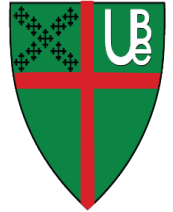
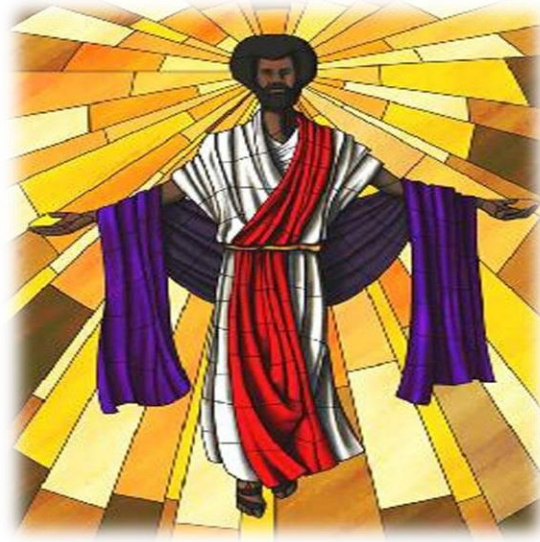
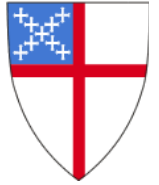


Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

228 Halifax Street, Petersburg, VA 23803

Organized 1867 ~ Dedicated June 2, 1918

*The Oldest Continuous Black Episcopal Congregation
in the State of Virginia*



**Easter Sunday
Holy Eucharist Rite II
Year A**

**April 5, 2026
10:30 a.m.**

**The Rev. Dr. John P. Boucher
Cecil T. Jones, Organist**

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.*

Please be aware that this church service is being live-stream televised via the following site:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89833169642?pwd=UEFjL29zRy9KWW5TWEFicEdOTjJTOT09>

Please silence your phones and other electronic devices.

10:30 a.m. Sunday (Year A)

