



# ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*All Are Welcome!*

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025, 8:00 and 10:30 am Worship Services



Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

*John 13: 34*

## WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!

It is a joy to have you worship with us today. We believe everyone who worships with us is sent to us by God. So, welcome.

As we gather for worship, we want to remind everyone of a few important items:

- Please turn off or silence your electronic devices.
- We strongly encourage you to enter the sanctuary in silence as you prepare for worship.
- Before worship begins, we encourage you to speak to God. During worship, be ready for God to speak to you.
- After worship, we invite you to fellowship with one another, especially those God has brought to us — our visitors.

## WHY ARE YOU HERE?

As you come in and settle into your seat, I invite you to think about the following:

- ❖ Wherever we go, we have a reason for going there. What is your reason for being here today?
- ❖ God is merciful and kind to us each and every day. What thanksgiving do you bring to God today?
- ❖ Because each day brings many challenges, what concern(s) do you bring to God today?
- ❖ As your Rector, I have come with thanksgiving for God's grace and mercy and to worship Him; because today is a reminder to me that another week has ended and a new week has begun. It is my hope that you have come to do the same. I encourage you to join me as we call upon our God and worship Him.

***Canon Wilmot—a son of God***

*St. Stephen's Episcopal Church*

The Flag for May is raised, “In memory of my loving parents, Richard Lee Allread who proudly served in the Air Force during the Korean War as a Russian Linguist and Cryptologist stationed in Japan; and Jean Elizabeth Allread, who proudly represented Daughters of the American Revolution. In February 2025, they would have been married 67 years.”

*Carrie Allread*

**✝ *This symbol represents the point at which we sign ourselves with the sign of the cross during worship.***

Prelude

***Pastorale on “Love Divine”***

D. Cherwien

## **The Word of God**

*Please stand.*

Opening Hymn

***O Praise Ye the Lord***

Hymnal 432

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;  
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;  
ye heavens, adore him by whom ye were made,  
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,  
in tuneful accord, all ye of new birth;  
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,  
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound;  
each jubilant chord re-echo around;  
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,  
and sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song  
to him be outpoured all ages along!  
For love in creation, for heaven restored,  
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!

*The People standing, the Celebrant says:*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People      *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.***

*The Celebrant and People say*

**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 Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Song of Praise, all standing*

***Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart***

Hymnal 556

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your glorious banner wave on high,  
the cross of Christ your King.

*Rejoice, rejoice,  
rejoice, give thanks, and sing.*

With all the angel choirs,  
with all the saints of earth,  
pour out the strains of joy and bliss,  
true rapture, noblest mirth.

*Refrain*

Your clear hosannas raise,  
and alleluias loud;  
while answering echoes upward float,  
like wreaths of incense cloud.

*Refrain*

## **The Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

***People*** ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

***People*** ***Amen.***

## **The Lessons**

May we hear the Word of God through these words.

*A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 11:1—18*

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.

He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The Word of the Lord

**People      Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 148**

*To be read responsively by the Lay Reader and Congregation.*

- L    Hallelujah!  
Praise the LORD from the heavens; \*  
praise him in the heights.
- C    **Praise him, all you angels of his; \*  
praise him, all his host.**
- L    Praise him, sun and moon; \*  
praise him, all you shining stars.
- C    **Praise him, heaven of heavens, \*  
and you waters above the heavens.**
- L    Let them praise the Name of the LORD; \*  
for he commanded, and they were created.
- C    **He made them stand fast for ever and ever; \*  
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**
- L    Praise the LORD from the earth, \*  
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

- C Fire and hail, snow and fog, \*  
tempestuous wind, doing his will;**
- L Mountains and all hills, \*  
fruit trees and all cedars;**
- C Wild beasts and all cattle, \*  
creeping things and winged birds;**
- L Kings of the earth and all peoples, \*  
princes and all rulers of the world;**
- C Young men and maidens, \*  
old and young together.**
- L Let them praise the Name of the LORD, \*  
for his Name only is exalted,  
his splendor is over earth and heaven.**
- C He has raised up strength for his people  
and praise for all his loyal servants, \*  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.  
Hallelujah!**

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

May we hear the Word of God through these words.  
*A Reading from the Revelation to John 21:1—6*

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them as their God;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

The Word of the Lord  
***People      Thanks be to God.***

Gradual Hymn      ***In Christ There Is No East or West***      LEVAS 62

In Christ there is no East or West,  
In Him no South or North;  
But one great fellowship of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere  
Their high communion find;  
His service is the golden cord  
Close-binding human kind.

*Please remain standing for the Gospel.*

*When the Gospel is being announced, a cross is made,*

✝ (on the forehead) in my mind to understand it,

✝ (on the lips) on my lips to proclaim it, and

✝ (over the heart) in my heart to live it.

