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Calgary

Be Real, Belong, Believe It.

St. Stephen's is a welcoming and affirming Anglican parish which upholds that God's unconditional and inclusive love extends to all members of our human family equally and without reservation.

Yes. Everyone. We Mean It!

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Maya McKirdy, Excellent Adventure

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FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

December 01, 2019



Hope

As an outward expression of the Creator's love and in the spirit of reconciliation, St. Stephen's acknowledges that we gather on traditional Indigenous territory: Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta and Métis Nation, Region 3. Through our worship and outreach St. Stephen's moves forward seeking a new, honourable, and respectful relationship with the Original Peoples of this land.

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8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Excellent Adventure and Nursery available 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to St. Stephen's Anglican Church

Sunday Worship, Dec 01, 2019

8:00am service - Book of Common Prayer (starting page 67) 10:30am service - Bulletin

The Reverend Jane Rowland, *Presider & Preacher*
The Reverend Charmaine Evans, *Deacon*
Liz Tremblay, *Music Director*

Lectionary Readings

This week:

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

Next week: Dec 8

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

The Prayers of the People

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer

We pray for mission agencies and their work throughout the Anglican Communion; for Justin, The Archbishop of Canterbury; Linda, our Primate; Greg our Metropolitan Archbishop & Diocesan Bishop; Leopold, Bishop of the Windward Islands.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

We pray for St. John, Olds, The Reverend Dr. Robert Sears, The Reverend Inez Hannett, The Reverend Jeanne Hunter, for the Vocational Deacons and Lay Ministers; in our Companion Diocese of the Windward Islands we pray for St. Matthew, Biabou with St. Sylvan, Stubbs and St. Mark, Greggs, on St. Vincent, The Reverend Pamela Daniel, The Reverend Deacon Kenwick Lewis, their clergy and the people of the parishes.

St. Stephen's Parish Cycle of Prayer

Gary MacNew and Neil · Doug and Crystal Mann · Sarah Marshall · Christopher Martin · Liza Mary Mathew · Turq McCollum · Marg McCulloch.



For Those in Need

Juliet · John · Archer · Phil · Anita · Tisha · Sarah.

Flowers

Flowers are dedicated today to the Glory of God
by Bob Taylor and Madeleine King in celebration of their wedding here 2 years ago
& all the bounty of our shared lives.



On Duty Today:

Reader: *Mark Labrecque*

Litianist: *Gillian Bowles*

Communion Assistants: *Madeleine King · Bob Taylor*

Greeters: *Cam Bush · Pam Forgie-Thomson · Hugh Baker*

Chancel Guild: *Pam Forgie-Thomson · Connie Taylor*

Sacramental Bread: *Kathy Deyell · David Roach*

Coffee: *Stuart Mushens*

Excellent Adventure: *Maya McKirdy*

Nursery: *Beverley Senko · Leila Quinones*



Blue Envelopes this month go to **PWRDF** (Primate's World Relief Development Fund) which provides support for developing nations and for emergency relief around the world. We are hoping to raise approximately \$3000 in order to help build a shallow water pump system for villages in need. **Check out our table demonstrating the programs we support.**

Ongoing at St. Stephen's:

Nativity, please gather in the CANTERBURY Room following the service **today**, should you wish to participate in the pageant.

Christmas Cards for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) are now available. There are two new designs this year at \$20 for a pack of 12. We also have cards from previous years and they are discounted at \$10 for a pack of 12. See Heather Dumka after the service if you would like to buy cards and support PWRDF.



Festival of Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 15 at 4pm

Come listen to the Story of Promise and to music of the Season with our wonderful choir and Music Director Liz Tremblay. Sing your favorite Christmas Carols and join us in a sherry reception after.



Christmas pageant



Christmas Services

Monday December 24th **4:00pm.** all are welcome including donkey, sheep and dogs..

Please contact Charmaine with any questions.

Eucharist: December 24th at **8pm. (New Time)**

Eucharist: December 25th at 10:30am.



