

SAINT STEPHEN'S CHURCH

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND



FEAST of the NATIVITY

PROCESSION & SOLEMN HIGH MASS

24 DECEMBER 2023

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST: Merry Christmas! Welcome to Saint Stephen's Church on this holy night in which we remember that God so loved the human race that he became one of us, in order to redeem our fallen state. Into these longest nights of the year, the everlasting Light who was present even at Creation shines into our hearts and makes known the love of God for each and every soul. And so, we gather this night with songs of praise and prayers for Christ's peace to be made known in every heart; we are surrounded by the warm glow of candlelight as we praise him who is the Light of the world, which the darkness cannot overcome; and as surely as he came among us in the flesh some two thousand years ago, Our Lord comes and dwells among us once more tonight under the forms of Bread and Wine.

S. Stephen's is an Episcopal parish in the Diocese of Rhode Island and is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Located in the midst of Brown University, we serve the communities of Providence and beyond. S. Stephen's has stood within the Anglo-Catholic tradition since our founding, and so the Mass or the Eucharist is at the center of our common life, with ancient and timeless ceremonial used to draw attention to the Living God in our very midst.

If this is your first time worshipping with us, please know how welcome you are in this community of faith. We are young and old, rich and poor, married, single, and divorced, straight and gay, confident in our faith and full of questions. But the thing we share is a love of Jesus, and a desire to grow in love of God, neighbor, and self.

The center of our common life is worship, and we hope you will join us for a Sunday mass at 8am or 10am or at one of our weekday services.

Yours in the Love of Our Incarnate Lord,


Fr. Benjamin Straley, *Rector*

BEFORE THE SERVICE

L. Graham Schultz plays

Three Settings of 'In dulci jubilo'

Chorale Fantasia, BWV 729

Chorale Prelude

Postludium

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)

Leo Sowerby (1896–1968)

Prelude on 'The Holly and the Ivy'

Herbert Sumsion (1899–1995)

La Nativité, from *Poèmes Évangéliques*

Jean Langlais (1907–1991)

Fantasia on 'Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her'

Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)

ORDER *of* SERVICE

The setting of the mass is Missa ad Præsepe by George Malcolm (1917–1997).

¶ All stand at the ringing of the bell.

AT THE PROCESSION

¶ Let us go forth in peace.

✠ **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

HYMN 83 ¶ *Sung by all.*

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.*

2. God from God, Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only begotten Son of the Father;
O come let us adore him &c.

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;
O come let us adore him &c.

STATION AT THE CRÈCHE

¶ The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

✠ **And we beheld his glory.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast given us thine only-begotten Son to take our nature
upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, being
regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by
thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth
with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
 leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come let us adore him &c.

5. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
 we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
 who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
O come let us adore him &c.

6. Yea Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; | *A genuflection may be*
 Jesus, to thee be glory given; | *made at these words.*
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come let us adore him &c.

INTROIT *Dominus dixit*

TONE VII

The Lord hath said unto me: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.
Ps. Why do the heathen so furiously rage together: and why do the people
 imagine a vain thing? Glory be &c. The Lord hath said &c.

KYRIE ELEISON *¶ Sung by the choir.*

K yrie eleison.	<i>Lord, have mercy upon us.</i>
C hriste eleison.	<i>Christ, have mercy upon us.</i>
Kyrie eleison.	<i>Lord, have mercy upon us.</i>

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *¶ Sung by the choir.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis. Laudamus
 te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter
 magnam gloriam tuam, Domine Deus, Rex cœlestis, Deus Pater Omnipotens.
 Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe; Dominus Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui
 tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe
 deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam
 tu solus sanctus; tu solus Dominus; tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum sancto
 Spiritu, ✠ in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee,
 we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great
 glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the
 only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that
 takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins
 of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,*

have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high ✠ in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

¶ Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96:1-4, 11-12 *Cantate Domino*

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

O sing unto the LORD a new song :
sing unto the LORD, all the whole earth.

Sing unto the LORD, and praise his Name :

be telling of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his honour unto the heathen :

and his wonders unto all people.

For the LORD is great, and cannot worthily be praised :

he is more to be feared than all gods.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad :
let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.
Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it :
then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the LORD.

THE EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Subdeacon The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA *Dominus dixit*

TONE VI

Intoned by the cantor, then repeated by all.