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Prelude

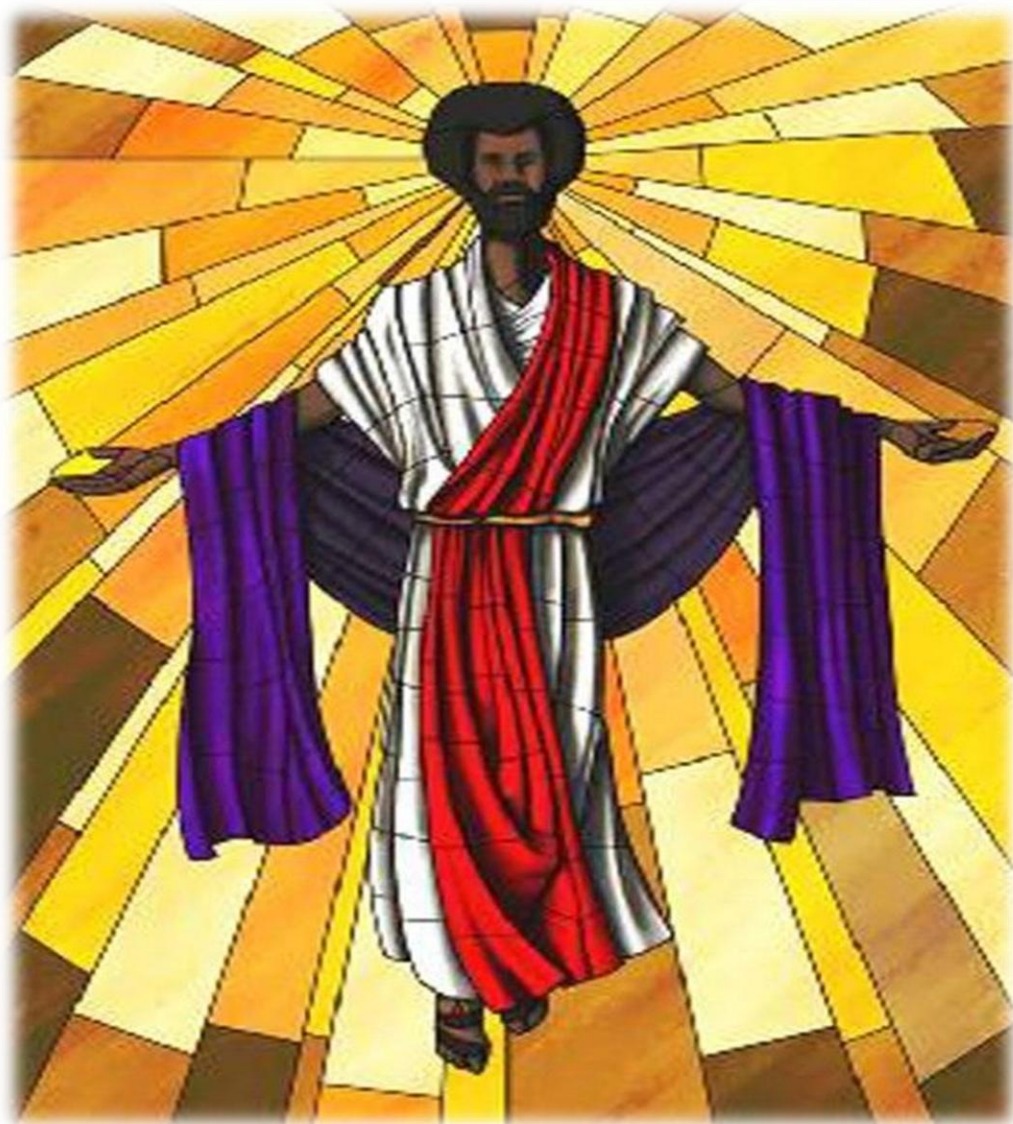
Organ

Bell rings to announce worship.

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

Celebrant: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!



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Easter

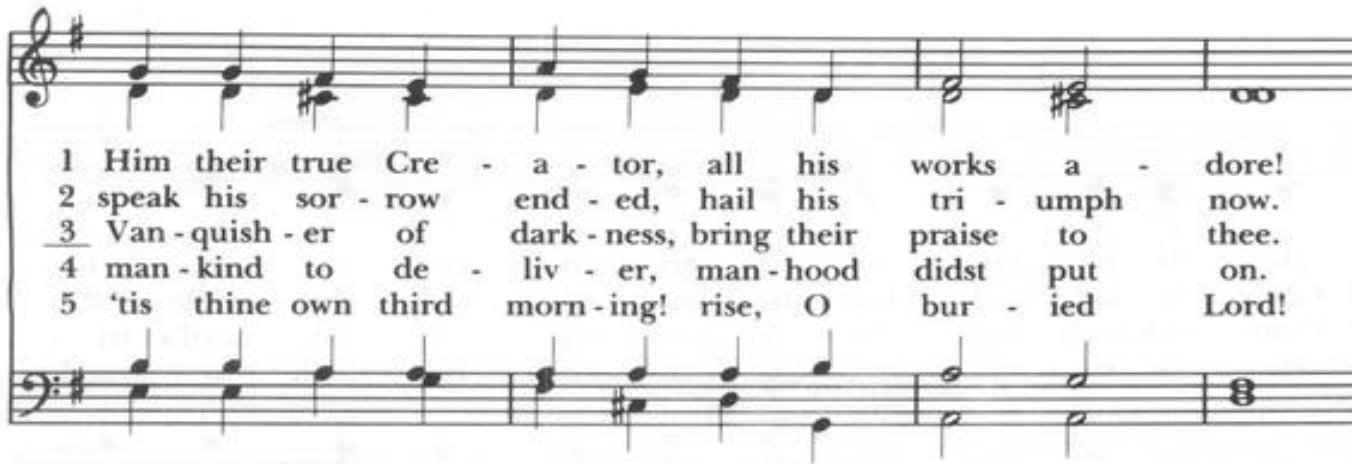
1 “Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!” age to age shall say:
 *2 Earth her joy con - fess - es, cloth - ing her for spring,
 *3 Months in due suc - ces - sion, days of length - ening light,
 4 Ma - ker and Re - deem - er, life and health of all,
 5 Thou, of life the au - thor, death didst un - der - go,

1 hell to - day is van - quished, heaven is won to - day!
 2 all fresh gifts re - turned with her re - turn - ing King:
 3 hours and pass - ing mo - ments praise thee in their flight.
 4 thou from heaven be - hold - ing hu - man na - ture's fall,
 5 tread the path of dark - ness, sav - ing strength to show;

1 Lo! the dead is liv - ing, God for ev - er - more!
 2 bloom in ev - ery mea - dow, leaves on ev - ery bough,
 3 Bright - ness of the morn - ing, sky and fields and sea,
 4 of the Fa - ther's God - head true and on - ly Son,
 5 come then, true and faith - ful, now ful - fill thy word,

Continue on next page and then return.

