



# ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*All Are Welcome!*

January 11, 2026  
Worship Services  
8:00 and 10:30 am

The  
Baptism  
of  
Our  
Lord

## **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 this morning 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***

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

Prelude

***Sweet Little Jesus Boy***

R. Rowland-Raybold

Opening Prayer

*Please stand.*

Opening Hymn

***Hail to the Lord's Anointed***

Hymnal 616

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!

Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong,  
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth:  
before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;  
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall bow down before him, and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

## **The Word of God**

### Opening Acclamation

*The People standing, the Celebrant says:*

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

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

*The Celebrant and People continue*

**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*

***Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee***

Hymnal 376

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
well-spring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother:  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.

## **The Collect for The Baptism of Our Lord**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

***People* Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **The Lessons**

May we hear the Word of God through these words.

*A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 42:1—9*

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The Word of the Lord

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

**Psalm 29** *To be read responsively by the Lay Reader and Congregation.*

L Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, \*  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**C Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; \*  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

L The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**C The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

L The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**C He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

L The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; \*  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**C The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.**

L And in the temple of the LORD \*  
all are crying, "Glory!"

**C The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.**

L The LORD shall give strength to his people; \*  
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

*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 Acts of the Apostles 10:34–43*

Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how 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. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not 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. He 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord

***People      Thanks be to God.***

*Please stand.*

Gradual Hymn

***On Jordan’s Bank***

Hymnal 76

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let each heart prepare a home  
where such a mighty guest may come.



*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 *Matthew 3:13–17*

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

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord

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

Sermon Hymn

Hymnal 128

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge, and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
whose advent doth thy people free;  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore.



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

*Please stand.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

**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 following 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**

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

*Leader*      The Lord be with you.

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

*Leader*      Let us pray.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;

*People*      ***That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

*People*      ***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

For Sarah, The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean our Presiding Bishop, Ruth our Bishop, Wilmot our Priest, and for all Bishops and other Ministers;

*People*      ***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, for Donald our President, Henry our Governor, and Jay our Mayor;

*People*      ***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

*People*      ***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

*People*      ***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Jean Gibson;

*People*      ***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

*People*      ***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Let us pray for our own needs and those of our loved ones and others, for the men and women who are serving in the armed forces, and all others who serve to preserve and protect lives, and those who have asked us to remember them in our prayers, especially our families, friends, and loved ones.

Lord in your mercy

*People*      ***Hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for the people in disaster and troubled areas and those affected by acts of violence here at home and all around the world. Let us also pray for the many volunteers who are working to assist our brothers and sisters in those areas that have been devastated either by man-made or natural disaster.

Lord, in your mercy.

**People      *Hear our prayer.***

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: All Saints Episcopal Church, Hampton, Mr. Sam Crews, Sr. Warden, and *Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America*.

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:*** Kaaren Dunn (1/13), Nick Markin (1/13).

***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:***

***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: **Steve Saftner, Jim & Nancy Salters, Patrice Sams, Henry Saunders & Donna Dowell, Joan Saunders, Chrissy Schroeppel, Kathy & John Scott, Marrjo Shattuck, Pauline Sherba, Wes, Linda, & Stacey Shorts.**

*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

*The Celebrant continues*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept.*

*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!**



*Please sit.*

## The Holy Communion

Offertory

*Carol of the Baptism*

G. Brandon

*Please stand.*

*Doxology*

*Old Hundredth*

**From all that dwell below the skies  
let the Creator's praise arise!  
Let the Redeemer's Name be sung  
through every land, by every tongue!**

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

## The Great Thanksgiving and Sanctus Eucharistic Prayer A

*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.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

**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.**

*Please sit, kneel, or remain standing.*

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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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.

**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*

**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.*

*Please join in singing our Communion Hymns.*

## ***Jesus is Lord of All the Earth***

Hymnal 178

*Alleluia, alleluia!*  
*Give thanks to the risen Lord.*  
*Alleluia, alleluia!*  
*Give Praise to his Name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
He is the King of creation.

*Refrain*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen.

*Refrain*

We have been crucified with Christ.  
Now we shall live for ever.

*Refrain*

Come, let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Savior.

*Refrain*

## ***Another Year of Grace***

Hymnal 250

Now greet the swiftly changing year with joy and penitence sincere;  
rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.

For Jesus came to wage sin's war; this Name of names for us he bore;  
rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.

His love abundant far exceeds the volume of a whole year's needs;  
rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.

With such a Lord to lead our way in hazard and prosperity,  
what need we fear in earth or space in this new year of grace?

"All glory be to God on high and peace on earth," the angels cry;  
rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.

