

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Morning Prayer Rite II
With Live-streaming on Zoom

November 19, 2023

10:30am



Clifton Dickens, Lay Worship Leader

The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

A Celebration of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Jewels

Our Mission:

To meet the spiritual needs of the church and community.

Our Vision:

*We strive to become valued servants to a diverse
community by keeping our community connected
through service and commitment*

The Prelude

bell rings to announce worship

Organ

*All text in **bold print** is said by the entire congregation.*

Please stand as you are able

The Processional

Hymnbook 290

‘Come, ye thankful people come ’

The Officiant begins the service with one or more sentence of Scripture, or with the versicle.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Kneel as able

**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.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

All stand

Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise

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.

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

You may be seated

Venite Psalm 95:1-7 (recited in unison)

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

**For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.**

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12

Domine, refugium

Anthony Lewis

1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

9 [When you are angry, all our days are gone; *
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

10 The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty; *
**yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

11 Who regards the power of your wrath? *
who rightly fears your indignation?]

12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Be seated

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

Anthony Lewis

Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people

who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,

“The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;

though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;

the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,

a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry

against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,

their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;

in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;

for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

(recite in unison)

(Psalm) 18

A Song to the Lamb

Relation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13

**Splendor and honor and kingly power *
are yours by right, O Lord our God,
For you created everything that is, *
and by your will they were created and have their being;**

**And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *
for with your blood you have redeemed for od,
From every family, language, people, and nation, *
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.**

**And so, to him who sits upon the throne*
and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *
For ever and for evermore.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Anthony Lewis

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether

we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

(recite in unison)

13 A Song of Praise

Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers*

you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your hold Name;*

we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple;*

on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim;*

we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths;*

in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;*

we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Gradual

Hymnal 433

‘We gather together’

A Lesson from Matthew 25:14-30

Clifton Dickens

Jesus said, “It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you

handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated for the message

Message
Melody of Reflection

The Blessing of our Jewels

Officiant

We are gathered to celebrate our Jewels who have blessed our lives and served Christ through years of faithful discipleship, and who seek, now, to continue to serve the Church as Jewels in a ministry of leadership, counsel, wisdom and grace.

God of Wisdom, your love is ageless, and you remain faithful through every breath of our lives. All creation has been formed for the fullness of your eternal joy. Give us grace to shine with that goodness and hope which is your blessing, and through your Spirit to continue in Christ, in whom we gather and pray, this day and always. *Amen.*

People We present our Jewels, present in person and in spirit, to be recognized as Jewels of this community.

Officiant Are they faithful in ministry and in prayers?

People They are.

Officiant Are they diligent in caring for themselves and others?

People They are.

Officiant Do they seek God's abundant grace on all life?

People They do.

Officiant to Jewels Are you prepared to continue offering the gifts of your presence and wisdom to this community?

Jewels We are.

Officiant Are you willing to allow others to learn from their mistakes?

Jewels We are.

Officiant Will you continue to reflect the presence of Christ to this faithful community and to the world?

Jewels We will. With God's help, we will continue to show Christ to you and to the world. We will care for you and accept your care for us, striving to speak the truth in love and holding us all in prayer. We will grow, learn, and serve at your side, helping to lead us in ever more faithful discipleship of the Lord of Life.

Officiant In the name of God and of this community, I recognize you as Jewels in this congregation and commission you to a continued ministry of presence and wisdom among us.

ALL God, from day to day, from age to age, throughout our lives in this world and the next, you show yourself to be eternal Love, giver and sustainer of all goodness and joy; and so, with the saints of every generation who are ancient in faith and young in hope, we join to sing your praise. Amen.

Celebrant In the name of God and of this community, I recognize you as Jewels in this congregation and commission you to a continued ministry of presence and wisdom among us.

ALL God, from day to day, from age to age, throughout our lives in this world and the next, you show yourself to be eternal Love, giver and sustainer of all goodness and joy; and so, with the saints of every generation who are ancient in faith and young in hope, we join to sing your praise. Amen.