Complete and return to previous page.



1 Him their true Cre - a - tor, all his works a - dore!
2 speak his sor - row end - ed, hail his tri - umph now.
3 Van - quish - er of dark - ness, bring their praise to thee.
4 man - kind to de - liv - er, man - hood didst put on.
5 'tis thine own third morn - ing! rise, O bur - ied Lord!

Refrain



"Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say.

6 Loose the souls long prisoned, bound with Satan's chain;
all that now is fallen raise to life again;
show thy face in brightness, bid the nations see;
bring again our daylight: day returns with thee!

Refrain

Words: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus (540?-600?); tr. John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt.
Music: *Fortunatus*, Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900)

11 11. 11 1

Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer

BCP Page 355

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Glory, Glory, hallelujah, - Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, - Lord we praise your Holy name.
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God.**

**Glory, Glory, hallelujah, - Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, - Lord we praise your Holy name.
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord.**

**You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glo-ry of the Father.**

**Glory, Glory, hallelujah, -
Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, -
Lord we praise your Holy name. A-a-a-men.**

**The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.**

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

The First Lesson

A Reading from Acts 10:34-43

Sandra Garner

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,

³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:

³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;

⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,

⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm:

Psalm 118: 1 – 2, 14 – 24 (Sung by Congregation)

BCP Page 760

Confitemini Domino

- ¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.**
- ² Let Israel now proclaim, *
“His mercy endures for ever.”**
- ¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.**
- ¹⁵ There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:**
- ¹⁶ “The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!”**
- ¹⁷ I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the Lord.**
- ¹⁸ The Lord has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.**
- ¹⁹ Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.**
- ²⁰ “This is the gate of the Lord; *
he who is righteous may enter.”**
- ²¹ I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.**
- ²² The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.**
- ²³ This is the Lord’s doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

**²⁴ On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

The Second Lesson

A Reading from Colossians 3:1-4

Kenneth Lewis

¹So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth,

³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn

“Jesus Christ is risen today”

Hymn 207

**¹ Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!**

**² Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!**

**³ But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
now above the sky he’s King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!**

**⁴ Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!
praise him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!**

The Gospel

The Holy Gospel

John 20:1-18

Rev. Dr. Boucher

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”

³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there,

⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;

¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”

¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!”

(which means Teacher).

¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Boucher

Musical Reflection

Organist

Please stand as you are able.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

BCP Page 292

Celebrant Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People **I do.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall
into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of
God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your
neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and
respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a
new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness
of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

The Prayers

Bennie Wooten

Prayers of the People

Form VI

BCP Page 392

The Leader and People pray responsively.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For [Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Susan, our Diocesan Bishop, and John, our priest,
and for] all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation

[to include those names that appear on our St. Stephen's Prayer List:]

Silence

SAINT STEPHEN'S PRAYER LIST

Mattie Bell Antonio Belmar, Jr. Diane Bennett The Donald Birchette Family Pam Bolt The Joyce Brown Harris Family Jerome Burns + David Campbell The Wanda Jones Corbett Family The Mary Bragg Cox Family Sarah Dickens Barbara Ford	Marjorie Goodwin Melissa Harrington Lamar Hawkes Kenya Jackson Earnestine Johnson Marie C. Jones The Helen Jordan Keene Family Michael Joshua Yvonne Joshua Elsie Lewis James Love The Marciel Love Family	Kelly Mills, Jr. Otha Myers Jeanette Ransom James Smith + Janice Smith Ann Taylor Vernita Taylor Olivia Theriot Laverne Venable Elliott Waters + The Margaret Whiteman Family Deborah Williams
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The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
Silence

We especially thank you for those names which appear on the Diocesan Cycle of Prayers List [to include:]

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYERS

- Shauna Daley (Diocesan Staff)
- Trinity Episcopal School, Richmond
- The Rev. David Davenport (Lee)
- Epiphany Episcopal School, Danville
- Christ & Grace, Petersburg
- Holy Trinity, Onancock
- Mrs. Carolyn Ferguson
- The Rev. Nanette Woodworth
- The Rev. William Taylor, Jr. (Kathy)
- The Rev. Jared Grant (Jenny)

And we thank you for those names which appear on our St. Stephen's Cycle of Prayers.

