

SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN
Spiritual, Traditional

“Do Lord”

Alleluia III #91

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

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.**

All Children will stay in the service today to enjoy Youth Sunday.

GLORIA

“Glory to God”

by Robert Powell © Church Publishing Co.

Alleluia III #225

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

YOUTH SUNDAY

APRIL 28, 2024

7:45 A.M. 9 A.M. 11:15 A.M.

**WELCOME TO
SAINT STEPHEN'S**

We are delighted to have you worship with us today at Youth Sunday! Today we will sing songs from the Yellow Alleluia III book and hear sermons from our graduating high school seniors.

Whether online or in-person, we are eager to help you grow in your faith. We offer many ways to connect through prayer, serving, and learning through Christian formation. Please reach out to staff or clergy with questions and to get connected at Saint Stephen's.

In order for worship to be a space for focus and prayer, please silence your phones.

A Note about the Service

When page numbers are preceded by BCP, this refers to the Book of Common Prayer, found in the pew rack. Service music is found in the red Hymnal 1982 or in the yellow Alleluia III songbook.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:24-30

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.



The bridge at Camp McDowell stretches across Clear Creek; you should never jump off the bridge without adult supervision.

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

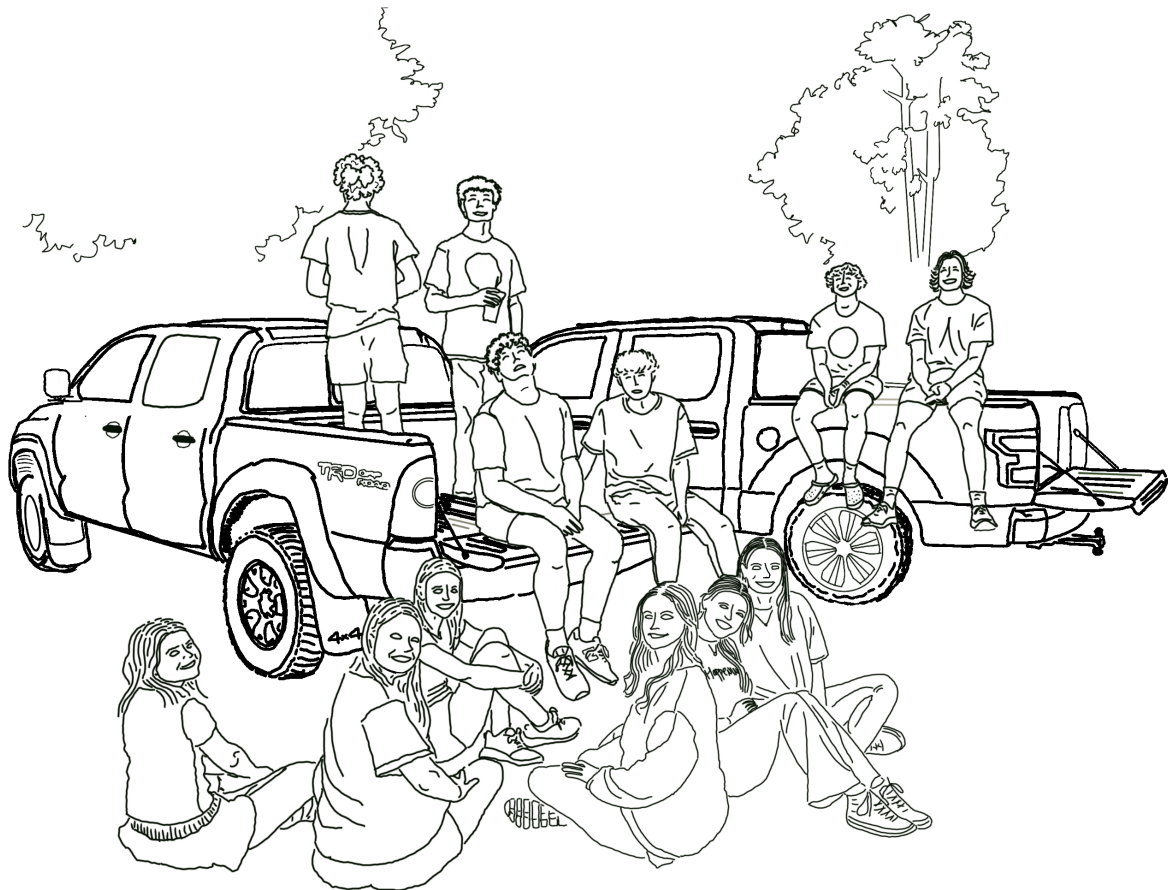
15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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

