

Welcome to St Stephen's

BELVEDERE

The wise men returned to their own country by another road. How great the temptation must have been not to return at all, but to stay with this long-promised One they had come so far to worship. But they returned, each to their native lands — to friends and family and neighbors who had not yet seen Christ, who would not understand their experience, who would likely consider them crazy.

As we move toward Epiphany (Wednesday, January 6), we might consider what it was like for the magi to return home. Like them, we are often called to proclaim the experience of Christ in communities that may not understand that experience, or to talk about the impact of Jesus on our lives with people who may find us crazy!

Welcome to St Stephen's, a community continuing to proclaim Christ's birth in a world that does not always have ears to hear.

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/>

3rd January 2021 | The Second Sunday after Christmas

— CHRISTMAS FLORAL DONATIONS—



The Christine Simpson & Bruce Brent Family

Barbara Gloger

Martha & Dave Irmer

Diana Long

**Pam and Bob McCaskill, in memory of
William and Elizabeth McCaskill**

Jeanne Richards

Serving at the Altar Today

Reader [Jeremiah lesson & Ephesians lesson] **The Clergy**

Voice & Cantor Trumpet **Wilford Kelly**

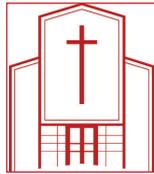
Cellist **Victoria Ellsworth**

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 Phillip C. Ellsworth, Jr.**

Celebrant **The Rev'd Christine Trainor**



ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH

BELVEDERE

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

3rd 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 124 *What star is this, with beams so bright*

PUER NOBIS

What star is this, with beams so bright,
more beautiful than the noonday light?
It shines to herald forth the King,
and Gentiles to his crib to bring.

True spake the prophet from afar
who told the rise of Jacob's star;
and eastern sages with amaze
upon the wondrous token gaze.

The guiding star above is bright;
within them shines a clearer light,
and leads them on with power benign
to seek the Giver of the sign.

O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek thy face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of thy light to use.

— Charles Coffin (1676 – 1749); *tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861,
after John Chandler (1807 – 1876)

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 Hymn 96 *Angels we have heard on high*

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
echo back their joyous strains.
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn king.
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.

The Collect for the Second Sunday after Christmas

Celebrant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Reading Jeremiah 31. 7 – 14

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

Behold, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

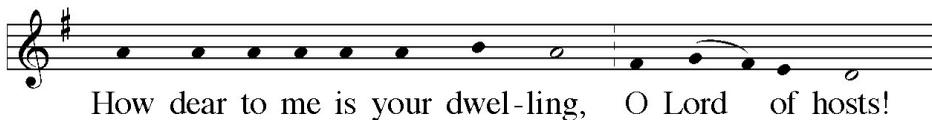
Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,

and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”
For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Antiphon:



How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

Antiphon is repeated.

The Epistle Reading Ephesians 1. 3 – 6, 15 – 19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

At the Sequence *Alleluia*

PLAINSONG

The Holy Gospel Matthew 2. 1 – 12

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

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Phil Ellsworth

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

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

We pray for those who have died including **Tim Haseltine,**

Mina Malaguti Hirten, Barry Stiteler, and Doug Stiteler.

And, on their Year's Mind, we remember **Paddy Curtin, Marina Likas, and Alice M. Jennings.**

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

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 *Fantasia on Greensleeves* Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)
Victoria Ellsworth, *cello*

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 Incarnation *Celebrant*

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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.

©1995 by John Karl Hirten. All rights reserved.

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)

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world.

Have mer-cy on us. Grant us peace.

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.*

Meditation *Die Könige*

Peter Cornelius (1824 – 1874)

Wilford Kelly, *solo*

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 Christmas Benediction

Celebrant

May God who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. And may Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace, and the Blessing of God Almighty, the Eternal Majesty, the Incarnate Word, and the Everliving Spirit be with you now and ever more. **Amen.**

At the Retiring Procession

Hymn 119 *As with gladness men of old*

DIX

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold,

as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,

there to bend the knee before him whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,

so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ! to thee, our heavenly king.

Holy Jesus! ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way,

and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright, need they no created light;

thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down:
there for ever may we sing alleluias to our King.