## ***Baptized in Water***

Hymnal 294

Baptized in water,  
sealed by the Spirit,  
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:  
heirs of salvation,  
trusting his promise,  
faithfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water,  
sealed by the Spirit,  
dead in the tomb with Christ our King:  
one with his rising,  
freed and forgiven,  
thankfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water,  
sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ our King:  
born of one Father,  
we are his children,  
joyfully now God's praises we sing.



*After Communion, the Celebrant says: 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***

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. 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 you for ever.

***People      Amen.***

*~Please be seated for a brief announcement.~*

**Benediction    *to be sung***

**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.**



God the Omnipotent! King, who ordainest  
thunder thy clarion, the lightning thy sword;  
show forth thy pity on high where thou reignest:  
give to us peace in our time, O Lord.

God the All-merciful! earth hath forsaken  
thy ways all holy, and slighted thy word;  
bid not thy wrath in its terrors awaken:  
give to us peace in our time, O Lord.

God the All-righteous One! earth hath defied thee;  
yet to eternity standeth thy word,  
falsehood and wrong shall not tarry beside thee:  
give to us peace in our time, O Lord.

God the All-provident! earth by thy chastening  
yet shall to freedom and truth be restored;  
through the thick darkness thy kingdom is hastening:  
thou wilt give peace in thy time, O Lord.

*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.**

Postlude ***Deck Thyself, My Soul With Gladness*** J.S. Bach

**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)

## This Week

### *St. Stephen's Delivers Mobile Meals*

- Monday, 9:00 am, Queen Bees Landscape Commission, Campus.
- Monday, 10:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilting Ministry, Parish Hall.
- Monday, 10:00 am, Daughters of the King, PHCR.
- Monday, 11:00 am, Yarns & Threads, Parish Hall.
- Monday, 6:00—8:30 pm, Parish Hall and PHCR in use.
- Tuesday, 9:00 Rummage Ministry.
- Tuesday, 4:00 pm, Parish Hall in use.
- Wednesday, 10:00 am, Men's Prayer Group, PHCR.
- Wednesday, 12:00 noon, Public Service of Healing & Holy Eucharist.
- Wednesday, 1:00 pm, Endowment & Trust, PHCR.
- Wednesday, 5:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room.
- Wednesday, 6:00—8:30 pm, Parish Hall in use.
- Thursday, 1:00 pm, Outreach Commission, PHCR.
- Thursday, 5:30 pm, ECM Dinner Meeting, Parish Hall.
- Saturday, Parish Life Coffee Hour Preparation, Kitchen.
- Saturday, Outreach Feeding Ministry, Kitchen.

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## ***Upcoming Save The Dates***

- Sunday, January 25, 10:00 am, Combined Worship Service and Annual Parish Meeting.
- Saturday, February 7, 9:00 am, Vestry Planning Meeting, Parish Hall.
- Friday, February 13, Episcopal Church Men Valentine Dinner Dance, 5:30—8:30 pm, Parish Hall.
- Tuesday, February 17, ECM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:00—7:00 pm, Parish Hall.
- Ash Wednesday, February 18
  - ◊ HE with Imposition of Ashes at 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm.
- March/April/May—Canon Merchant on Sabbatical.
  - ◊ Supply Clergy: March 1 to April 5—Bishop Terry Dance
  - ◊ Supply Clergy: April 12 to May 31—The Rev. Sarah Quinney

## ***Important “Housekeeping” Items***

### ***Sunday Altar Flowers***

Due to the shortage of volunteers with the Flower Guild, we plan to focus solely on Sunday Altar Flower arrangements only. Therefore, a “Rose on the Altar” will not be available going forward. The Altar Flower poster calendar is now in the narthex. The cost is \$65.00 payable to St. Stephen’s and your message should be included on the Special Donation form which is returned to Sharon in the office. A minimum of one week’s notice is required.



### ***Flag Raising***

If you wish to honor or memorialize a loved one by raising the flag, please sign up on the form in the narthex. The cost is \$25.00 payable to St. Stephen's and your message should be included on the Special Donation form which is returned to Sharon in the office. A minimum of one week's notice is required

### ***Email Communication/Sunday Bulletin/Calendar***

Any upcoming event or announcement should be submitted **by email at least four weeks prior** to allow adequate time for approval, planning, calendaring, and communication.

### ***Illness/Surgery***

If you or a parishioner/affiliate you know is ill, hospitalized, would like communion, or needs other assistance, please call or email the office: [office@ststephensnmb.com](mailto:office@ststephensnmb.com), so that our pastoral care team can be notified and respond. Thank you.



Canon Merchant & the baptism of Maya, January 2026

### **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

Dir of Music: Roberta Rowland-Raybold, c.a.g.o.

Vergers: Cathy Fellows and Robert Dunn

## ***MINISTERS AND LAYLEADERS***

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 ❖ Kathy Finch, Assistant Treasurer
- ❖ Jane Buckner, Parish/Vestry Clerk