

# *Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church*

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*228 Halifax Street, Petersburg, VA 23803*

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*Organized in 1867*

*Dedicated on June 2, 1918*



*The Reverend Father Willis R. Foster, Sr., Rector  
John Thompson, Verger*

## **CHURCH SERVICES**

8:00 A.M Sunday

10:30A.M. Sunday

1:00 P.M. Wednesday

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Bible Study

Office Hours: By Appointment

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# **Mission Statement:**

*To meet the needs of the  
Church and Community*

# **Vision:**

*We are Stewards of God's Grace*

# **Core Values:**

*Actively Engage  
Clear & Timely Communication  
Integrity  
Transparency  
Trust*

***Second Sunday of Advent***

December 9, 2018  
8:00\* am & 10:30 a.m.: *Holy Eucharist Rite II*

The Prelude

Organ

***‘All are Welcome’***

*Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space: as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

The Processional

Hymn 65

***‘Prepare the way, O Zion’***

\*Lighting the Advent Candle-the Candle of Peace

\*The Opening Acclamation

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\*The Collect for Purity

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\*The Gloria

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\*The Collect for the Day

*Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

**HEARING GOD’S WORD**

**\*Baruch 5:1-9**

\*S. Garner /N. Ross

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,  
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.  
Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;  
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;  
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.  
For God will give you evermore the name,  
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."  
Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;  
look toward the east,  
and see your children gathered from west and east  
at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing that God has remembered them.  
For they went out from you on foot,  
led away by their enemies;  
but God will bring them back to you,  
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.  
For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting  
hills be made low  
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,  
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.  
The woods and every fragrant tree  
have shaded Israel at God's command.  
For God will lead Israel with joy,  
in the light of his glory,  
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

**\*Canticle 16**

\*S. Garner

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
    he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
    born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
    from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
    and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
    to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
    holy and righteous in his sight  
    all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
    for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
    by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
    the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of  
death\*,  
    and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
    as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Gradual

LEVAS 14

***'Soon and very soon'***

**\*The Holy Gospel     Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

\*The Sermon

Father Foster

\*The Nicene Creed

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\*Prayers of the People

\*C. Dickens / J. Thompson

**Priest:** Our gracious God, your prophets sing the Advent call to prepare the way of the Lord: Hear our prayers, for the whole human family, that your ways may be made straight, the valleys filled, the mountains lowered, the crooked straightened, and the rough places smoothed, so that all humanity may see your salvation, as we pray: Let the dawn from on high break upon us; to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Holy One, you have set your Church free through our mighty Savior Jesus Christ that we might worship you without fear, holy and righteous in your sight all the days of our life: Bring to completion the good work you have begun among us. Let the dawn from on high break upon us; **to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Almighty One, through your prophets you speak your word to rulers and governors: Grant them your wisdom that they may lead us with joy in the light of your glory, with the mercy and

righteousness that comes from you. Let the dawn from on high break upon us; **to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Compassionate One, hear the voice of all who cry out in the wilderness – those who suffer from violence or oppression; the poor and discouraged; and all who long for the promise of new life – visit them with your compassion and love. Let the dawn from on high break upon us; **to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Loving One, you visit this community with your power and compassion: Let our neighbors take off the garment of sorrow and affliction and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Let the dawn from on high break upon us; **to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Shine your light on those who have passed through the shadow of death, as we remember \_\_\_\_\_. Let the dawn from on high break upon us; **to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Priest:** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who has come to God's people and set them free: Give us knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of our sins, that our love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight, until we come into the day of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for evermore. Amen.

\*The Confession of Sin

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\*The Peace

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## RECEIVING GOD'S GRACE

\*The Offertory



\* At the Offertory

All things come of Thee O Lord and of Thine own  
have we given Thee. Amen

## The Musical Offertory

*The Eucharistic Prayer "B"	Page 367
*Holy, Holy, Holy..."	Page 367
*The Lord's Prayer	Page 364
*The Breaking of the Bread	Page 364

\*Communion

Communion hymn

Hymn 337

***'And now o Father'***

\*Post Communion Prayer

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Choral Response ***'On Eagle's Wings'***

*And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear  
you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like  
the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.*

The Recessional

Hymn 75

***'There's a voice in the wilderness crying'***

\*The Dismissal

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The Postlude

Organ

**PRAYER LIST**

Jerome Burns	Antonio Belmar, Jr.	Mary Cox	Amani Dailey
Benjamin Ford	Mina Forte	Annie Henderson	George Henderson
Eleanor Johnson	Maureen Norman	Helen Pulliam	Jeanette Ransom
Brandon Seymour	Porcher Taylor	Olivia Theriot	Mildred Townes
Laverne Venable	Gary Young		

## **NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING**

Eleanor Johnson, Sunrise Senior Living, 19310 Club House Rd.  
Montgomery Village, MD 20886

James Lowe, English Meadows, 1140 W. Main St., Rm.39A,  
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Benjamin Ford, Ashland Nursing & Rehab Center, Rm. 104  
906 Thompson St., Ashland, VA 23005

Helen Pulliam, Petersburg Healthcare Center, 287 South Blvd.  
Petersburg, VA 23805

Linnie Foster, Sentara Rehabilitation Center, Rm. 323  
776 Oak Grove Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23320

## **ST. STEPHEN'S CYCLE OF PRAYERS**

Eleanor Johnson

Leon Gholson

## **DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYERS**

Emmanuel, Franklin

St. Thomas, Freeman

## **PARISH NOTES**

**FELLOWSHIP:** Shanda Wallace

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Zephaniah 3:14-20 Canticle 9  
Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18



The annual Parochial Meeting and Vestry election will be held following the 10:30 am service.



The Children's Christmas party will be Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Feeding ministry is transitioning to non-perishable food items. For the December feeding, we are providing soup and crackers. Please place these donations in the bin in the parish hall.



Due to industry changes, the cost of altar flowers will increase in December. As of January 1, 2019, flowers will cost \$45.

*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.'*

*Isaiah 40:1-3*



Vestry

Charles Palmer, Sr. Warden

Cassandra Coleman, Jr. Warden

Joy Chapman C. Martin Cutler, Robin Magee

James Norman, Harriet Scruggs, Joyce Small, John Thompson

