

THERE WILL
BE SIGNS
IN THE **SUN,**
THE **MOON,**
AND
THE **STARS**

LUKE 21:25



Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
Behold the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving kindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness.

In darkest night his coming shall be
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

*Greeting

P: The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ
and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* # 257 vs. 1 - 2

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

REFRAIN

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
Teach us your will and guide our way.

REFRAIN

Hymn of Praise

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

#270 vs 1 & 3

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

REFRAIN

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heav’n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth

REFRAIN

*Prayer of the Day

P: May God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us Pray.

Celebrate, Page 1

Q:

The Word of God

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Celebrate pg. 3

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o’er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

G l o ——— r I a . . . in excelsis Deo
G l o ——— r i a . . . in excelsis Deo

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Luke, the 21st Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O God.**

*Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“*Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*” Red #436

1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
Awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The Bridegroom comes! Awake;
Your lamps with gladness take! "
Alleluia! Rise and prepare the feast to share;
go, meet the Bridegroom, who draws near.

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.

Her dear friend comes down, all glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious:
Her star is risen; her light is come.
Now come, O Blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son.
Sing hosanna! Oh, hear the call!
Come one, come all, and follow to the banquet hall.

3 Gloria! Let heaven adore you!
Let saints and angels sing before you,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,
with angel choirs around your throne.
No eye has caught the light,
no ear, the thund'ring might of such glory.
There we will go: what joy we'll know!
There sweet delight will ever flow.

The Communion Meal

*Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of
the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Music “Come to Be Our Hope”
 Good News Singers

Offertory

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Red #283 vs. 1

O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant

O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him
Born the King of angels

REFRAIN

O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him
Christ the Lord

Offering Prayer

P: Creator God, you made the whole world,
Even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food, that we may live in expectation
For the advent of your Child, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

**C: 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 forever. Amen**

**P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.
Share in the feast of salvation.**

(You may be seated)

Holy Communion

*Guests: You are welcome to come forward to receive
Communion as part of this church family! The wine is red. The
grape juice is white. Children are always welcome to come forward
and receive a special blessing if they have never communed be-
fore.*

Lamb of God

"Love Has Come" Red #292 vs. 1 & 3

**Love has come a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!**

(Hymn continued)

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us,
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Communion Hymn “Come Now, O Prince of Peace” #247

1. Come, now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
2. Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.
4. Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

The Sending

*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ
Strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace now and forever.
C: Amen.

*Prayer after Communion

P: Generous God, We thank you for the gift of life,
For the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
For leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,

For sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
As we feed the hungry in your name. C: **Amen.**

*Blessing

P: May God direct your ways in peace,
Make you abound in love for one another and for all,
And strengthen your hearts
as we wait for the coming of Christ
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
Bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Closing Hymn “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” Red #244

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
Go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectations, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music “Come, Ring out Your Joy” Rawn Harbor

Sign up for Flowers

Reader — Elke Spires

Coffee Host — Janet Slay

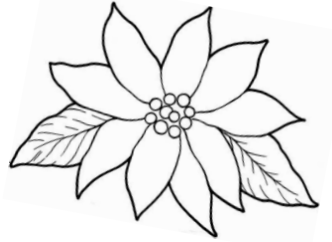
Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: Trace Hull, Linda, Scoutmaster Scott, Family of Ryan Fairrington, Connie & Family of Paul Cunningham, Glosier family, For Julie Mouw & Family of Marty Lundin, Unemployed, George Webber, Michelle & Family, Family of Travis, Boci, Isaac & Marissa, Chris Powers, Gloria, Jack & Kim Sanford, Lucia, Dennis Lewis, For Beth & Family of Barbara Stiles, Marta’s parents, Adrienne, Gary & Louse Matz, Friends in Tel Aviv, family of Barbara Klapper, family of Lauren Patrick, Patrick & Family, The Moore family, the Brown Family, Family of Sandra Barker, Nick, James, Beth Mills, Mary D., Tom, Galahad, Susan O., Debbie, Sam, James, Michael Lee, Nate Barker, Grandpa Dennis, Bob & Shirley Salter, Monica & Family, Lurline Moore, Beth Butler, Jen, Robbin, Maria Mendoza, Ila & Reina, Francisco, Margot Wilson, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Tim Oldfield, Sierra, Julie R., Rosie, Janet, Sue, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, James, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Gary & Marjie Toops, Paul Paustian, Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.