∞ The Lord hath said to me, thou art my Son, this day I have begotten thee.

℞ **Alleluia.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Deacon The Holy Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord

shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev'd Fr. Benjamin Straley

THE NICENE CREED *♩ Sung by all, standing.*

I be-lieve in one God, the Fa-ther Al-migh-ty, ma-ker of hea-ven and earth,
 and of all things vi - si-ble and in - vi - si-ble; And in One Lord Je - sus Christ,
 the on-ly-be-got-ten Son of God; be-got-ten of his Fa-ther be - fore_ all worlds, God of God,
 Light of Light, ver - y God of ver - y God, be - got - ten, not made,
 be - ing of one sub-stance with the Fa - ther; by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our sal - va - tion came down from hea - ven,
here genuflect or bow
 and was in - car-nate by the Ho - ly Ghost of the Vir-gin Ma - ry, and was made man;
here rise
 and was cru - ci - fi - ed al - so for us un - der Pon-tius Pi - late;
 he suf-fer-ed and was bur - i - ed; and the third day he rose a-gain ac-cord-ing to the Scrip-tures,
 and as-cend-ed in - to hea - ven, and sit-teth on the right hand of the Fa - ther;

and he shall come a - gain with glo - ry, to judge both the quick and the dead;
 whose king-dom shall have_ no end. And I be-lieve in the Ho - ly Ghost the Lord,
 and Giv-er of Life, who pro-ceed-eth from the Fa-ther and the Son; who with the Fa-ther
 and the Son to-geth-er is wor-ship-ped and glo-ri - fi - ed; who spake by the Pro - phets.
 And I be - lieve one ho - ly Cath - o - lic and A - pos - tol - ic Church;
 I ac - know-ledge one Bap - tism for the re - mis - sion of sins;
 and I look for the re-sur-rec-tion of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
 A - - - - - men.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

g Deacon

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Father, on this holy night, thy Son our Savior was born of human flesh.

Renew thy Church as the Body of Christ.

✠ Lord, in thy mercy

✠ **Hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, there was no room for thy Son in the inn.

Protect with thy love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

✠ Lord, in thy mercy

✠ **Hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.

Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

✠ Lord, in thy mercy

✠ **Hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'

Strengthen those who work for peace and justice throughout the world.

℣ Lord, in thy mercy

℟ **Hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.

Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

℣ Lord, in thy mercy

℟ **Hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven.

Hold in thy hand all those who have passed ☩ through death in the hope of thine eternal kingdom.

℣ Lord, in thy mercy

℟ **Hear our prayer.**

℟ *Celebrant*

Father, on this holy night, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with the ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph, Blessed Stephen and all thy saints, through him who is the Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

℟ Announcements may be made. The people are seated for the Offertory.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY ANTIPHON *Lætentur cæli*

TONE II

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad before the Lord, for he is come.

℟ At the Offertory, we gratefully offer back to God a portion of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. To make an electronic gift today, please either visit sstephens.org/donate or scan the QR code with your smart phone's camera.



AT THE OFFERTORY

Heinrich Schütz (1585–1672)

Hodie Christus natus est: Hodie Salvator apparuit: Hodie in terra canunt Angeli, lætantur Archangeli. Hodie exsultant iusti, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia.

Today Christ is born: Today the Savior appeared. Today on Earth the Angels sing, Archangels rejoice: Today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.

*¶ All stand for the hymn as the offering is brought forward
and the gifts, altar, & people are censed.*

HYMN

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



All voices

Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha, from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things,
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

Low voices

2. He assumed this mortal body,
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,
That the race from dust created,
Might not perish utterly,
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced
In the depths of hell to lie,
Evermore and evermore.

High voices

3. O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation
By the Holy Ghost conceived,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.

Low voices

4. This is he, whom seer and sibyl
Sang in ages long gone by,
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! He comes the promised Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

High voices

5. Let the storm and summer sunshine,
Gliding stream and sounding shore,
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,
Day and night their Lord adore;
Let creation join to laud thee
Through the ages evermore,
Evermore and evermore.

All voices

6. Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.