BE REAL, BELONG, BELIEVE IT

St. Stephen's
ANGLICAN CHURCH

December 01, 2019

Welcome! *If you are searching for a place to belong, a warm welcome to you. So we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have please look for one of our Wardens who will be wearing a big "Ask Me" button.*

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The Flower Calendar is up for 2020

Gift Cards Wanted

We are collecting \$10 gift cards from food stores or restaurants to support FEED THE HUNGRY clients. This will ensure that they may purchase a meal over the holiday season. You may place them in the offertory plate or the container in the Narthex or give them directly to the office. Thank you for support of this special program.

Stewardship 2019

We are grateful to those who shared their story as to how or why St. Stephen's has become their spiritual home, during the focus on Stewardship this fall. Here are some quotes to remind you of their talks, and for you to reflect as to how or why St. Stephen's has become your spiritual home:

"As I grew up, I joined Sunday School and began learning about the religion I was a part of. I started helping around and asking questions. St. Stephens has always been an open place for me to ask questions and have a personal opinion." – Euan

"The reason why I personally love my St. Stephens community is because it is my second family. Everyone is always so supportive whether it's part of church life or not." – Paige

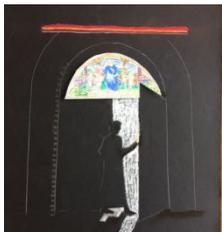
"...the warmth and hospitality and Anglican tradition here at St. Stephen's drew us back here. Worshipping here has been a real blessing, and we hope to continue in the years ahead." - Jay

"...as soon as we started coming to St. Stephen's, we felt that we were part of an engaged community. St. Stephen's was a place of welcoming people who had deep connections with, and cared sincerely for their church and its members, and who shared their time and talents generously." – Michael

"The thing I most want to share with you is my experience with the Inn from the Cold program (here at St. Stephens). I was fortunate to become involved early on, and spent 17 years in the most meaningful grass roots ministry in which I have ever been involved." - Patty

Open Doors II- There is a place on the bulletin board with info regarding the Open Doors II (previous update in bulletin Oct 27 & Nov 3). There are some copies of the last update on the bulletin board if you would to take a hard copy home and is again in the newsletter this week.

Stewardship Pledge Forms – Correction: Please note that the pledge forms are due back to St. Stephen's by **December 8, 2019** (not December 8, 2020 as printed on the forms in the back). We encourage everyone to complete a pledge form, it is important for planning ministries, outreach, and the continued function of St. Stephen's. Your pledge information is confidential, viewed only by administration, and your actual giving's can always be adjusted to reflect current realities.



Search Committee News

Good news: in response to our expanded search, we've already received more applications than before. We plan to schedule first round interviews as likely looking prospects come in; this is consistent with there being no specified deadline. There may also be another influx of applications in the New Year after the busy season of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

Always, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions. If you have names of likely candidates or know of communities other than the ones we're already canvassing, please let us know.

The members of the Search Committee are: Anne J. Brown (Chair), Tim Crowe, Keith Moe, Cathi Nelson, Louise Redmond, Gavin Stuart and Gord Tallman. Any one of us will be happy to answer questions you have, at any time. You are also welcome to email or 'phone with comments; if that is your preference, contact Anne at brown.annej@gmail.com or 403 852 7355.

A Message from the Wardens

With the recent retirement of Lynn McKeown as Office Administrator, some parishioners may be wondering if the church's administrative tasks are getting done. The wardens would like to assure everyone: we're on top of it!

We have a good team in place. Through the efforts of Deacon Charmaine Evans, Administrative Assistant Beverley Senko and volunteer work of the Finance team and the wardens, all the administrative work is getting done. Chad Dudley is providing invaluable services with our IT needs, including our website and a streamlined process for booking our facilities on-line.

At the moment, the corporation (i.e., the wardens) have no plans to hire a new Office Administrator. When a new Rector is in place, we will assess our overall office and administrative staffing needs.

Note Worthy:

St. Laurence Church Blue Christmas service

Feeling blue? Not everyone is cheery during the Christmas season. This service at St. Laurence is for anyone struggling with the darkness and grief brought about by loss or other disease. It will be a sacred time of comfort and light. The service will be on Wednesday, **December 18th** at 6:00 p.m. at and following it, we will share a lasagna dinner.