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 13:31—35*

**People      *Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord

**People      *Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Sermon Hymn

LEVAS 62

Join hands, disciples of the faith,  
What e'er your race may be!  
Who serves my Father as a son  
Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,  
In Him meet South and North;  
All Christly souls are one in him  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

*Please use this time to silently reflect on what the Lord has spoken to you.*

*Please stand.*

## The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

**We believe in one God**, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and 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

*(We bow for the two lines in bold.)*

**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 and the Son. 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.*

*Please sit or kneel for The Prayers of the People.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

BCP 389

*The Prayer Leader and People pray responsively.*

*Leader*      The Lord be with you.

***People***      ***And also with you.***

*Leader*      Let us pray.

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

***People***      ***Lord, have mercy***

For the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean our Presiding Bishop, Ruth our Bishop, Wilmot our Priest, Kim our Deacon, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

***People***      ***Lord, have mercy***

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

***People***      ***Lord, have mercy***

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

***People***      ***Lord, have mercy***

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

***People***      ***Lord, have mercy***

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

***People***      ***Lord, have mercy***

For those in positions of public trust; for Donald our President, Henry our Governor, Marilyn our Mayor, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

***People***      ***Lord, have mercy***

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People      *Lord, have mercy***

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People      *Lord, have mercy***

For this congregation [for those who are present, and for those who are absent], that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People      *Lord, have mercy***

For our enemies and those who wish us harm; and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People      *Lord, have mercy***

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People      *Lord, have mercy***

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People      *Lord, have mercy***

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People      *Lord, have mercy***

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Stephen, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

**People      *To you, O Lord our God***

Let us pray for God's people throughout the world, especially the Anglican Communion, The Episcopal Church, and The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. Today we are praying for: The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Summerville, The Very Rev. Dow Sanderson, Priest-in-charge, and *The Nippon Sei Ko Kai*.

Lord, in Your mercy.

***People      Hear our prayer.***

*\*Additional Prayers*

***LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR VISITORS.***

***LET US PRAY FOR TRAVELERS THIS WEEK.***

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:*** Nina Barnes (5/18), Lesley Clark (5/18), Betsy Jennings (5/19), John Scott (5/19), Leon Faso (5/20), Linda Prater (5/20), Dolores Foggo (5/21).

***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:*** Lynn & Jim Lundmark (5/19), Becky & Michael Baker (5/20).

***LET US PRAY FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY.***

**INTERCESSORY AND THANKSGIVING PRAYER.** As we continue to hold one another up in prayer in this parish, this week we are praying for: **Mary Ann & Peter** Berthrong, **Esther** Bilton, **Sara** Binkley & **Jim** Ginley, **Erin** Bosse & **Elijah**, **Louise** Bracero, **Will** Bridges & **Glenda** Scherer, **Veronica** Brown, **Cheryl & Alan** Brugier, **Claude-Marie** Brugier, **Jane** Buckner.

*Celebrant and People*

**Gracious and most loving God, we join them in committing to you whatever concerns they may have, asking you to let your will be done for them. We also join them in giving you thanks, for your many blessings bestowed upon them and their loved ones. We praise you and thank you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant and people*

**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.**

*The Celebrant stands and says*

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.

**People Amen.**

*Please stand.*

## The Peace

Jesus said, *Peace I leave with you; my Peace I give to you . . .*

John 14:27



*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

***At the conclusion of the peace the Celebrant says***

*Celebrant* God is Good!

**People All the Time!**

## **The Holy Communion**

Offertory 10:30 ***Love Consecrates the Humblest Act*** R. Powell  
*Chancel Choir*

*Doxology—to be sung*

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
praise Him, all creatures here below;  
O Praise Him! Alleluia!**  
**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
O Praise Him! O Praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving and Sanctus Eucharistic Prayer C**

***Please remain standing, as you are able.***

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* ***We lift them to the Lord.***

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

*Celebrant* God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory  
and praise.  
*People* ***Glory to you for ever and ever.***

*Celebrant* At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

*People* ***By your will they were created and have their being.***

*Celebrant* From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

*People* ***Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

*Celebrant* Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

*People* ***By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.***

*The Celebrant continues*

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

*Celebrant and People*

S130

*Bow during the underlined text*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
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.**

*Then the Celebrant continues*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

***People      We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await  
the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

***People      Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the  
Bread.***

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

***People      Amen***

And now, let us sing in thanksgiving the prayer our Savior Christ taught us,  
*Celebrant and People*

**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 the power, and the glory,  
for ever. *Amen.***



**The Breaking of the Bread**  
*Celebrant and People ~ to be sung*

S154

**Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.  
Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us;  
There-fore let us keep the feast.  
Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.**

*The Celebrant says the following 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.

