sue Kwentus
Gretch Lang & Andrew Purvis
Leah & Bill Lambrecht
Missy & Randy Leathers
Ann Likas

Pledges received as of 6th January 2021.

Thanks to your support of St Stephen's.

— Pledge Appeal 2021 —

Pledge and Participate in St Stephen's Growing Ministry Today

Diana Long	Sally & Bill Rankin
Carol & Kevin Louie	Jeanette Richards
Kathryn Lowell	Zebiya Rigby
Carolyn & Claus Lund	Lisa & Paul Rosenlund
Sunny Lyrek	Helen Sandeman
Denise & Elliott Main	Mimi Sardou
Claire McAuliffe	Zoila & Dick Schoenbrun
Joan & Roger McGee	Tomas & Marjorie Sennett
Katie & David McGee	Deborah Sorondo
Elizabeth & Tucker MacLean	Julie & John Stewart
Marnie & Stephen Malley	Stewart Employer Match
Jane & Carl Martin	Crista Sumanik & Chris Pemberton
Joyce Martin	Juli & John Tantum
Pam Martori & Robert McCaskill	Jennie Taylor
Caroline Maskell	Chris & John Telischak
Michelle Mayfield-Baske	Bethany & Alex Teodoro
Elizabeth "Betsy" Menzel	Georgene Tozzi
Mary Ann Milford	Christine Trainor
Carol & Sam Miller	Sudy Schneider
Diana & Robert "Bobby" Moore	Suzanne & Harry Smith
Christine Mudge & Jim Grout	Jerry South
D.B. Murray	Kwei U
Lilian Murray	Dawn Vroegop & Bo Thiara
Alexandra & Philip Norris	Grace Wang & Matthew Estes
Mike North	Judith Ward & Rod Hall
Sandy & Paul Ogden	Amy Weaver & Jeff Fisher
Anita Ostrom & Richard Schaper	Angela Weber
Josh Painter	Marilyn (<i>dec.</i>) & Ivan Weinberg
Susan Painter	Connie Wiley
David Patterson & Noman Absar	Joan White
Katherine [Hill] Perasso	Lucy & Emory Williams
P.J. Perring	Karen Young & J. Morrow
Paige Peterson	Patty & Dave Young
Betty & Dick Peters	Shari Young
Laura & Chris Porter	
Melissa & John Prentis	
Deva & Jock Putney	

Pledges received as of 6th January 2021.

Thanks to your support of St Stephen's.

services. **Please see the link on the previous page to sign up for 2021.**

Christmas Floral Donations | Thank you to all who have donated to the Altar Guild fund for Christmas floral decorations.

Clergy Pastoral Care | The clergy may be contacted at the office number: 415-435-4501 by leaving a voicemail. After hours, if you have a pastoral emergency, call or text the Clergy On Call number, 415-328-8812.

Please make sure that St Stephen's has your correct email and that you are currently receiving the weekly email and eNews from us. If you have updates to your contact information, please email Elizabeth Gravely, Rector's Executive Assistant, as soon as possible: elizabeth[at]ststephenschurch. Don't miss the Live stream Sunday Services, Zoom Bible Studies, and teleconference events that are available to you. If you do not receive *St Stephen's Tidings* on Saturday at 6:00a, look in your junk mail first. It helps to add dee[at]ststephenschurch.org into your address book.

— **St Stephen's Sunday Zoom Coffee Hour** —



Join in this Sunday, 3rd January 2021, for a Zoom Coffee Hour

Grab a cup of coffee after the livestream worship service this Sunday and join in for a social hour of casual conversation. Enter when you can following the service. The gathering will run from 11:00 am until 11:45 am. Meeting ID: 876 6421 9006 – Passcode: 485962

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87664219006?pwd=dmF2RlFicFhKNGtHQ2pBYkNPMoNkdz09>

– Fall Adult Bible Studies and Sunday Forums –

Find the Zoom links on St Stephen's Central

Slow Religion: The Foundations of Christian Faith in the 21st Century:

Incarnation — God made flesh in Jesus Christ

Today, 10th January 2021: *The Gospel of St John* (Book of Signs)

Mark: 8:29 “He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?””

This week's meeting is on the Gospel of St John which is the foundation of the Christian Doctrine of Incarnation. We will focus on *the Book of Signs*, John 1 – 19 – 12. 50. Please read John 3. 16, John 9. 1 – 41 and our class attachment.

