

St. Stephen's Social Media



@ststephenyyc



St Stephen's Anglican Church 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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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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 19, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Masks and Face Coverings – You will be required to wear a mask throughout the in-person service and while you are indoors at St. Stephen's. If you have a medical condition such that you are unable to wear a mask or face covering, please consider whether you should be attending the in-person service in the first place.

Welcome to St. Stephen's Anglican Church

The Reverend Charmaine Evans, Deacon • Music Director—Liz Tremblay
Technical Director—Chad Dudley

Lectionary Readings

This Week: Advent 4, December 19

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: 4:30 & 8:00 p.m.
December 25: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
January 2—Epiphany: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

The Prayers of the People

The Anglican Cycle Of Prayer

In the worldwide community we pray for the Church of the Province of Central Africa. In the Anglican Church of Canada we pray for the Rev. Dr. Eileen Scully and the staff of Faith, Worship, and Ministry; for Sheilagh McGlynn, Youth Ministry; for the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada we pray for the Rev. Paul Gehrs, Justice and Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; Gretchen Peterson, Youth and Leadership Assistant. We continue to pray for the people affected in the Dioceses of New Westminster and Kootenay and the Territory of the People by the flooding in November.

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

We pray for the parishes of St. Mark, Innisfail and St. Mary & St. Timothy, Sylvan Lake, the Rev. Ralph Warnock (Hon.), the Rev. Ethel English (Hon.), the Rev. Inez Hannett (Hon.). In our Companion Diocese of the Windward Islands we pray for the parishes of Grace Church, Riviere Doree with St. Paul and Christ-the-King on St. Lucia, the Rev. Eleanor Glasgow, Priest-in-Charge.

St. Stephen's Parish Cycle of Prayer:

Chris Bain & Carley Kastelic; Robert Bak & EWrijka Haalboom; Hugh Baker

For Those in Need: John; Kathleen; Laurie; June, Sunny and Cookie

Flowers at the Altar

The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving by the Crowe family.

Reader: Patty Rhodes-Brink??

Prayers of the People: Brigid Stewart

Greeters: Cam Bush, Sheila Wasylyshyn

Why are children under 12 not permitted to attend in person yet?

In consultation with our St. Stephen's families with children under 12, we are currently not allowing children under 12 to attend in person. We expect to lift this restriction once our under 12 members have had an opportunity to be vaccinated.

All of the families consulted told us that they were not comfortable having their unvaccinated children attend. In particular, they were all very concerned that their child might unknowingly (asymptomatic) cause an immunocompromised parishioner to get sick. While most of our families are very much looking forward to coming back, the benefit of protection in an extra few months was thought to be worth the wait.

Why only bread but no wine during the Eucharist?

Given our Anglican tradition that we must use a common cup for wine, the only way to accomplish would have been through priestly intinction. When we examined that process we could find no safe way to honour our tradition

Why can't the congregation sing? All the best carols/hymns are coming up!

As Covid-19 is an airborne virus, the increased aerosols created when singing increases risk of transmission of transmission by and between symptomatic, asymptomatic and even vaccinated individuals. While we can't wait to hear everyone's lovely voices again soon, the current risk factors are too great.

Why are we asking parishioners to "book" Christmas Eve services?

We need to ensure that our services remain under the capacity restrictions set by the City and Province.

We also want to avoid disappointing anyone at the door if we are "full".

Return to in-person worship FAQs

Why are we checking parishioners' vaccination QR Codes **AND** photo ID every service?

While places of worship are not obligated to follow the Province's Restrictions Exemption Program (REP), we have decided to do so. Under the REP businesses and organizations are required to check both QR codes and photo ID of every guest over the age of 12. Further to this, not everybody knows everyone else and it makes it much less awkward to just check everyone. Finally, it might seem very unwelcoming to only check visitors QR codes and IDs and so, in an effort to keep things simple and ensure we are not treating visitors any differently, we are asking everyone to present their QR code and photo ID. Note, children 12-18 do not have to show ID.

What other Covid-19 safety protocols is St. Stephen's implementing?

Following the City of Calgary's by-law we are requiring everyone to wear a mask while indoors, except for a brief moment to eat the host during communion.