Please stand as you are able

The Apostles' Creed (recited in unison)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he
ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he
will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Musical Offertory

Lift Every Voice 93
'Give thanks to the Lord'

The Prayers

The Lord be with you.
And also with you

Let us pray.

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

Suffrages A

Show us your mercy, O Lord;
And grant us your salvation.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under your care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit

The Collect:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

For Our Parish:

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring

us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Search Prayer:

Almighty God, Giver of every good gift: Guide this congregation in its search for a Priest for St. Stephen's. Give us wisdom to work together effectively to represent the needs of this parish. Let the thoughts of many be expressed through our actions; and if we stray from our purpose, right our path by enlightening us with your Holy Spirit. Grant us your favor in this vast undertaking so that when we have concluded this process, we will know that we have done what you would have us do. All this we ask for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis:

Lord make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

Parish & Diocesan Prayers:

For the health, care and well being of those on our prayer list, as well as those on the cycle of prayers for St. Stephen's and our Diocese. **(people are invited to offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud)**

The General Thanksgiving:

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-
kindness to us and to all whom you
have made. We bless you for our
creation, preservation, and all the
blessings of this life; but above all for
your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we
pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that
with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your**

praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Announcements:

Closing Prayer:

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day, with our outward ears, may, through thy grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of they Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Recessional

Hymnal 397
'Now thank we all our God'

PRAYER LIST

Antonio Belmar, Jr.	Diane Bennett	Donald Birchette
Pam Bolt	Jerome Burns	David Campbell
Mary Cox	Sarah Dickens	Barbara Ford
Melissa Harrington	Lamar Hawkes	George Henderson
Kenya Jackson	Earnestine Johnson	Marie C. Jones
Michael Joshua	James Love	Marciel Love
Kelly Mills, Jr.	Otha Myers	Jeanette Ransom
Biafra Sidney	James Smith	Janice Smith
Porcher Taylor, Jr.	Vernita Taylor	Olivia Theriot
Laverne Venable	Margaret Whiteman	The Clinkscales family

ST. STEPHEN'S CYCLE OF PRAYER

Shalonda Royster
Tim Talbott

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYERS

St. Asaph's Episcopal Church
Hickory Neck Episcopal Church

PARISH NOTES

FLOWERS: Flowers are offered in thanksgiving by Mrs. Cheryl Talley

NEXT SUNDAY: Psalms 95:1-7, Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthews 25:31-46

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The Supply Priests listed are scheduled to provide The Holy Eucharists

November 26th – Rev. Elliott Waters

December 3, 2023 – Rev Andie Rohrs

The Stewardship Campaign for 2024 is nearing the finish line! Please submit ministry budget request forms and offering pledge forms as soon as possible. A special blessing of our ministries and our pledges is planned for our service on November 26th.

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ZOOM LINKS:

Sunday Worship 10:30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89833169642?pwd=UEFjL29zRy9KWW5TWEFicEdQTlJTQT09>

Or Scan The QR



Meeting ID: 234 150 6295

Passcode: 6Wu5k4

Dial into #1 646 931 3860

Mid-week Noonday Prayer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88267646851?pwd=UGFBV0t3anlIM0x2UG15T2JlVFprQT09>

Or Scan The QR



Meeting ID: 882 6764 6851

Passcode: 548406

Dial into #1 929 205 6099



A Brief History of The Jewels

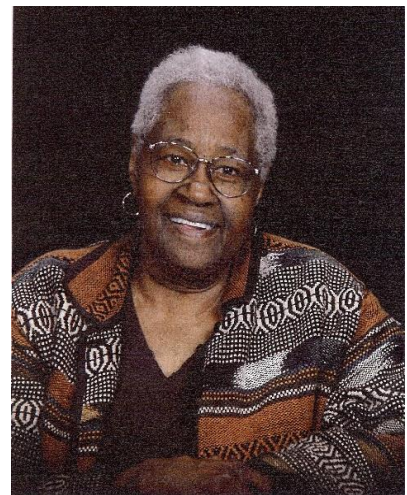
The Jewels' ministry was initiated under the direction of Father John Harmon with the first ceremony taking place in 1996. The organization was established to honor members of St. Stephen's who had reached the age of 80+ recognizing their dedicated service, guidance and support of St. Stephen's and the community. Those members are considered the "Jewels of St. Stephens".