ORATE, FRATRES

Celebrant Pray, brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

People **May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.**

SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God;

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS *¶ Sung by the choir.*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth: Pleni
sunt cæli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna
in excelsis. Benedictus ✠ qui venit in
nomine Domini. Hosanna in
excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed ✠ is he that cometh in the
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the
highest.*

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER *¶ All kneel.*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we give thanks unto thee for the goodness and love which thou hast revealed unto us in creation; in the calling of Israel as thine own people; in thy Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, thy Son Jesus Christ. For in the fulness of time thou didst send him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be

the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, thou hast delivered us from evil and made us worthy to stand before thee. In him, thou hast brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks unto thee, he brake 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."



Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this;

FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD
OF THE NEW COVENANT, WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU
AND FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, for the remembrance of me."



Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

¶ Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

¶ The Celebrant continues

And we offer unto thee, O Father, this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, presenting unto thee from thy creation, O Lord of all, this bread and this cup.

We beseech thee, gracious Father, to send thy Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the New Covenant. Unite us to thy Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified ✠ by the Holy Spirit. At the last day, put all things in subjection under thy Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph her spouse, Blessed Stephen our patron, and all thy saints, we may enter into the everlasting heritage of thy sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,



Our Fa-ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed be thy Name,
thy king-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And for-give us our tres-pas - ses,
as we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us. And lead us not in - to
temp-ta - tion, but de-liv-er us from e - vil. For thine is the king-dom,
and the power, and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

THE INVITATION: ECCE AGNUS DEI

Celebrant Behold ✠ the Lamb of God; behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.

People **Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof:
but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.**

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please come forward to the altar rail and then return to your pew via the passageway on the right. If you are unable to come forward, communion can be brought to you in your pew. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Eucharist at the Lord's Table. Gluten-free wafers are available. If you are not receiving, you are invited to come forward for a blessing (indicated by crossing your arms over your chest). If you have not been baptized and find yourself drawn to Jesus Christ and life in him, please let one of our clergy know. We would be honored to have a conversation with you about baptism or answer any other questions. Baptism and life in the Body of Christ is open to all.

AGNUS DEI *g Sung by the choir.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata
mundi, Miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, grant us thy peace.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Domus mea*

TONE I

The dew of thy birth is of the womb of the morning.

AT THE COMMUNION

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone.
Snow had fallen snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter
Long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain.
Heav'n and earth shall flee away,
When he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter,
A stable place suffic'd
The Lord God Almighty
Jesus Christ.

Harold Darke (1888–1976)

Enough for him, whom cherubin,
Worship night and day,
A breast full of milk,
And a manger-full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel,
Which adore.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give him,
Give my heart.

HYMN 115 *g Sung by all.*

GREENSLEEVES

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain.*

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain.*

HYMN III *g Sung by all, kneeling.*

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

THE CLOSING RITE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *g All kneel.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy Spirit.**

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things early and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; blessing of God Almighty, the ✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL *¶ Please stand.*

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN *¶ Sung by all.*

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!*

3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn king!*

VOLUNTARY

Carillon de Wesminster

Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

CHRISTMAS ADORNMENTS

have been given to the greater glory of Almighty God by

Mr. & Mrs. G. Rollin Bartlett *in memory of* George A. Bartlett, Sylvia S. Bartlett,
Joseph W. Farwell, Jr., Dorothy D. Farwell, A. Jane Latham, and George Wightman Williams

Tom & Cathy Bledsoe *in memory of* Jo Cowperthwaite, William Justice Cowperthwaite,
Shirley Bledsoe, and Truman C. Bledsoe III

Joy D'Ambra *in memory of* the D'Ambra Family

Peter Gibson *in memory of* Fred H. & Clair P. Gibson, and Earle M. & Mildred M. Richard

Nancy Gingrich & Family *in memory of* Ty Gingrich.

Gregory Goins *in memory of* Phyllis Newman and Jack Goins Fr. Philip C. Jacobs *in memory of*
Phebe A. Jacobs, Lillian & Philip Jacobs, Jr., Ora & Philip Jacobs, Sr., Alfred & Karin King,
Elsie & Edith King, and Anna Lack

Leana Hooks & Family *in memory of* Edward Hooks

Alison Huff *in memory of* Betty Hartford & Mary Seguin

Fred Jodry *in memory of* Fadi Haddad and Daniel Gould

Ruth Oliver Jolliffe *in memory of* Ruth and Andrew Oliver and Michael Jolliffe

Gerard F. Plasse *in memory of* Mr. & Mrs. Gerard O. Plasse, Ms. Juliette Pichette,
Ms. Lorraine Pichette, Anthony St. Germain, The Plasse Family, and Glenn Walker