THE SERMON

7:45 a.m. – Sarah Dunlap, Reese Fetner, and Jackson Best Cook
9:00 a.m. – Sarah Dunlap, Reese Fetner, Jackson Best Cook
11:15 a.m. – Adeline Smith, Jason Thompson, Jackson Short



Please stand.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
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
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.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) School Banners in the Nave

We display our youth's high and middle schools on our walls because our location is uniquely diverse. Instead of serving one or two local schools, we have students from six high schools and five middle schools.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE BY THE YOUTH OF SAINT STEPHEN'S

Let us pray for our Saint Stephen's family, our Birmingham community, this nation, and our Earth.

Almighty God, we pray that the strong community of our church will be united through your love and truth. Please protect all who know you and those who wish to know more about you; let them come together in your word and be disciples to the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, keep a watchful eye on us, your children in this nation, and unite us in a time of divisiveness and instability. Show the way to your people and the world in unity and harmony, that we respect one another and strive to do good in your name. Let us pray for those in conflict, locally and globally, that they might find peace.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, grant us peace throughout the earth as your servants so that we may use your brilliance for the goodness of your people. Help us to sustain the beauty of your creation. Let us pray for the environment, so that we may use it rightly and for its intended purposes.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, bless our neighbors, so that we may do your work and love one another as Christ loves us. Let us pray for our friends and neighbors to spread Jesus's love to all those around us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, help all those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and show them the joy of your love. Fill us with your presence and help us through times of need. Bring us the peace of your sacrifice. Let us pray for all with physical and mental health illnesses, and let God's love bring healing and hope. We pray especially for...

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we pray for peace to all who have died, that you will guide them through your eternal kingdom. Bring comfort to those still on earth, that we may soon join you in your kingdom forever and ever. We pray especially for...

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We ask all youth recently receiving their driver's licenses to come forward and receive a blessed keychain.

Gracious God, look over our young people as they have come to an occasion of great privilege and responsibility. In the new freedoms that driving affords them, help them to remember all of us who trust them to drive safely, wisely, and kindly. In all their life journeys, go with them and bear them up with your sheltering love. And may this adventure be only one of the thousands in which your gifts of freedom and care go hand-in-hand to bless them; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

We ask all youth who are graduating from high school to come forward and receive a blessing for their continuing journey into young adulthood.

In every beginning is an ending, O Lord, and in every end something new begins. Our children, have graduated from high school, and are ready now for new learning and experiences. Grant that childhood's innocence and hope may remain alive in them, bringing joy as they mature. Grant that they may hear your still small voice in their heart saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Help them preserve old friendships while creating new ones. Grant that we who love them may help them to find their own voice, their own words and their own work in Christ's true way, who knows these persons as they were created to be; we pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

THE OFFERTORY

Thank you for your continued support of God's work through Saint Stephen's. The cash offering today along with any checks designated for the youth (in the memo line) will support youth programming.

If you've come prepared to honor God with your giving today, you may place an offering in the offering plate, mail a check to the church, scan the code in the back of the bulletin, or visit ssechurch.org/give.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *"I Saw the Light"*
Hank Williams Sr., Copyright 1948 Sony/ATV Roas Music (BMI)

Alleluia III #88

PRESENTATION HYMN *"Doxology"*

Alleluia III #221

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Alleluia III #230

by David Dubay © 1989, All Rights Reserved

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Lord we sing your praise.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord we sing your praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord we sing your praise.

Lord we sing your praise.

Lord we sing your praise.

Standing

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have 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 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

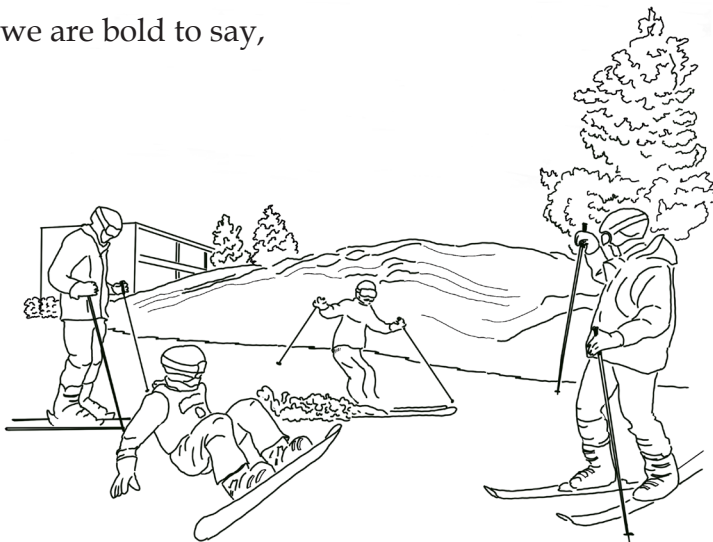
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your 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 your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your 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 is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

Our Father, who 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.