The class is led by the Rev'd Zoila Schoenbrun and Joe Jennings.

Sunday Forum, 17th January 2021, 9:00 am

“Compared to What?” — Meet the Competition | Led by Karl Belgum

The group will discuss, “Compared to what?” We will look at what the competition had to offer in the Roman empire as the apostles tried to rustle up adherents to the new faith

Comparing Christianity to the competition, and seeing what was similar and what was different about it, might provide some insights as to why the Christian message was so powerful and successful in the wider Roman empire.

Other Event links also on St Stephen's Central

Film Society Zoom: Wednesdays at 4:00 pm

Saturday Prayer Zoom Breakfasts with Father Schaper at 8:00 am.

— Calendar these Dates —

As long as Marin remains in shelter in place, all services and events will be livestreamed or Zoomed.

13th January 2021 Deadline for Annual Ministry Reports

24th January 2021 Annual Meeting, 11:15a

— Please Pledge today for 2021 —

The 2021 Pledge Appeal Campaign | St Stephen's is at **88% of goal**. Our goal is 100 % participation. Please get your pledge in today.

Returning your pledge now will help your Vestry plan a realistic budget that will allow your church to flourish in 2021. Additionally, pledge amounts over last year's pledge and first-time pledges will be matched.

Whatever amount you pledge is sincerely appreciated. By simply making a pledge of any amount, you cast your heart and thoughtful support for St Stephen's and the church community you want it to be. Please give today

Pledge appeal packages were mailed on the 17th of September. If you have not received yours, pledge cards can be downloaded from Ststephenschurch.org, or contact the office. Look for the pledge link on the bottom right side of the home page. You can fill out, scan, and email it to [office\[at\]ststephenschurch.org](mailto:office[at]ststephenschurch.org) or send by mail.

— Floral Donations for 2021 —

Please use the link below if you would like to contribute to the 2021 altar flowers in memory, or in celebration of your loved ones, or special events.

The 2021 Flower Chart is virtual this year. Please sign up for your special Sunday. The regular donation for flowers is \$150. You will be contacted the week prior to your Sunday week for your floral dedication which appears in the online pdf of the leaflet, in *Tidings*, and on Facebook. You may send your check with *Altar Flowers* written in the memo line, and your dedication to the office in advance, or the week of your dedication, or email the office with permission to charge your credit card. If you have any questions, please email Barbara Garcia-Romero at [barbara.c.garciaromero \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:barbara.c.garciaromero[at]gmail.com) or Barbara Berling at [berlingII\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:berlingII[at]gmail.com). Although, until services safely

begin again, the arrangement will be an orchid plant, your donation will also go to the livestream expenses. If you have difficulty signing up, email dee@ststephenschurch.org.

St Stephen's 2021 Altar Flower Chart:

<https://bit.ly/3iFUSgH>

— Pledging Process —

Pray. Begin in prayer by asking God to guide you.

Give proportionally. Proportional giving is offering to God a portion of what God has given us. A traditional guideline for tithing is 10 percent of one's income.

Decide how you want to make your pledge. There are several options:

1. Make a one-time gift. Place a check in the mail it to us at St Stephen's Church, PO Box 97, Belvedere, CA 94920.
2. Make a pledge of a weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly gift. Email Elizabeth Gravely [elizabeth@ststephenschurch.org] or Betsy Menzel [betsy@ststephenschurch.org], or leave a voicemail for either one of them at 415-435-4501. Elizabeth will receive your voicemail on the main number, and Betsy can be reached at ex. 15.
3. Give online. Click the contributions link on our website to: <http://ststephenschurch.org/styled-23%20Contribute/index.html> then click the donate button to go directly to St Stephen's PayPal Account. If you don't have or wish to use a PayPal Account and prefer to use your credit card, scroll to the bottom of the PayPal page where it reads "Don't have a PayPal account?" and click the continue button to open the credit card page.
4. Gifts of Stock. Donating your securities to St Stephen's Church provides you a tax deduction based upon current market values and saves you paying capital gains taxes on your donated investment. Please contact the office for our wiring instructions.
5. Join our Legacy Society. Make a legacy gift in your estate planning. Contact the Rev'd Richard Schaper [rlschaper@gmail.com].

— FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY APPEAL —

Many members, one body. Nothing that happens at St Stephen's happens without our members generously sharing their time, talent, and financial support. There would be no worship, no music, no programs for children or youth, no outreach or adult formation without all of us.