LONG TERM: Biergiel—Colclough family, Carla Brown, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Mike, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation’s leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen’s Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.



The Advent wreath is given to the Glory of God and in memory of Barbara's mother, Kathryn Greso who long ago taught her the meaning and to her old friend Sibbi who taught her how to tie the greens into a wreath.



Help adorn the sanctuary for Christmas Eve! Poinsettias may be donated in honor or in memory of loved ones and will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Call the office. Cost is \$15. Please make the check payable to St. Stephen's, but keep it separate from your regular offering. You may take your plant home after Tuesday, 7pm service to enjoy. Benefits our church ministries.

Holiday Events

- Dec. 8** Christmas Pageant—10am
- MMRR Bake Sale
- Angel Tree gifts due
- Dec. 12** MMRR Circle Party—10:30 am
(cookie & gift exchange)
- Dec. 16** Women's Café Party 6pm off site 476-4700
- Dec. 22** Christmas Potluck 11 am



Christmas Eve Worship 7pm

invite a friend to this momentous, joyful service. Livestream & recorded on the web.



The Season of Giving

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported St. Stephen's this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead.

If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions.

For more info. contact Janet Slay 475-5668

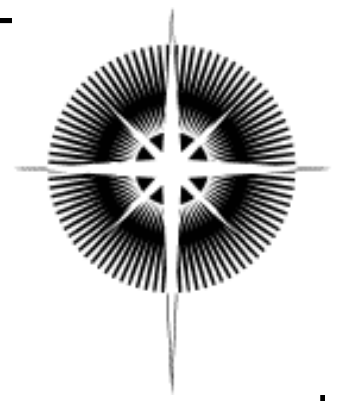
Your 2025 Offering envelopes are here, if you'd like to stop by and pick them up.

"God uses money to confirm direction."

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight."*

Proverbs 3:5-6

Give a Gift. Change a Life.



What better way to celebrate the season of Jesus' birth than to give gifts of comfort and joy to those who are in need. Give meaningful gifts that inspire leadership, nourish the hungry and heal the sick.

Lutheran World Relief

provides gifts that improve the lives of people living in poverty around the world. For example: A Goat not only provides a woman farmer with milk to sell, but also helps her build a herd. Coffee seedlings help a farmer grow a lucrative crop that has the potential to significantly improve income. Seeds help farmers grow more and better crops when climate conditions are challenging. Emergency Water delivers immediate, potable water after disaster strikes. **LWR.org/gifts or 1-800-597-5972**

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

stands ready to welcome the most vulnerable refugees who are seeking safety and hope in America. Our gifts are essential in rebuilding their lives. Gifts from "Basic Needs Kit" to "Ready for Work kit" can mean so much to those who have nothing but the clothes on their backs. **LIRS.org or 877-291-7061**

S.P.I.N. Socks for People in Need (box in narthex)

NEW socks are a blessing for many reasons, especially health, but also because they provide comfort and a sense of dignity. Basic white crew socks are appreciated by everyone. But you may also choose socks for women and children. Sponsored by the Association of Faith Communities.

Worship livestream online at www.ststephenslutheran.org

Recorded for you to view anytime.

Please participate by having your worship bulletin and Celebrate ready

Zoom Bible Studies with Pastor Jim on Wednesdays 11am & 7:30pm.

Check your email on Tuesday for the link to the Zoom meeting.

Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship God in Christ, nurture people growing in faith, serve others with acceptance and love, invite people to share the joy of the spirit.

Reconciling in Christ

“We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.”

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.
2500 Soquel Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831/476-4700 FAX 831/476-3918
email: office@ststephenslutheran.org
Web Address: www.ststephenslutheran.org
Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 12—5:00 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
Church Musician: Gary Roberts
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens
Custodian: John Hopping
Videographers: Kent Madsen, Barb Rice, Jay Johnston

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