*This is the Lord's table, not of the church, but of the Lord.  
It is made ready for those who love Him  
and for those who want to love Him more.  
So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;  
You who have been here often and you who have not been here long;  
You who have tried to follow and you who have failed;  
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.  
It is His will that those who want Him should meet Him here.*

***You may now be seated.***

*Please join in singing our Communion Hymns.*

***I Come With Joy***

Hymnal 304

I come with joy to meet my Lord,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
in awe and wonder to recall  
his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
That love that made us makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord.  
His presence, always near,  
is in such friendship better known:  
we see, and praise him here.

Together met, together bound,  
we'll go our different ways,  
and as his people in the world,  
we'll live and speak his praise.

## ***Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow***

LEVAS 144

I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling,  
“Take thy cross and follow, follow me.”

*Where He leads me I will follow,  
Where He leads me I will follow,  
Where He leads me I will follow,  
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.*

I'll go with Him through the garden,  
I'll go with Him through the garden,  
I'll go with Him through the garden,  
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

*Refrain*

I'll go with Him through the judgement,  
I'll go with Him through the judgement,  
I'll go with Him through the judgement,  
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

*Refrain*

He will give me grace and glory,  
He will give me grace and glory,  
He will give me grace and glory,  
And go with me, with me all the way.

*Refrain*

Celebrant    The Lord be with you  
**People**      ***And also with you.***  
Celebrant    Let us Pray

*The People join in saying this prayer*

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant gives the blessing*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and your loved ones far and near and remain with all of you for ever.

**People      Amen.**

*Please be seated for a brief announcement.*

**Benediction**    *To be sung—please stand.*

**God be with you till we meet again;  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.**



Love divine, all loves excelling,  
     joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
 fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
     all thy faithful mercies crown.  
 Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
     pure, unbounded love thou art;  
 visit us with thy salvation,  
     enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
     let us all thy life receive;  
 suddenly return, and never,  
     nevermore thy temples leave.  
 Thee we would be alway blessing,  
     serve thee as thy hosts above,  
 pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
     glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;  
     pure and spotless let us be;  
 let us see thy great salvation  
     perfectly restored in thee:  
 changed from glory into glory,  
     till in heaven we take our place,  
 till we cast our crowns before thee,  
     lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*The Celebrant dismisses the people.*

***Celebrant***    We are called to be one with God and each other in Christ.  
***People***      ***By living the Gospel with love and compassion.***

***Celebrant***    Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us go in peace to love and serve God and  
                     one another.

***People***      ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

## THE WORSHIP HAS ENDED. LET THE SERVICE BEGIN.

“... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)



The Flowers on the Altar are given,

“In loving memory of my Mom,  
Eileen Carzon,  
for her birthday on Friday, May 23rd.”

*Debbie Hoza*

God is good!  
All the time!

“The rose on the altar is in honor of  
my wife, Linda’s birthday  
on May 20<sup>th</sup>.”



*Denny Prater*

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### **Our Mission**

is to be one with God and  
humanity in Christ  
by living the Gospel  
with love and compassion.



### **Our Vision**

is to become comfortable  
with Jesus Christ  
and boldly proclaim Him.



## ***PARTICIPANTS IN THE CELEBRATION AT ST. STEPHEN'S***

Ministers: The Congregants of St. Stephen's, Family, Friends and Visitors  
Celebrant: The Very Rev. Canon Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant II, Rector  
Deacon: The Rev. Kim Hoop  
Dir of Music: Roberta Rowland-Raybold, c.a.g.o.  
Vergers: Cathy Fellows and Robert Dunn

### ***MINISTERS, LAYLEADERS AND STAFF***

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church  
The Right Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop, The Diocese of SC  
The Very Rev. Canon Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant, II, Rector

### ***Vestry Members***

❖ Will Bridges, Senior Warden (2025) ❖ Sue Crouch, Junior Warden (2026)  
❖ Veronica Brown (2025) ❖ Marrjo Shattuck (2025) ❖ Robert Dunn (2026)  
❖ Wayne Mumford (2026) Mike Raley (2027) ❖ Tracy Thompson (2027)  
❖ Chris Welborn (2027)

### ***Associate Vestry Members***

❖ Harry Austin, Jr. (2025) ❖ Kathy Finch (2025) ❖ James Uzun (2025)

### ***Vestry Officers***

❖ Bill Mann, Treasurer ❖ Cheri Spence, Assistant Treasurer  
❖ Jane Buckner, Parish/Vestry Clerk