At the first celebration, 32 Jewels were celebrated. Annually since that time, the St. Stephen's family celebrates our Blessed asset: Our Jewels. The Jewels Program has remained positive and popular and has continued to grow over the years. In 2011, Father Willis Foster, enhanced the program by adding "A Blessing of the Jewels" as part of the ceremony.

2023 JEWELS of St. Stephen's



Mrs. Joan M. Campbell
Jewel since 2017



Mrs. Mary B. Cox
Jewel since 2005



Mrs. Barbara A. Ford
Jewel since 2021



Dr. George Wesley Henderson
Jewel since 2018



Ms. R. Bragg
Jewel since 2022



Mrs. Emily Madden
Jewel since 2001



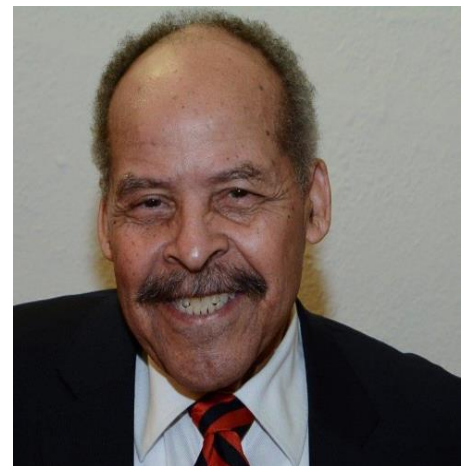
Mrs. Janice Smith
Jewel since 2019



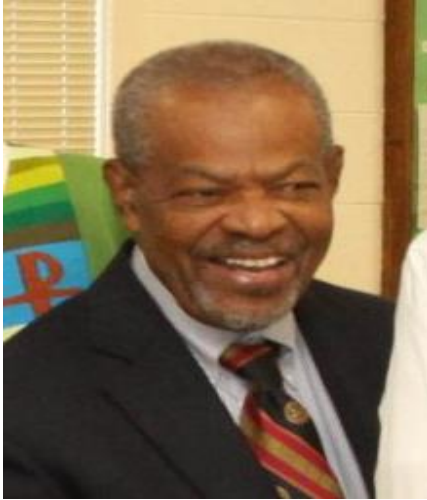
Mrs. Margaret Whiteman
Jewel since 2005



Mrs. Ann C. Taylor
Jewel since 2017



Dr. Porcher Taylor, J
Jewel since 2005



Dr. Michael Joshua
Jewel since 2020



Mrs. Eunis A. Williams
Jewel since 2014

Thank you for joining us for worship today:

St. Stephen's is a diverse community of faith where all people find home in Jesus and each other. We unite to transform the world to celebrate God. We encourage you to get to know us better by visiting our website, www.ststephenspbgva.org. (You can worship with us on ZOOM)

Email: ststephensepiscopal@yahoo.com

Church office: (804) 733-6228 fax:
(804) 733-1257

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ststephenspbgva228>

Vestry Nancy Ross, Sr. Warden, RJ Bragg, Jr. Warden, Clifton Dickens, Aleisha
Manson, Cheryl Talley, and Deborah Young

Please submit announcements you would like included in the bulletin by the preceding Monday. 19

Materials may be edited for content and length.

Arts & Graphics: clipart-library.com, Diosova.org, Demi-art.com.

Cover provided at web.ingage.io

---- Forwarded Message ----

