



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

All Are Welcome!

The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

November 9, 2025, 8:00 and 10:30 am Worship Services



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 November is raised by Rosalie & Larry Dye
In loving memory of Rosalie's father,
Charles Ignatius Coco, a WWII Veteran.

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

Prelude

Prelude on “St. Columba”

H. Willan

The Word of God

Please stand.

Opening Hymn

Ye Holy Angels Bright

Hymnal 625

Ye holy angels bright, who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song, for else the theme
too high doth seem for mortal tongue.

Ye blessed souls at rest, who ran this earthly race
and now, from sin released, behold the Savior's face,
God's praises sound, as in his sight
with sweet delight ye do abound.

Ye saints, who toil below, adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives and praise him still,
through good or ill, who ever lives!

My soul, bear thou thy part, triumph in God above:
and with a well-tuned heart sing thou the songs of love!
Let all thy days till life shall end,
whate'er he send, be filled with praise.

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 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

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 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and 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 Book of Job 19:23—27a

Job said,

"O that my words were written down!

O that they were inscribed in a book!

O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock forever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;

and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,

whom I shall see on my side,

and my eyes shall behold, and not another."

The Word of the Lord

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

Psalm 17:1-9

To be read responsively by the Lay Reader and Congregation.

- L Hear my plea of innocence, O LORD;
give heed to my cry; *
listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying lips.
- C **Let my vindication come forth from your presence; *
let your eyes be fixed on justice.**
- L Weigh my heart, summon me by night, *
melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.
- C **I give no offense with my mouth as others do; *
I have heeded the words of your lips.**
- L My footsteps hold fast to the ways of your law; *
in your paths my feet shall not stumble.
- C **I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; *
incline your ear to me and hear my words.**
- L Show me your marvelous loving-kindness, *
O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand
from those who rise up against them.
- C **Keep me as the apple of your eye; *
hide me under the shadow of your wings,**
- L From the wicked who assault me, *
from my deadly enemies who surround me.

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 Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

Dear Name, the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace!

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 Luke 20:27–38
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and asked him a question, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.

The Gospel of the Lord
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon Hymn

Hymnal 644

O Jesus! Shepherd, Guardian, Friend,
O Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

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

The Prayer 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.*

We pray 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 Marilyn 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;

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 First Responders and 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: The Diocesan Staff of the Diocese of South Carolina, *and The Church in the Province of the West Indies.*

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: Judy Kumerfield (11/9), Sue Reynolds (11/9), Dick Warner (11/10), Lynn Simmonds (11/11), Abraham White II (11/12), Mary Dobson (11/13), Jenna Hinson (11/13), John Simpson (11/13), Mary Christensen (11/15), Denny Mills (11/15).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: Michele & Jim Hennessy (11/11), Dick & Carole Hunter (11/14).

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: **Ernie & Sandie** Ellis, **Pat** Esposito, **Frank** Fairey, **Leon & Karen** Faso, **Peter & Cathy** Fellows, **Betsy** Finamore, **Bill & Kathy** Finch, **John & Dolores** Foggo, **Rodney** Foushee, **Sandy** Frantom.

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 *A Future with Hope*

M. Burrows

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 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. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

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
Bow during the underlined text

S129

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

Please 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

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.*

Please join in singing our Communion Hymns.

Alleluia

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

When we walk with the Lord In the light of His word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt nor a fear,
Not a sigh nor a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.

Refrain

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief nor a loss,
Not a frown nor a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.

Refrain

But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows,
And the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

Refrain

When in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go,
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Refrain

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Celebrant The Lord be with you

People *And also with you*

Celebrant Let us pray

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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 . . .

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.



In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me:
lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds new luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

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)

This Week

- Monday, 9:00 am, Queen Bees Landscape Commission, Parish Campus.
- Monday, 9:00 am, Property Commission, PHCR.
- Monday, 10:00 am, Daughters of the King, PHCR.
- Monday, 10:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilting Ministry, 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, 10:30 am, Men’s Prayer Group, PHCR.
- Wednesday, 12:00 noon, Public Service of Healing & Holy Eucharist
- Wednesday, 5:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room.
- Wednesday, 6:00—8:30 pm, Parish Hall in use.
- Thursday, 10:00 am, Alzheimer’s Support Group, PHCR.
- Friday, 4:00 pm, Mobile Meals Executive Committee, PHCR.
- Saturday, Parish Life Sunday Coffee Hour Preparation, Kitchen.
- Saturday, Outreach Feeding Ministry, Kitchen.

Cover— Wikimedia Commons: “*Guardian Angel*,” 2025,
Andrey Nikolaevich Mironov

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The altar flowers this week are lovingly donated by the family of Ron "Pops" Hall, in honor of his birthday and in recognition of his unwavering faith, generosity, and joyful participation in the life of St. Stephens. May these flowers be a celebration of his spirit and a reminder of the love he shares with this congregation.

With heartfelt wishes of peace, love, and continued blessings to the St. Stephens family.



God is good! All the time!



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

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 801 11th Avenue North, North Myrtle Beach SC 29582, 843.249.1169