All are welcome. If you plan to attend please phone Kelly by **December 12th** at 403-249-6184 so we know how many to prepare dinner for and with any special dietary requirements such as vegetarian and gluten-free.



READINGS

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

OPENING PRAYER

God of majesty and power,
amid the clamour of war and violence
your word of truth resounds.
Keep your household watchful
and aware of the hour in which we live.
Hasten the advent of that day
when the sounds of war will be forever stilled,
and all your children safely gathering in.
Grant this through the One whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near:
Jesus Christ your Only Begotten,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God for whom we wait,
having fed us with heavenly food
for the earthly journey,
keep us ever watchful for the day of your coming,
that we may be ready to stand without fear
before the One who will judge the nations,
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the days to come
the mountain of God's temple
 shall be established as the highest of all the mountains,
and raised above all other hills,
 and all the nations shall come streaming toward it.

Many peoples shall approach, saying,
 "Come, let us go up to the mountain of God,
 to the temple of the God of Jacob,
that we may learn God's ways
 and walk in God's paths."
For instruction shall go forth from Zion,
 and the word of God from Jerusalem.

God shall judge between the nations,
 and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
 and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
 neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
 come, let us walk in the light of our God!

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.
Thanks be to God!

PSALM 122

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of our God."

**Now our feet are standing within your gates,
O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;
to which the tribes go up,

**the tribes of the Most High,
the assembly of Israel.**

They go to praise the Name of our God.

**For there are the thrones of judgement,
the thrones of the house of David.**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
May they prosper who love you.

**Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.**

For my kin and companions' sake,
I pray for your prosperity.

**Because of the house of our God, the Most High,
I will seek only good for you.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy.

Instead, put on our Saviour Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 24:36-44

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

The Holy Gospel

of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

God be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News

of Jesus Christ

according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said:

“About that day and hour no one knows,
neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son,
but only God above.

“As the days of Noah were,
so will be the coming of God’s Begotten.
For as in those days before the flood,
when they were eating and drinking,
marrying and giving in marriage,
until the day Noah entered the ark,
and they knew nothing until the flood came
and swept them all away;
so too will be the coming of God’s Promised One.

“Then two men will be in the field;
one will be taken and one will be left.
Two women will be grinding meal together;
one will be taken and one will be left.
Keep awake therefore,
for you do not know on what day your God is coming.

“But understand this:

if the owner of the house
had known in what part of the night
the thief was coming,
he would have stayed awake
and would not have let his house be broken into.

“Therefore you also must be ready,
for God’s Promised One is coming
at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The First Sunday of Advent

December 01, 2019



Advent means "coming" and anticipates both the coming of Christmas and the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the age. We observe the season of Advent in an expectant mood, forestalling the joyful sights and sounds of Christmas. Week by week, however, as the season advances and hints of Christmas begin to appear, we feel a heightened sense of excitement. God's reign of peace and justice is coming to the earth.

THE EUCHARIST

The Reverend Jane Rowland, *Preacher & Presider*
The Reverend Charmaine Evans, *Deacon*
Marvin Dickau, *Guest Organist*

The Gathering of the Community

We gather, greet one another, and prepare for worship.

Prelude: Sleepers Awake by Krebs

Welcome and Opening Announcements

Call to Worship

The congregation stands, the Prayer Bowl is struck, and a reflective silence is observed.

Greeting (from Isaiah 2:1-5)

Our God shall judge between the nations,
and settle disputes between the peoples.
**They shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks.**

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

**Come, O house of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of our God!**

During Advent we begin our worship with reflective silence, reminding us that we await the coming of the reign of God in all its fullness.

Opening Hymn: There's a Voice in The Wilderness

blue insert

Opening Prayer

God of majesty and power,
amid the clamour of war and violence
your word of truth resounds.
Keep your household watchful
and aware of the hour in which we live.
Hasten the advent of that day
when the sounds of war will be forever stilled,
and all your children safely gathering in.
Grant this through the One whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near:
Jesus Christ your Only Begotten,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever. **Amen.**

The Opening Prayer, or "Collect", gathers the individual prayers of the community and identifies a theme in today's service.

Lighting the Advent Wreath: *The First Candle, Hope*

The Congregations sits. The children come forward for a talk & to assist with the lighting of the wreath.