William B. Ripley *in memory of* Katherine Ripley, Elinor & Everett Ripley, Hollis Farnum,
Dottie Farnum, Edith Farnum, Pat & Heinz Falenski, Hugh McNamar, Alfred & Margret
Shaw, and Mary & Robert Easton

The Rev'd Mtr. Empy Schneider *in memory of* Corey Price Schneider

Graham & Sara Schultz *in thanksgiving for* the S. Stephen's Schola Cantorum and *in memory of*
Denise Rae Ramsfield, Eric Wade Snowden, and Joshua Michael Snowden

Julia Steiny *in memory of* Conrad Johnson

The Rev'd Fr. Benjamin Straley *in thanksgiving for* Dr. Kenneth Miller and *in memory of*
Ruth Eileen Pearce Crouch and Fr. F. Washington Jarvis III

Stacey G. Swift, Jr. *in memory of* Marjorie Ellen Garrity Swift

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, January 28 at 10:00am ✠ *Solemn Mass for S. Stephen's Day (transferred)*

The parish's annual celebration of our patron, Saint Stephen. Music will include W.A. Mozart's lively *Missa Brevis in D*, KV 194 alongside John Ireland's most celebrated anthem, *Greater love hath no man*. This service is followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

Friday, February 2nd at 7pm ✠ *Solemn Mass with Procession for the Feast of Candlemas*

Join us as we celebrate one of the holiest and most symbolic of all feast days of the Church year which occurs forty days after Christmas Day. Music will include *Missa Princeps Pacis* of Wm. Lloyd Weber and Johannes Eccard's sublime setting of *When to the temple Mary went*.

For a complete schedule of liturgical music, please pick up a music list in the narthex or consult the church's website, www.sstephens.org



If you are new or visiting, please take a moment to fill out a **Visitor Information Card** and deposit it in the offering plate as it comes by. Welcome to S. Stephen's.



If you are new to Saint Stephen's or simply curious to learn more, an **Inquirer's Class** be offered in late January through March on Sundays after Solemn Mass. Those interested should email the Rector, Fr. Benjamin Straley at rector@sstephens.org.



To keep up to date on all that is happening at S. Stephen's please **sign up for our weekly e-News** at sstephens.org and please do join us for one of our Sunday Masses at 8am & 10am.



Saint Stephen's is a community committed to prayer. We encourage you to pray throughout the week for these members of our parish family. If you have a **prayer request**, please notify the Parish Office at 401.421.6702 or office@sstephens.org.



Cover Image: The Nativity, from a Book of Hours. Workshop of the Bedford Master, French, c. 1440-1450. From the collection of the Getty Museum. Public Domain.

S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

FOUNDED 1837

VESTRY

Thomas Bledsoe, *Senior Warden*

Robert Rose, *Junior Warden*

Gregory DePardo, *Treasurer*

Molly Bledsoe Ellis, *Clerk*

Karl Benziger

Lynne deBenedette

Jennifer DePardo

Muriel Jobbers

Ruth Oliver Jolliffe

Julia Steiny

Louis Verdelotti

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Fr. Benjamin Straley, *Rector*

The Rev'd Fr. William Locke, *Assisting Priest*

The Rev'd Fr. Michael A. Pearson, *Assisting Priest*

The Rev'd Mtr. Veronica Tierney, *Assisting Priest*

L. Graham Schultz, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Andrew Lonardo, *Sexton*

Kiersten Marek, *Nursery Childcare Provider*

James Busby, *Organist & Choirmaster Emeritus*

THE SOLEMN PROCLAMATION OF CHRISTMAS



The Twenty-fifth Day of December,
when ages beyond number had run their course
from the creation of the world,

when God in the beginning created heaven and earth,
and formed man in his own likeness;

when century upon century had passed
since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood,
as a sign of covenant and peace;

in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith,
came out of Ur of the Chaldees;

in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses
in the Exodus from Egypt;

around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;

in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;

in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

in the year seven hundred and fifty-two
since the foundation of the City of Rome;

in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus,
the whole world being at peace,

JESUS CHRIST eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence,
was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and when nine months had passed since his conception,
was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah,
and was made man:

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE FLESH.