We have restricted the number of attendees for each service in accordance with the by-law and Provincial restrictions.

We have placed hand sanitizer stations in the narthex and we are asking every parishioner to sanitize prior to approaching the altar during communion, and a hand sanitizer dispenser is available at the lectern for the readers and for those saying the prayers of the people.

We have closed the coat racks to minimize gathering after the services.

Following the direction from the Diocese we are not currently offering Coffee Hour following the services.

Are we contact tracing?

We had originally been collecting the names and contact information of attendees for contact tracing. This has been discontinued. This is not required currently. Should we be informed that an attendee has tested positive and was likely infected while attending we would make a general announcement (without identifying the parishioner of course) to let those in attendance know that they might wish to get tested and/or monitor for symptoms.

A Service of Prayer with the Distribution of the Eucharist

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude: A Virgin Pure (N. Lebeque)

Opening Hymn: Once in Royal David's City (CP#123)

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when, like stars, his children crowned
all in white shall gather round.

Welcome and Opening Announcements

Presider:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Collect:

Who are we, O God,
that you should come to us?
Yet you have visited your people

During Advent we begin our worship in expectant silence, reflecting upon the state of our soul and the needs of the world this day.

and redeemed us through your Son.
As we prepare to celebrate his birth,
make our hearts leap for joy
at the sound of your Word.
We ask this through the One whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near:
Jesus Christ your Promised One,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love.

All stand. Four candles are lit.

Heavenly Father, the whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word...LOVE. You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All of your love, God, was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent helps us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus. **Amen.**

Hope is a star

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.

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.

Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

The Opening Prayer identifies a theme or themes heard in today's service.

The Advent Wreath is a Christian custom borrowed from Medieval pagan practices. We light a fire to ward off the gathering darkness of winter while we announce our hope in Jesus Christ, the "Light of the World".

Choir

We will not be offering coffee hour at this time. Weather permitting, parishioners are invited to visit on the lawn if they are comfortable in doing so.

Blue Envelopes this month go to The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). The PWRDF provides support for developing nations and for emergency relief in Canada and around the world.

Tech Team Volunteers Needed: We have all appreciated the fabulous work delivered by our Technical Director, Chad Dudley, as he delivered professional video services for us to enjoy online since March of 2020. We are now entering the next phase of our online services where we are inviting parishioners to return to church in-person beginning on November 21, 2021. We will continue to deliver the service online, but it will look different as it won't be a video edited in advance. Chad is helping us make decisions about what equipment we need to use to continue to deliver online services. We need volunteers to help us press the right buttons on the sound board and on the computer! Chad promises to make the job as simple as possible so we can still share our services with our parishioners at home! Not to worry, Chad will still be involved with the process! Please email the Suzan at administrator@ststephenscalgary.org to let her know of your interest.

2022 Envelopes: For those who use envelopes, they are available for pick up in the Narthex. Please note that a few of the envelope numbers may have changed. If you wish to use envelopes and do not see a box with your name on it, please contact the administrator by calling the church or by email at administrator@ststephenscalgary.org.

Office Hours are currently restricted by provincial guidelines. There will be someone in the office on Monday and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The office will be closed from the week of December 27 until January 3.

BC Floods:

PWRDF is monitoring the situation in British Columbia. PWRDF is now accepting donations to support mid- to long-term recovery in the region and will be reporting soon on how the donations will be used. Go to their website at <https://pwrdf.org/give-today/> and click on BC Floods.

Greeters Needed: As we have reopened for in-person services, there is a renewed need for volunteers to assist with greeting and seating people according to CoVid 19 guidelines. If you feel called to be part of this ministry, please contact Suzan Pedersen by email at administrator@ststephenscalgary.org. Suzan will be happy to send you the current guidelines for greeters and find a schedule that works for you.

shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall 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.

O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove.
His name shall stand for ever:
that name to us is Love.

Postlude: Isaiah, Mighty Seer (F. W. Zachow)

Jesus has come and will never depart.

Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Micah5:2-51

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah.

"As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah," says our God,
"you are among the little clans of Judah;
yet from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule over Israel,
one whose origin is from of old,
from the ancient days."

