



## Faith Episcopal Church at Wheeler Memorial Chapel

The Sunday Following Christmas Day – December 26, 2021 & The Feast of St. Stephen

The Rev. Patricia E. Henking, Vicar ☩ The Rev. Michael B. Reinke, Curate

Nancy E. Jamrog-Couret, Music Director; Jane Howard & Therese Wright, Wardens

8:30 am – The Holy Eucharist Rite 1 – BCP page 323 and following

10:00 am – An Order for Celebrating the Holy Eucharist, BCP p, 400 ff

☩ Please wear a mask & observe social distance whether or not you are vaccinated.

☩ Also note: *This color print signifies music.* Bold, black Italics signifies "Please say in unison."

☩ The Bishop's Committee Budget Meeting will be Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 10:00 – Pledge Packets/sheets are available! Please turn in 2022 pledges this week! The Annual Meeting will be via Zoom at 2:00 pm on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Prelude, Gathering and Announcements – Hymn #87 (entire) – Hark! The herald angels sing**

**The Collect for Purity – Unison – 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.**

**The Collect for Christmas I:** Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Collect for the Feast of St. Stephen:** We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr Stephen, who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

**Light a Christ Child Candle (NEJ-C) (the final two verses)**

**Light a Christ Child candle for God's Spirit that is love: Glories of the heav'nly host open realms of love above.**

**Light a Christ Child candle for God's Spirit that is love**

**Light a Christ Child candle. Pray for Peace and Harmony. Let it blaze a Path of Love for all humanity.**

**Light a Christ Child candle. Pray for Peace and Harmony.**

**A Scripture Reading – Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**The Gradual Hymn #83, v. 1 & 6 – O come, all ye faithful**

**A Gospel Reading – John 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ☩ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ☩ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ☩ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**Homily – Where shall we begin?**

**Our Thank Offering – Prayers of Gratitude and Intercession may be offered – A donation is not required.**

**The Prayers of the People** (Adapted: *The Bidding Prayer*, Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge)

Beloved in Christ, let us pray for the needs of Christ's whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and kindness within the Church He came to build. And because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us at this time remember in His Name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and unloved; the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. The almighty God bless us with His grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

✚ Memorials, Thanksgivings and Intercessions may be added ...

✚ Celebrant: Walk in love as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

**At the Offertory & Preparation of the Altar, Hymn #109 v. 1 & 6 – The first Nowell**

**Consecration of Bread and Wine – The Great Thanksgiving**



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

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

**Celebrant** Lift up your hearts.

**People** *We lift them to the Lord.*

**Celebrant** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

**Celebrant** Let us pray together:

***We give thanks to God for the work and blessing of Creation – and for sending Christ into the world in Love and Peace. We remember before God our hope in gathering today ...***

***Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón te adora! Mi corazón te sabe decir: santo eres Señor!  
Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you! My heart is glad to say, the words: You are holy, Lord!***

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

***Recalling Christ's suffering and death, and celebrating his resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Accept, O Lord, our sacrifice of praise, this remembrance of your unfailing love.***

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness.

***We pray that all may receive the benefits of Christ's work, and the renewal of the Holy Spirit.***

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.

***May the Child born at Christmas 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. **AMEN.**

**The Breaking of the Bread, The Lord's Prayer, Holy Communion**

Everyone who sincerely wishes to receive Communion is welcome. Please take (gluten-free) bread from the tin, and then take a small glass of wine, drink from your cup and return it. If you prefer a blessing, let us know by crossing your arms over your chest.

**During Communion – The chorus from *On the Hillsides* (NEJ-C) is repeated reverently –  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Then the Celebrant says: **Let us pray.**

***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 Blessing – Recessional Hymn #100, v. 1, 4 – Joy to the world!**

The Dismissal is followed by the response, **Thanks be to God. Ukuthula.**

**Postlude**

Good King Wences'las looked out, on the Feast of Stephen,  
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even;  
Brightly shone the moon that night, tho' the frost was cruel,  
When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel.

"Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou know'st it, telling,  
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"  
"Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain;  
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither:  
Thou and I shall see him dine, when we bear them thither."  
Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together;  
Through the rude wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.



"Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger;  
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."  
"Mark my footsteps, good my page. Tread thou in them boldly  
Thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly."

In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;  
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,  
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.