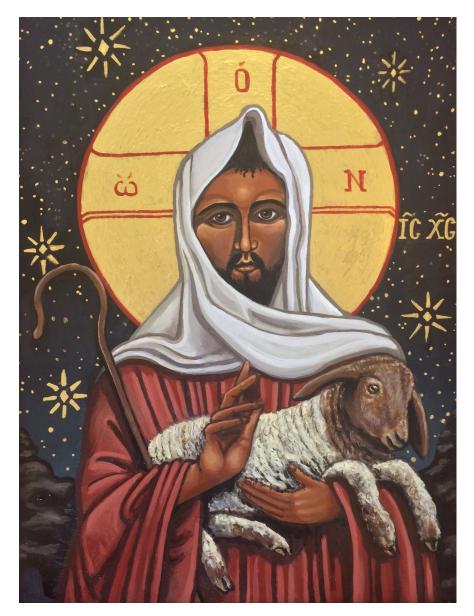
ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024, 8:00 and 10:30 am Worship Services



Good Shepherd

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

Prelude

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

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The Word of God

Please stand for the Opening Prayer.

Opening Hymn I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord 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. 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, 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 Fourth Sunday of Easter

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLet us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, 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* 4:5–12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the highpriestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is `the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

Psalm 23

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

- L The LORD is my shepherd; * I shall not be in want.
- C He makes me lie down in green pastures * and leads me beside still waters.
- L He revives my soul * and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- C Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; * for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- L You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; * you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- C Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, * and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

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 First Letter of John 3:16–24*

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

Gradual Hymn Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us H

Hymnal 708

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessèd Jesus! Blessèd Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

Please stand.

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 10: 11–18 **People Glory to you, Lord Christ**.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

Sermon Hymn

Early let us seek thy favor, early let us learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill. Blessèd Jesus! Blessèd Jesus! Thou hast loved us: love us still. Sermon

Wilmot T. Merchant 🔹

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 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 Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Ruth our Bishop, Wilmot our Priest, Kim our Deacon, 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 Joseph 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 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:

Lord, in your mercy. **People Hear our prayer.**

*Additional Prayers

LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR VISITORS.

LET US PRAY FOR OUR TRAVELERS THIS WEEK.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Peter Fellows (4/21), Wyck Richards (4/21), Sandie Ellis (4/24), Christine Goodfellow (4/25), Bill Mann (4/25), John Gibson (4/26), David Huyck (4/26)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: Greg & Jenna Hinson (4/22).

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: **Jean** Gibson, **John** Gibson, **Raymond** Glasgow, **Dottie** Glover, **Christine** Goodfellow, **Dean** Graves, **Elaine & Jim** Guillot, **Ron** Hall, **Patricia & Jim** Harrison, **Jim** Haslett.

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

CelebrantThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.



At the conclusion of the peace the Celebrant says:

CelebrantGod is Good!PeopleAll the Time.

The Holy Communion

Offertory The Lord is My Shepherd

A. Pote

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

Celebrant People	The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Celebrant People	Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant People	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. <i>It is right to give him thanks and praise</i> .
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.
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People	By your will they were created and have their being.
Celebrant	<i>being</i> . 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.
-	<i>being</i> . 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
Celebrant	<i>being</i> . 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.

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 ~ to be sung Bow during the underlined text S130

<u>Holy, holy, holy</u> Lord, God of power and might, <u>Holy, holy, holy</u> 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.

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 (respond with a loud) 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.

They'll Know We Are Christians

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord And we pray that all unity may one day be restored

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land

Refrain

We will work with each other, we will work side by side We will work with each other, we will work side by side And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride

Refrain

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one

Refrain

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth, and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me; thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth; and oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never: Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house for ever.

More Love to Thee, O Christ

More love to thee, O Christ, More love to thee! Hear thou the prayer I make On bended knee; This is my earnest plea;

> More love, O Christ, to Thee, More love to thee, More love to thee!

Once earthly joy I craved, Sought peace and rest; Now thee alone I seek, Give what is best; This all my prayer shall be:

Refrain

Then shall my every breath Sing out your praise; This be the only song My heart shall raise; This still my prayer shall be:

Refrain

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

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.



Alleluia, Alleluia!

Hymnal 191

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts and voices heavenward raise: sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise. He, who on the cross a victim, for the world's salvation bled, Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.

Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born, glorious life, and life immortal, on his resurrection morn. Christ has triumphed, and we conquer by his mighty enterprise: we with him to life eternal by his resurrection rise.

Christ is risen, Christ, the first-fruits of the holy harvest-field, which with all its full abundance at his second coming yield: then the golden ears of harvest will their heads before him wave, ripened by his glorious sunshine from the furrows of the grave.

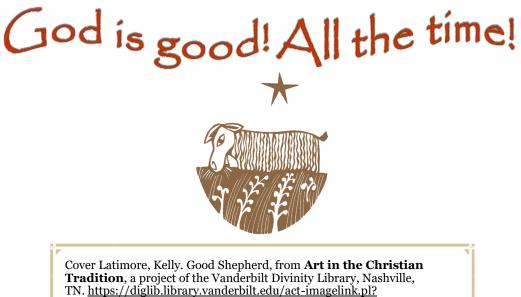
Christ is risen, we are risen! Shed upon us heavenly grace, rain and dew and gleams of glory from the brightness of thy face; that, with hearts in heaven dwelling, we on earth may fruitful be, and by angel hands be gathered, and be ever, Lord, with thee. Celebrant We are called to be one with God and 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 Entrée, "Quatre Pieces en forme de Messe D. Bedard

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)



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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
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. Michael Bruce Curry, 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

- ♦ Betty Berginski, Senior Warden (2024) ♦ Will Bridges, Junior Warden (2025)
- Richard B. Martin, Jr. (2024) Sill Simpson, Jr. (2024)
- Veronica Brown (2025) Marrjo Shattuck (2025) Sue Crouch (2026)
- Robert Dunn (2026) Wayne Mumford (2026).

Associate Vestry Members

✤ Barbara DiMartini (2024) ❖ Bud Nelson (2024) ❖ Mike Raley (2024).

Vestry Officers

Bill Mann, Treasurer
Cheri Spence, Assistant Treasurer
Jane Buckner, Parish/Vestry Clerk, Vickie Arrington, Asst Parish/Vestry Clerk

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