A yearly financial pledge is the primary method of funding St Stephen's ministries and operations. Making an annual commitment enables our Vestry to plan for the coming year based on a predictable financial base.

I ask you to give. It is the Epiphany. The child is in your arms and the Magi are at His feet. He needs love. He has not even the words to ask for it. The glory of God is with us and asks for our care.

A blessed Epiphanytide to you.

— The Rev'd Phil Ellsworth, Rector

— *FOLLOW THE STAR* —

Young families, look for a *Follow the Star* Epiphany devotional activity coming to your door Sunday, as well as blessed chalk to bless your home.

— BLESSING OF THE CHALK —

St Matthew tells us that when the wise men arrived in Bethlehem to visit Jesus, they found him and his mother in a house, not the stable where they had found their first temporary shelter. This is a cue that our Epiphany celebration should focus on our own houses, and it is a very old custom to bless houses on Epiphany. In the East, in particular, it is the custom for the parish priest to go through the parish blessing houses — not the elaborate blessing of a new home, but a special blessing that is also often given at Easter, a renewal of the homes in which the people of God dwell and live out the mystery of faith day by day. In recent years, this custom has been revived in some places in the West, and The Book of Occasional Services of the Episcopal Church provides forms for this blessing.

However, there is another way of blessing homes at Epiphany that begins in church, but does not require the priest to go from house to house — something that would be quite impossible in many non-geographical parishes in the modern world. This custom involves chalk that is blessed by the priest and taken home by families to mark the doors of their homes.

Today, we bless chalk to be used to hallow all our homes. The chalk will be available outside under the Kimball Hall overhang following today's service, so please pick up and take one piece home with you along with these instructions. The initials of the legendary names of the wise men are written with blessed chalk on the lintel above the front door of the house, framed by the numbers of the new year, in this way:

20 + G + M + B + 21

After making the inscription, the following prayer is offered:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray. O Lord, holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God, we beseech you to hear us and vouchsafe to send your holy Angel from heaven to guard and cherish, protect and visit, and evermore defend all that dwell in this home. I call upon your Saints Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar, to protect my family, friends, and all who enter here from every harm and danger, and I place this mark over my door to remain as a reminder to us that my home is truly the house of the Lord. O God, make the door of my house the gateway to your eternal Kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH

St Stephen's Vestry

Phil Ellsworth, Rector	Bobby Moore, Senior Warden
Michelle Mayfield-Baske	Joe Jennings
George Brown	Katherine "Kathy" Hill Perasso
Janet Brown	Christopher "Chris" Porter
Heather Findlay	Jock Putney
David Irmer	Sarah Sung
Emory Williams	
Bob McCaskill, Treasurer	David Patterson, Clerk

A Guide to St Stephen's

Staff Work at Home: Preference for quickest response is to email staff directly.

St Stephen's Church Office is closed to the public.	Voicemail only (415) 435-4501
Clergy On Call (Pastoral Emergencies)	(415) 328-8812
The Rev'd Phillip C. Ellsworth, Jr., Rector (ext. 11)	fr.ellsworth[at]ststephenschurch.org
The Rev'd Christine Trainor, Assoc. Rector (ext. 12)	christine[at]ststephenschurch.org
The Rev'd Richard Schaper, Assisting Priest	rlschaper[at]gmail.com
The Rev'd Zoila Schoenbrun, Assisting Priest	dicknzoila[at]aol.com
The Rev'd Shari M. Young, Assisting Priest	shariyoung37[at]gmail.com
The Venerable Dorothy Jones, Assisting Deacon	office[at]ststephenschurch.org
John Karl Hirten, Music Director (ext. 17)	johnkhirten[at]ststephenschurch.org
Elizabeth Gravely, Rector's Exec. Assistant (ext. 10)	elizabeth[at]ststephenschurch.org
Betsy Menzel, Financial Accounts Mgr. (ext. 15)	betsy[at]ststephenschurch.org
Dee Bell-Becker, Communications Assoc. (ext. 23)	dee[at]ststephenschurch.org
Sally Burr (Lead), Ann Muengnoi	Professional Caregivers, Nursery
JoAnn Haseltine, Verger	Roger Felton, Sexton
Satoko Boris, Spec. Events Mgr. (ext. 14)	satoko[at]ststephenschurch.org
American Bach Soloists, Artists in Residence	(415) 621-7900