But God will give them up
until the time when she who is in labour has given birth.
Then the remnant of our God
shall return to the people of Israel.
This ruler shall rise up
and feed the flock in the strength of Yahweh,
by the power of the Name of Yahweh, their God.

They shall live securely,
for now this ruler's greatness
will extend to the ends of the earth.
It shall be said:
"This at last is the one
who will be our peace!"

Canticle: Luke 1:46-55 (The Song of Mary)

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God;
and my spirit rejoices in you, my Saviour.
**For you have looked with favor
upon your lowly servant.**

From this day forward
all generations will call me blessed.
For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,

Reader:

*The First Reading and
the Canticle are taken
from the Hebrew
Testament (Old
Testament).*

and holy is your Name.

Your mercy reaches from age to age
to those who fear you.

**You have shown strength with your arm;
you have scattered the proud in their conceit.**

You have deposed the mighty from their thrones,
and raised up the lowly to lofty places.

**You have filled the hungry with good things,
and you have sent the rich away empty.**

Mindful of your mercy,
you come to the aid of your servant Israel.

**You uphold the promise you made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and Sarah,
and to their descendants forever.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: "You who desired no sacrifice or obligation prepared a body for me. In burnt offerings or sin offerings you took no pleasure. Then I said (as it was written of me in the scroll of the book), 'Here I am, O God! I have come to do your will'."

In saying that God neither desires nor takes pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices (which are offered in accordance with the law), and then saying, "I have come to do your will," Christ abolishes the former in order to establish the latter. By God's will then, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

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

Hymn: There's a Voice in the Wilderness (CP#106)

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:

Presider: The gifts of God for the People of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The celebrant and people then receive communion.

Faithful God,
in the sacrament we receive your promise of salvation.
May we, like Mary, be responsive to your will;
for we ask it in the name of her Son,
your Only Begotten, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Blessing:

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Announcements

Dismissal

Go forth into the world to love and serve our God.
Thanks be to God!

Hymn: Hail to the Lord's Anointed (CP#101)

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 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

*The Second
Reading is taken
from the New
Testament.*

Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Prayer before the Eucharist

Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit
who sanctified the mother of your Son,
make holy all we offer you this day.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the Lord our God may go!

O Zion, give voice to good tidings,
ascend to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
The works of pride all perish,
like flowers they shall decay;
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away.

But your word, O God, is faithful,
your arm, O Lord, is strong;
you stand in the midst of nations,
and you will right the wrong.
You will feed your flock like a shepherd,
and fold the lambs to your breast;
in pastures of peace you'll lead them,
and give to the weary rest.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the Lord our God may go!

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-45

Prior to the reading:

God be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*We stand for the Gospel
Reading in special
reverence for the
accounts of the life and
teaching of Jesus.*

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah, and there she greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaimed in a loud voice:

"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

"But why should I be so favoured, that the mother of the Holy One should come to me? For the moment I heard the sound of your greeting, the child within my womb leapt for joy. Blessed is she who believed that what our God said to her would be accomplished!"

Following the Reading:

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Interlude: What Sweeter Music (*J. Rutter*)

Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
son of the one God,
maker and sustainer of earth, sea and sky.**

**Born of Mary's womb,
faithful to the God of Abraham and Sarah,
Jesus healed the sick,
served the poor,
and proclaimed heaven on earth.**

Condemned by the religious

**crucified by the state, he died
but transformed even death
and rose to life everlasting.
He blessed the disciples with his Holy Spirit
and sent them forth,
east and west, north and south.**

**We commit ourselves to Jesus
to one another as brothers and sisters
and to his mission in the world
in the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers

The Prayers of the People

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 for ever. Amen.**

*The Prayers of the People
place the concerns of our
hearts before God: for the
world, for the Church, and
for those in need.*

The Peace (*the congregation standing*)

Jesus said to his disciples,
"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."
The Peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

*The "Lord's Prayer" is so
called because the Gospels
record Jesus teaching this
prayer to his disciples.*

*The members of the congregation greet one another with a nod of the head or
with folded hands as a sign of peace and friendship. Please no touching or
hugging.*

Hymn: People Look East (CP#91)

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.

*We affirm the core
beliefs of the Christian
faith.*