SAINT STEPHEN'S CYCLE OF PRAYERS

Dwayla (Laya) Burns

The People may add their own thanksgivings.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored [especially for all those whom we remember today]. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Search Prayer

Bennie Wooten

Reader: Please join with me in praying our Search Prayer.

People: 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. *A-men.*

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

BCP Page 360

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

BCP Page 360

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

Please stand as you are able.

Peace

BCP Page 360

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Offertory *(Seated)*

The Offertory Sentence

Let us walk in love, as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.

¹ Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not,
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

² Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

[Refrain]

³ Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.

[Refrain]

Alms Presentation:

*All things come of thee, O Lord,
and of thine own, have we given thee. A-men.*

Remain standing as you are able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP Page 361

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 God 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.

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:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might, (*twice*)
heaven and earth are full, (full) of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes, in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

The people stand or kneel as able.

Celebrant:

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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant:

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.*

Lord's Prayer (*sung in unison*)

BCP Page 364

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

**Our Father, which 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 debts,**

as we forgive our debtors.

**And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom and
power and the glory,
for ever. Amen.**

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

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

*Please follow the Greeter's instructions of forming a socially-distanced single line in the center aisle to receive your Holy Communion. The sacrament will be distributed by a priest, deacon or licensed lay eucharistic minister who will intinct/dip the wafer into the wine (if wine is desired) and hand the wine infused wafer to the worshipper for consumption. To decline one or both of the elements simply cross your arms in front of your chest and you will receive a prayer (if desired) by the worship leader. You may then return to your seat by the side aisles. *Please tell a Greeter if you are unable to walk to the altar rail and would like your Holy Communion Cup brought to you in your pew.*

Communion Hymn *'Let us break bread together'*

LEVAS 152

**¹ Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)**

Refrain:

**When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.**

**² Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees)
[Refrain]**

**³ Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees)
[Refrain]**

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.*

Announcements

- We welcome all of you to our Saint Stephen's Easter Sunday service today.
- We welcome all first time or returning visitors to our service today.
- We thank our Audio/Video Technology Committee.
- We welcome Rev. Dr. John P. Boucher, who is serving as our celebrant today.
- We will welcome Sandra Garner our Worship Leader back for our – April 12th service.
- We will distribute our Brown Bag Grocery Ministry on Sunday, April 26, 2026, following the service. We thank you in advance for your donations.
- We thank all parishioners who made donations for the Easter Lilies. They always make our church sanctuary look extra special during the Easter season.
- Michael Walker wishes to thank all persons who assisted in the altar clean up.
- We want to thank Michael Walker and Marie Carol Jones for their dedication to altar duty, especially during the Christmas and Easter seasons. Thank you, Michael and Marie!
- We want to thank all of you who came out to the Seder Meal on this past Maunday Thursday. It is always a wonderful fellowship experience.
- The Men's Club will host their usual Wine and Cheese Coffee Hour Easter Sunday Reception in the Parish Hall after the service today. Please come down.
- The ECW will host an Easter Egg Hunt for the children down in the undercroft of the church after the Sunday Easter service.
- Please see the message on page 24 of this bulletin from our own Dr. Jada Bing, requesting support for clothing and school supplies for an upcoming service trip to Ghana, West Africa, in May. It might be easier to write a check to Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church and denote the memo section with "Ghana Students Donation".

- We thank you for your Easter Lily Donations and Dedications.
- Funeral services are being planned for our Church Matriarch, Mrs. Mary Bragg Cox, who passed away a day before her 101st Birthday. A funeral service is being planned for Saturday, April 18, 2026, at noon, here at Saint Stephen's. We will keep you apprised of pending details. May her soul rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon her.
- When you come to church next Sunday, please remember to *'Bring a friend or a family member; Invite a neighbor; Welcome a stranger.'*
- Thank you for any further brief announcements.