Hymn During the Lighting of the Candle: Hope is a Star

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

Refrain:

When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

The Proclamation of the Word

*We hear again the Christian story
and respond with our prayers and intentions.*

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

read by Mark Labrecque

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.
Thanks be to God.

The Bible contains the story of God's People, but it continues to speak to us today.

Psalm 122

A Psalm is a sacred poem drawn from the Hebrew scriptures.

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of our God."
**Now our feet are standing within your gates,
O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;
to which the tribes go up,
**the tribes of the Most High,
the assembly of Israel.**

They go to praise the Name of our God.
**For there are the thrones of judgement,
the thrones of the house of David.**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
May they prosper who love you.
**Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.**

For my kin and companions' sake,
I pray for your prosperity.
**Because of the house of our God, the Most High,
I will seek only good for you.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

read by Mark Labrecque

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.
Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn: Herald Sound the Note of Judgement

blue insert

Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

Prior to the Reading:

God be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

We stand for the Gospel Reading in special reverence for the stories of the life and teachings of Jesus.

Following the Reading:
The Gospel of Christ
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith *(from the Book of Revelation 1:4-8)*

We believe in God
who is, and who was, and who is to come;
in the Spirit, who is before God's throne;
in Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead,
the ruler of the rulers of the earth,
the one who is coming with the clouds
where every eye will see him,
the Alpha and Omega,
the beginning and the end.
We believe in One God: the Almighty!
Amen.

*An affirmation of
faith proclaims our
core beliefs about
God.*

Prayers of the People

led by Gillian Bowles

The Peace *(the congregation standing)*

God's peace be always with you.
And also with you.

*The Prayers of the
People bring the
concerns of our
hearts to God.*

The People greet one another with a gesture of friendship.

*The Passing of the
Peace has been
practised among
Christians since
biblical times.*

The Celebration of the Eucharist

*We give thanks for Christ's sacrificial love
by which we are spiritually fed.*

Hymn: You Servants of the Lord

blue insert

Prayer over the Gifts

God of love and power,
your word stirs within us
the expectation of the coming of your Son.

*Symbols of our
daily lives are
offered for God's
blessing—bread
and wine for
communion, and
money for the
ongoing work of
the Church.*

Accept all we offer you this day,
and sustain us with the promise
of your eternal presence.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
who came among us in the flesh,
showing us the way of salvation.
Now we watch for the day
when he will come again
in power and great triumph to rule this world,
that we, without shame or fear,
may rejoice to behold his appearing.

Leaving us a sign of hope,
Jesus, on the night before he died,
surrounded by his disciples,
took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
saying, "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;
when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them, and said,

*"Eucharist" comes
from the Greek
word for
thanksgiving.
Traditionally this
prayer was called
the Great
Thanksgiving*

*At the heart of
the Christian story
is Jesus' death for
our sake, which is
recounted here.*

“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.”
Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of your Son.
Unite us under his gentle and loving rule
that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
all honour and glory are yours,
Creator of all, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

*The “Lord’s Prayer”
is so named
because the
Gospels record
Jesus teaching this
prayer to his
disciples.*

Breaking of the Bread

God of promise, you prepare a banquet in heaven
for those who love you.

**Happy are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.**

Invitation

The gifts of God for the People of God!
Thanks be to God!

All who love and serve God are welcome to come forward to receive communion, or to receive a blessing in God's name.

Communion (*please do not DIP the bread in the wine*)

Prayer after Communion

God for whom we wait,
having fed us with heavenly food
for the earthly journey,
keep us ever watchful for the day of your coming,
that we may be ready to stand without fear
before the One who will judge the nations,
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Doxology

Glory to God,
**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

A doxology is a prayer of praise to God, in this case, a final one, drawing our worship to a close.

Announcements

Blessing

Dismissal

Let us bless our God.
Thanks be to God!

Having been fed by Word and Sacrament, we are sent out into the world to anticipate the coming of God's realm in its fullness.

Hymn: When the King Shall Come Again

blue insert

Postlude: Swiss Noel by Daquin



Thank you for sharing in our worship today.

Following the service you are invited to stay and join us for refreshments.

Hope



Love

Joy

Peace