

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Holy Eucharist Rite II

With Live-streaming on Zoom

February 11, 2024

10:30 AM



Reverend Andie Rohrs

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

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

The Processional
Hymnbook 460
“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

All text in bold print is said by the entire congregation

Please stand as you are able

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen

Collect for Purity

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 Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Song of Praise:
Lift Every Voice 245
‘We have come into His house’

The Collect for the Day:

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy
mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be
strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and
ever. *Amen.*

HEARING GODS WORD

Please be seated

2 Kings 2:1-12

Aleisha Manson

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their
way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But
Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to
Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you

know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 50:1-6 (Singing)

Aleisha Manson

Deus deorum

1 The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; *
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals himself in glory.

3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
**before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.**

4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of his people.

5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, *
**those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."**

6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
for God himself is judge.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Aleisha Manson

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Please stand as you are able

The Gradual

LEV 44

"Blessed Absalom"

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 9:2-9

Rev. Rohrs

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Please be seated for the sermon

The Sermon
Melody of Reflection

Rev. Rohrs

Please stand as you are able

The Nicene Creed

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. 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.

Prayers of the People

Form IV

Sandra Garner

Stand or kneel as able

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Please join me in praying our 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.

The celebrant adds the following concluding collect

Lord, please hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Confession of Sin

Kneel as able

Let us confess our sins against God and our Neighbor

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.

Absolution

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.

The Peace

Stand as able

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

RECEIVING GOD'S GRACE

The Offertory *(seated)*

At this point in our worship we bless God by giving back to God a portion of all that we have received. We pause to remind everyone that we continue to depend upon your gifts as we recover from the pandemic and thank you in advance for your generosity coupled with continued support.

Offertory Sentence

Let us walk in love, as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.
(Ephesians 5:2 nrsvue)

Musical Offertory

LEV 53

'Glory to God in the highest'

Please stand as able

Presentation

All things come of thee, O Lord,
And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer “A”

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. 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

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Please stand or kneel as you are able

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.*

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing

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

The Fraction

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion

Communion Instructions:

Please follow the Greeter's instructions of forming a socially-distanced single line in the center aisle to receive your Holy Communion .

Communion Hymn

LEV 683

'O for a closer walk with God'

Post Communion Prayer

(standing or kneeling)

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.

Blessing

Announcements

- **ECW** will meet on February 11th following service
- **Experience the transformative Cursillo weekend:** an invitation to deepen your connection with Jesus Christ and bring joy into daily life. The Cursillo Movement fosters Christian communities, offering tools and support for living in a manner reflective of Christ. **Join the Ultreya group at St. Michael's Colonial Heights on March 9 at 11:30 AM** for fellowship, a potluck lunch, music, and testimonials – all are welcome, and Cursillo membership is not required. Learn more at <https://www.cursillodiosova.org>.

Recessional

Hymnbook 618

'Ye watchers and ye holy ones'

The Dismissal

Go forth in the Name of Christ into your neighborhoods - near and far and share the Good News of God's love. Go forth as the Lord leads into unknown lands and places-individually and/or collectively. Go forth where God's name is well known and where it has yet to be known. Go forth to those who welcome you and to those who reject you. Go forth into the world and share the Good News of God's love in peace to serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God

PRAYER LIST

Antonio Belmar, Jr.
Pam Bolt
Mary Cox
Melissa Harrington
Kenya Jackson
Michael Joshua
Kelly Mills, Jr.
Biafra Sidney
Porcher Taylor, Jr
Laverne Venable
Cheryl Talley

Diane Bennett
Jerome Burns
Sarah Dickens
Lamar Hawkes
Earnestine Johnson
James Love
Otha Myers
James Smith
Vernita Taylor
Margaret Whiteman

Donald Birchette
Davd Campbell
Barbara Ford
George Henderson
Marie C. Jones
Marciel Love
Jeanette Ransom
Janice Smith
Olivia Theriot
The Clinkscales Family

ST. STEPHEN'S CYCLE OF PRAYER

PARISH NOTES

FLOWERS: Flowers are given by Marjorie T. Goodwin in celebration of her birthday.

NEXT SUNDAY: Psalms 103 or Psalms 103 8-14, Joel 2:1-2,12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
The Supply Priests listed are scheduled to provide The Holy Eucharists

February 25th- Rev. Elliott Waters

Coffee Hour Sign Up Sheet is posted on bulletin board in the Parish Hall

Diocesan News



The Feast Day of Absalom Jones: The First Black Episcopal Priest

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Tuesday, February 13 will be the feast day of Rev. Absalom Jones, the first black Episcopal priest. Episcopal congregations are encouraged to celebrate with worship, service, and giving.

Designated scripture and liturgical choices can be found in Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2022 available at www.episcopalcommonprayer.org.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has encouraged all Episcopalians to honor Absalom Jones by giving to The Episcopal Church Absalom Jones Fund for Episcopal HBCUs. According to Bishop Curry, “Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) are essential engines of justice, equity, and social mobility ... They provide high-quality education to students whose backgrounds and experiences may not have prepared them well for college success. They nurture talent that may have otherwise been discouraged by obstacles.”

For information on giving to TEC’s Absalom Jones Fund and resources for children and youth, go to www.episcopalchurch.org/development/hbcu.

Racial Healing Workshop at Christ & Grace Episcopal Church Petersburg, VA

09:00 AM- 03:00 PM, on April 27 2024

Reflect on our experiences with race and its impact and recommit to the holy, lifelong journey of racial healing in ourselves and the world. If you desire to register, please email Ststephensepiscopal@yahoo.com

Annual Absalom Jones Celebration

Saturday February 24, 2024

St. Augustine Episcopal Church, Newport News, Virginia will host the annual Absalom Jones Celebration on Saturday, February 24, 2024. Our guest speaker is the Reverend Canon Dr. Lynn A. Collins, the first vice president of the Union of Black Episcopalians.

Although St. Augustine is the host church, we seek your assistance in making this celebration successful. We ask for your clergy, choir, acolytes, and membership participation. We are also requesting a donation of \$100.00 to help defray the expenses.

Vestry Training — Save the Date

Vestry members, mark Saturday, March 16 on your calendars for our first Virtual Vestry Training Day!

Keep an eye on Tidings for more details in the weeks ahead.

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, Kenneth Lewis, Cheryl Talley, Otha Myers, and Deborah Young

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

Materials may be edited for content and length.

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

Cover provided at web.ingage.io

ZOOM LINKS:

Sunday Worship 10:30am



Scan QR code

or

Click on Link below!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89833169642?pwd=UEFjL29zRy9KWW5TWEFiEdQTIjTQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 3316 9642

Passcode: 6Up8xp

Mid-week Noonday Prayer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88267646851?pwd=UGFBV0t3anlIM0x2UG15T2JlVFrQT09>