Please kneel as you are able.

Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, our Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of life, be with you always. *Amen.*

Please stand as you are able.

Recessional

‘Alas and did my Savior bleed’

LEVAS 30

**¹ Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sov’ reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?**

Refrain:

**At the cross, at the cross,
where I first saw the light,
and the burden of my heart rolled away;
it was there by faith I received my sight,
and now I am happy all the day.**

**² Was it for crimes that I have done,
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!
[Refrain]**

**³ Well might the sun in darkness hide,
and shut its glories in;
when God, the mighty maker,
died for His own creature’s sin.
[Refrain]**

**⁴ Thus might I hide my blushing face
while His dear cross appears;
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
and melt mine eyes to tears.
[Refrain]**

**⁵ But drops of tears can ne’er repay
the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away;
’tis all that I can do. [Refrain]**

Dismissal

BCP Page 366

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Flowers: *Given to the Glory of God, by Dr. Dolores Cottrell, and in loving memory of Ms. Norma Jayne Cottrell.*

Coffee Hour: Easter Sunday Coffee Hour and Wine & Cheese hosted by the Men’s Club.

NEXT SUNDAY: *Second Sunday of Easter – April 12, 2026*

*The Second Sunday of Easter Collect – BCP Page 224; Acts 2:14a, 22-32;
Psalm 16 – BCP Page 599; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31.*

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

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

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

ZOOM LINKS:

Sunday Worship 10:30 am



Scan QR code above or Click on link below!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89833169642?pwd=UEFjL29zRy9KWW5TWEFicEdOTIjTQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 3316 9642 Passcode: 6Up8xp

Mid-week Noonday Prayer

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

Supply Priest Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

12 Apr – Sandra Garner

19 Apr – Rev. Dr. Boucher

26 Apr – Rev. Waters

3 May – Rev. Dr. Boucher

10 May – Clifton Dickens

17 May – Rev. Dr. Boucher

24 May – Clifton Dickens

31 May – Rev. Waters

A message from our own, Dr. Jada Bing

Dear Family of St. Stephen's,

I hope all is well. I will be co-leading a group of 16 Virginia State University Honors College and Agriculture major students on a faculty-led study abroad program to Ghana this May. A cornerstone of our program is a deep commitment to service-learning within the Akropong Akuapem municipality, where we work to make a "Greater Impact" on the local community.

This year, we are focused on supporting K-12 students in the region through a significant donation drive, and I am reaching out to ask for your support in one of three ways:

- **School Supplies:** We are collecting typical academic items such as pens, pencils, notebooks, and calculators, etc., to benefit local school-aged children.
- **Support for the School for the Blind:** We are gathering specialized supplies for the Akropong School for the Blind, a remarkable institution we visit annually.
- **Athletic Gear:** We are specifically seeking new or gently used cleats (all sizes) and deflated soccer balls to support local youth sports.

Another option is **Financial Donations:** We are collecting monetary contributions that will be presented collectively by our delegation to support educational initiatives and infrastructure needs in the community.

Our students are so dedicated to this cause that each traveler has committed to using one of their 50-pound checked suitcases specifically to transport these supplies to Ghana. We work in close partnership with local leaders to ensure that every item and dollar donated goes directly to where it is needed most.

How you can help: If you would like to donate supplies, please bring them to St. Stephen's between now and April 26th. For financial contributions, please reach out to me directly so I can provide the best method for processing.

Thank you for considering supporting our students and the children of Akropong. Your generosity helps us represent VSU's mission of service on a global stage.

Best,
Dr. Jada Q Bing

**** If it is easier, simply write a check made payable to Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church and denote it as "Ghana Students Donation".**

See Jackie Burns for Girl Scout Cookies.



See Jada Bing for Donation Information.

See Jada Bing for Donation Information.

