

SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SANTA CLARITA, CA

A FESTIVAL OF
LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022
4:30 PM



Grounded by Tradition + Striving for Justice + Growing in Faith

st-stephens.org

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14

Dear Friends,

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and this Festival of Lessons and Carols. We are so grateful to our friends from the Scenic Hills Singers, Accompanist, Jennie Lamb and Conductor, Roger Lamb for collaborating with us on this special service.

This is a season of both quiet reflection and joyful expectation. This service is intended to be a time of spiritual preparation, as we watch and wait and ultimately celebrate the incarnation of God among us. Through our experience of sacred Word and music we move through the prophecy and promise of Advent to the joy of the Christmas story which serves to deepen our understanding of God's message of love and redemption. The liturgy brings to life the forward motion of Advent and primes us to receive the Good News of Jesus born in humility and laid in a manger. May these words and this music propel you quietly toward the true joy of Christmas.

We hope you will consider sharing Christmas with us here at St. Stephen's. Please note that only Christmas Eve Services will be streamed live on Facebook @StStephensSCV. Details for our services are as follows:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4:00PM

Children's Pageant &
Holy Eucharist

6:30PM

Community Potluck Dinner
Sign up available online at st-stephens.org

9:00PM

Festival Holy Eucharist
with choir, strings and incense

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25th

9:00AM

Holy Eucharist
& Community Breakfast

Thank you again for joining us this evening and we look forward to sharing more of the season with you. May the peace and joy of Christmas surround you today and always.

Faithfully,
The Very Rev. Christopher Montella
Rector

Presented by
The Scenic Hills Singers
with members of the St. Stephen's Parish Choir

Officiant – The Very Rev. Christopher Montella

Conductor – Roger Lamb

Accompanist – Jennie Lamb

Soprano

Ann O'Donnell Gardner
Krista Hart
Tessa Lucero*
Salpy Manjikian
Katherine Mills
Wendy Stackhouse

Tenor

John Fortman*
Brian Friend
Carlos Gomez
Mark Krailo
Erick Long
Christopher Montella

Alto

Kathy Crawford
Danise Davis
Gail DeBurgh
Sheri Flay*
Trudie Kirkland
Martha Lewis*
Melissa Vilardo
Megan Wiebler

Bass

Eli Browein
Christopher Dixon
Dave Ferguson
Richard Holdredge*
Ken Mays
Joel Morey

*Members of the St. Stephen's Parish Choir

Crucifer – Collin O'Leary

Prelude

Oh, Come, Emmanuel
Jennie Lamb, organ

Wilbur Held

Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn #56

“O come, O come Emmanuel” – verses 1-4

Veni, veni Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2. O come, thou Wis - dom from _____ on high, who or - derest
 3. O come, O come, thou Lord _____ of might, who to thy
 4. O come, thou brance of Jes - se's tree, free them from

cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give _____ the
 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y pow'r _____ to

here un - til the Son of God _____ ap - pear.
 show, and teach us in her ways _____ to go.
 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, _____ and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er _____ the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Celebrant

Dear people of God: in the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God’s loving purpose from the time of our rebellion until the glorious redemption brought to us by God’s holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in Santa Clarita.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in Jesus’ name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who have never known the love of God.

Finally, let us remember his pure and lowly Mother before God along with that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

May God bless us with grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Lesson - Genesis 3:8-15

Reader: Wendy Stackhouse

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Anthem

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree
Wendy Stackhouse, soloist

Elizabeth Poston

*The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.*

Anthem

God Walked in Eden's Garden Fair
Tish & Chris Yahnker, handbells

arr Hal Hopson

*God walked in Eden's garden fair, such beauty there none could compare.
It soon became a place of shame; there Adam's sin disowned God's name.
Kyrie eleison.*

*A world of peace was swept away when Adam chose to disobey.
We too are marked by Adam's fall; we still refuse to hear God's call.
Christe eleison.*

*The tale of Adam is our own. Like him we see God's love made known;
yet we rebel and go our way. The bitter cost we then must pay.
Kyrie eleison.*

Second Lesson - Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

Reader: Judy Ferkel

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Anthem

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from Him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood
That we might saved be*

*Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come
Sing Holy, Holy, Lord!*

*Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below
For Christ is coming, is coming soon
For Christ is coming soon!*

*E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come
And night shall be no more
They need no light nor lamp nor sun
For Christ will be their All!*

Third Lesson – Isaiah 11:1-9

Reader: Julie Hagerty

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

Anthem

There Is No Rose

Philip Stopford

*There is no rose of such virtue
As in the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.*

*For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Resmiranda*

*By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three,
Pares forma.*

*The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gaudeamus.*

*Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus*

Fourth Lesson - Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader: Bethani Clark