William Chatterton Dix (1837 – 1898)

The Dismissal

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Postlude

— Music Notes —

Ralph Vaughan Williams was the most important English composer in the early 20th Century. Despite an avid interest in musical composition, and study at some of the most prestigious colleges in the country, he did not receive much positive encouragement. One of his teachers, the eminent Charles Wood, did not think he would ever make it as a composer, and a cousin attending Cambridge at the same time wrote about “hearing scraps of conversation about that foolish young man, Ralph Vaughan Williams, who would go on working at music when he was so hopelessly bad at it.” He himself knew of his great limitation, but he also was aware that he did not particularly like what was happening in English music at the time. It wasn’t until he studied in Europe with Max Bruch and Maurice Ravel that he was able to find his voice. He was the first of his era to bring English compositional style out of the Victorian era and into the modern age, but he did so by looking further backward, firmly embracing the English folk music tradition.

Fantasia on Greensleeves was originally written as incidental music for his Shakespeare-inspired opera *Sir John in Love*, but it took on a life of its own and is a well-known piece for orchestra. This morning, we hear an arrangement of it for cello and piano, arranged by Watson Forbes.

Peter Cornelius was a young contemporary of Mendelssohn and later of Liszt and Wagner. He is known for his vocal music and string quartets, but he also wrote two operas, a requiem, and a setting of the *Stabat Mater*. He is known primarily for his song “Die Könige” (*The Kings*), which is part of a set of eight Christmas songs. Originally for baritone and piano, it was arranged by Ivor Atkins for baritone and chorus, and became very popular in England. The song features the baritone singing a “wandering” melody around a steady piano accompaniment of the chorale “How bright appears the morning star” (found in our Hymnal as Hymn 496).

– 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.

Thank you for your generous Christmas gifts for Adopt A Family, and cash for the homeless winter wear.

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.

3rd January 2021, 9:00 am | Zoom Discussion

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

Blessing of the Chalk | 10th January: Pick up Blessed Chalk under the Kimball Hall overhang after 11:30a on the 10th, **to bless your home for the New Year.**

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 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>

— 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
Leah & Bill Lambrecht
Missy & Randy Leathers

Pledges received as of 28th December 2020.

Thanks to your support of St Stephen's.

— Pledge Appeal 2021 —

Pledge and Participate in St Stephen's Growing Ministry Today

Ann Likas	Deva & Jock Putney
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
Pam Martori & Robert McCaskill	Juli & John Tantum
Caroline Maskell	Jennie Taylor
Michelle Mayfield-Baske	Chris & John Telischak
Elizabeth "Betsy" Menzel	Bethany & Alex Teodoro
Mary Ann Milford	Georgene Tozzi
Carol & Sam Miller	Christine Trainor
Diana & Robert "Bobby" Moore	Sudy Schneider
Christine Mudge & Jim Grout	Suzanne & Harry Smith
D.B. Murray	Jerry South
Lilian Murray	Kwei U
Alexandra & Philip Norris	Dawn Vroegop & Bo Thiara
Mike North	Grace Wang & Matthew Estes
Sandy & Paul Ogden	Judith Ward & Rod Hall
Anita Ostrom & Richard Schaper	Amy Weaver & Jeff Fisher
Josh Painter	Angela Weber
Susan Painter	Marilyn (<i>dec.</i>) & Ivan Weinberg
David Patterson & Noman Absar	Connie Wiley
Katherine [Hill] Perasso	Joan White
P.J. Perring	Lucy & Emory Williams
Paige Peterson	Karen Young & J. Morrow
Betty & Dick Peters	Patty & Dave Young
Laura & Chris Porter	Shari Young
Melissa & John Prentis	

Pledges received as of 28th December 2020.

Thanks to your support of St Stephen's.

– 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, 3rd January 2021: *The Gospel of St John* (90-110 CE)

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

One of the core questions about Jesus of Nazareth and Jesus Christ is who was or is he? Whatever the answer was before the resurrection, and we will never know, the answer among his followers after the resurrection was a combination and redefinition of the Messiah, the Son of God, and upon several decades of reflection and experience, God incarnate. Our next series on The Foundations of Faith addresses the theology of Incarnation.

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 Belgium

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.

10th January, after the service, pick up Blessed Chalk to bless your home for the New Year. Available under the Kimball Hall overhang outside.

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 **86% 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 or Barbara Berling at berling11[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].

CHRISTMAS APPEAL FROM THE RECTOR

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's Christmas. The child is in your arms. 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 Christmastide to you all.

— The Rev'd Phil Ellsworth, Rector

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