VSU Ghana Delegation
ACADEMIC MATERIALS DRIVE FOR
AKROPONG
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
SCHOOL OF THE BLIND

DONATION FOR YOUTH IN GHANA
AGE 5- 13

ITEMS NEEDED

- Glasses
- Reading Glasses materials
- School Supplies
- Backpacks

COLLECTION DEADLINE:
MAY 1ST, 2026

DROP-OFF LOCATION:
VSU, QUAD 1, ROOM 149

MAIL-IN ADDRESS:
VSU, ATTN: HONORS COLLEGE
P.O. BOX 9207, PETERSBURG, VA 23806.

amazon wishlist

VSU Ghana Delegation
ACADEMIC MATERIALS
Drive for
Akropong
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

COLLECTION DEADLINE:
MAY 1ST, 2026

DONATION FOR YOUTH IN GHANA
AGE 5- 13

ITEMS NEEDED

- School Supplies
- Backpacks
- Writing Materials
- Toiletries / Hygiene Products
- Children's Books
- Haircare Items
- Toys & Sports Equipment

DROP-OFF LOCATION:
VSU, QUAD 1, ROOM 149

MAIL-IN ADDRESS:
VSU, ATTN: HONORS COLLEGE
P.O. BOX 9207, PETERSBURG, VA 23806.

amazon wishlist

Easter Lily Dedications – 2026

Donated by	Dedication
Mrs. Amanda Robinson Briggs	In Memory of Carlyle and Marie Jones
Mrs. Yvonne T. Coleman	In Memory of Departed Loved Ones
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton & Sarah Dickens	In Memory of Departed Loved Ones
Mr. Cecil T. Jones	In Memory of Departed Loved Ones
Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis & Anthony Lewis	In Memory of Departed Loved Ones
Dr. Otha Myers	In Memory of Departed Loved Ones
Mr. Michael Walker	In Memory of Departed Loved Ones
Dr. Dolores Cottrell	In Memory of Dr. & Mrs. Ike Takyi
Mrs. Barbara A. Ford	In Memory of Mr. Benjamin Ford, My Loving Husband
Mrs. Nancy S. Ross	In Memory of Mrs. Lucy W. Spraggins
Dr. Leslie Whiteman Richardson	In Memory of Clarence & Margaret Whiteman
Mrs. Ann C. Taylor	In Memory of Porcher L. Taylor, Jr. and Nolani Taylor
Mrs. Deborah Bell Young	In Memory of William O. Bell, Jr.
Mrs. Sandra H. Garner	In Thanksgiving for Jimmy, Joan and Julian Hill
Mr. Michael Walker	In Thanksgiving for Family
Ms. Minnie D. Wallace	In Thanksgiving for Harvey & Anliza Dickens
Mrs. Bennie C. Wooten	In Thanksgiving for Matthew & Perrinne Wooten
Mrs. Deborah Bell Young	In Thanksgiving for Mattie P. Bell

Vestry

Kenneth Lewis, 2026; Senior Warden

Sandra Garner, 2028; Junior Warden

Clifton Dickens, 2026;

Jolisa Mills-Sheets, 2027;

Otha Myers, 2026;

Marie Carol Jones, Register

Greeters

Anthony Lewis

Otha Myers

Lay Worship Leaders

Sandra Garner - Chair

Clifton Dickens, Sr.

Trustees

Judy Bland

Brandon Kimble

John Russell

Lectors

Jada Bing

Judy Bland

Anthony Lewis

Aleisha Manson

Nancy S. Ross

Minnie Wallace

Live-Streaming

Committee

Clifton Dickens

Taylin Manson

Thomas R. E. Sidney

Finance Committee

Deborah B. Young - Chair

Bennie Wooten – Treasurer

Kenneth Lewis – Assistant

Treasurer

Joan Campbell - Emeritus

Michael Walker

Acolytes:

Acolyte Master:

Nancy S. Ross

Acolytes

Dwelaya Burns

Midori Sheets

Brown Bag Lunch

Committee

Luke Berneking – Chair

Clifton Dickens – Asst. Chair

Autumn Berneking

Marie Carol Jones

Anthony Lewis

Otha Myers

Harriett Scruggs

Thomas R. E. Sidney

Ann Taylor

Please submit announcements you would like to have included in the next Sunday bulletin by the preceding Monday.
Materials may be edited for content and length.

***Happy Easter from Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church!!
The Lord is Risen, indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

NOTES

Saint Stephen
Our Patron Saint



*When you come to church next Sunday
please remember to ...
Bring a friend or a family member,
Invite a neighbor,
Welcome a stranger.*

*We are not here to shine.
We are here to serve.*