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Anthem

Comfort, Comfort
Chris Yahnker, percussion

arr John Ferguson

*"Comfort, comfort now my people;
Tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
Mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
That God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever!*

*For the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling us to true repentance
Since the Kingdom now is here.*

*Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him,
And the hills bow down to greet him!*

*Straight shall be what long was crooked,
And the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord
Now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That God's word is never broken.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn#265

“The angel Gabriel from heaven came”

Gabriel's Message



1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came, his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; -
 2. "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be, all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee, -
 3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleas eth God," she said, -
 4. Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, -



"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry, -
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, -
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly Name." -
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say: -



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - - - - ri - a! -
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ly - - - - ri - a! -
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ly - - - - ri - a! -
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ly - - - - ri - a! -

Sixth Lesson – Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Anthem

Away in a Manger
 Krista Hart, soloist

arr Ola Gjeilo

*Away in a manger, No crib for His bed
 The little Lord Jesus Laid down His sweet head
 The stars in the bright sky Looked down where He lay
 The little Lord Jesus Asleep on the hay
 The cattle are lowing The poor Baby wakes
 But Little Lord Jesus No crying He makes
 I love Thee, Lord Jesus Look down from the sky
 And stay by my side, Until morning is nigh..
 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
 Close by me forever And love me I pray
 Bless all the dear children In thy tender care
 And take us to heaven To live with Thee there.*

Anthem

Before the Marvel of This Night
 Ann O'Donnell Gardner, soloist

Carl Schalk

*Before the marvel of this night
 Adoring, fold your wings and bow,
 Then tear the sky apart with light
 And with your news the world endow.
 Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,
 That fear and death and sorrow cease,
 Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace.*

*Awake the sleeping world with song,
 This is the day the Lord has made.
 Assemble here, celestial throng,
 In royal splendor come arrayed.*

*Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss,
 A teasing taste of what they miss,
 Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!*

*The love that we have always known,
 Our constant joy and endless light,
 Now to the loveless world be shown,
 Now break upon its deathly night.
 Into one song compress the love,
 That rules our universe above,
 Sing love, sing love, sing God is love!*

Seventh Lesson – Luke 2:8-16

Reader: Tessa Lucero

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Anthem

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

harmonized by Charles Wood

*Ding dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

*E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And i-o, i-o, i-o, by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

*Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your eve-time song, ye singers,
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

Eighth Lesson – Matthew 2:1-11

Reader: James Webb

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.

Hymn #128

"We three kings of Orient are"

Three Kings of Orient



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
heaven sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



O _____ star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al



beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Anthem

Coventry Carol

arr Martin Shaw

Ann O'Donnell Gardner, Salpy Manjikian, Sheri Flay, Trudie Kirkland
Carlos Gomez, Mark Krailo, Chris Dixon, Dave Ferguson

*Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
By by, lully, lullay.*

*O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we do sing,
"By by, lully, lullay?"*

*Herod the king, in his raging,
Chargèd he bath this day
His men of might in his own sight
All young children to slay.*

*That woe is me, poor child, for thee
And ever mourn and day
For thy parting neither say nor sing,
"By by, lully, lullay."*

Ninth Lesson - John 1:1-14

Reader: Collin O'Leary

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Hymn #83

“O come, all ye faithful” vs. 1-3

Adeste fideles

Priest: God be with you.
 People: **And also with you.**
 Priest: Let us pray.

God of mystery whom no eye can see, you yourself have given us a sign we can behold: the virgin is with child and bears a son whose name is Emmanuel, for God is with us. Plant within our hearts your living Word of promise, that, into a world grown weary of empty dreams and broken promises, we may bring forth the living presence of your Love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

People: **Amen**

Anthem

A Christmas Blessing
 Katherine Mills, soloist

Philip Stopford

*May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds,
 The worship of the wisemen and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.
 May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly,
 All things heavenly and fill you with joy and peace.
 And the blessing of God the Father and the Son
 And the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.
 Amen.*

Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent a Son to take on our human nature, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the one, holy and undivided Trinity be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Postlude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Jennie Lamb, organ

Hal H. Hopson

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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(661) 259-7307 www.st-stephens.org

■ The Reverend
Christopher Montella
Rector ■ Judith Baity
Music Ministries ■
Tracy Stapp *Parish
Administrator* ■
Melanie Long *Director
of Children's Education
and Formation* ■ Julia Nelson *Children's Ministries Coordinator* ■ Stephanie
Rodriguez *Lay Associate for Preschool Administration and Youth Ministry* ■
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O'Leary *Outreach* ■
Steve Plote *Junior
Warden / Buildings &
Grounds* ■
Tish Yahnker
Communications ■
Marianne Zinkewicz
Clerk ■

Worship Times

7:45am in-person service & 10:00am in-person & live-streamed on Facebook
Wednesday 7:00am in-person service