Every year, our youth group takes exciting trips to Six Flags over Georgia, Mystery Road Trips, and our annual Ski Trip to West Virginia. We build these into our program because we are called to fellowship with friends and have fun together!

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

FRACTION ANTHEM

“Eat This Bread”

Alleluia III #201

“Eat This Bread” by Communauté de Taizé (1984); adapt. Robert J. Batastini (1984) © 1984 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France; admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

THE INVITATION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

This is the 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.

All who seek Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.

*Gluten free wafers are available at the altar rail by indicating need to one of the clergy.
It is our custom at Saint Stephen's to remain kneeling or standing
at the altar rail until all have taken communion.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"Alleluia, He is Coming"

Martha Butler, Copyright 1979 Martha Butler, 213 S. Lamar st., Roxboro NC 27573

Alleluia III #7

"Irish Blessing"

Nikoma Clark, Words traditional Irish Blessing, Music: Nikoma Clark

Alleluia III #114

"Alleluia (8 Fold)"

Traditional

Alleluia III #6

Blessing for Communion for the Homebound

*In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom
you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.*

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

**All Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BCP 365



Each year, our Saint Stephen's Youth Program is challenged to friendly competition in Field Day relay games against other Birmingham Episcopal Churches. Saint Stephen's Youth has been crowned the champion of two tournament meetings in the past two years!"

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

“I’ll Fly Away”

Alleluia III #87

Albert E. Brumley, Copyright 1932 in “Wonderful Message” by Hartford Music Co. Renewed 1960 by Albert E. Brumley & /SESAC (admin. By ICG). All rights reserved.

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Youth Ministry wants to express our deepest gratitude to the adult volunteers who have dedicated their time to mentoring, leading groups, teaching Sunday School, assisting with fundraising, providing meals, and chaperoning trips for the youth. Your invaluable support is highly appreciated. Furthermore, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the clergy and staff at Saint Stephen’s for their unwavering dedication to the youth’s mission by providing ideas, giving outreach opportunities, and supporting them in various activities within our community.

Ann and Steve Thompson
Ann Brasher
Ann Carpenter
Ashley and Grifford Haynes
Beth O’Neill
Betsy Fetner
Cate Mehrer
Christina and Michael McGovern
Christine Abenoja
Chuck Jones
CJ Van Slyke
Connor Parker
Diane Hightow
Frank Holmes
Georganne and Thomas Perrine
Hannah and Logan Oakes
Heather Allegrezza
Jess Garrison

Jim Noles
Joan Short
John Freeman
Julie Childers
Keith Cromwell
Kim and Xan Glover
Kristen Crane
Leslie and D.R. Dunlap
Lin and Jim Musgrove
Lindsey Hull
Lynn Worley
Martha Noble
Mary and Michael Yancey
Melody and Chris Eagan
Mindy and Chris Strickland
Rocco Calamusa
Ryan Short
Sandra and Randy Girouard
Tom Robershaw

Online Offertory

If you’ve come prepared to honor God with your giving today, you may scan the code and make a donation online.



Thank you to all who served in our services today!

If you would like to know who they are or when you are scheduled to serve in the future, please scan the code.



MUSIC PERMISSIONS

“I Saw the Light” Hank Williams Sr., Copyright 1948 Sony/ATV Roas Music (BMI)

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“Alleluia, He is Coming” by Martha Butler, © 1979 Martha Butler, 213 S. Lamar st., Roxboro NC 27573

“Eat This Bread” by Communauté de Taizé (1984); adapt. Robert J. Batastini (1984)

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SAINT STEPHEN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3775 Crosshaven Drive • Birmingham, Alabama 35223
205.967.8786 • www.ssechurch.org

CLERGY

The Reverend John Burruss, Rector
The Reverend Katherine Harper, Associate Rector for Pastoral Care and Liturgy
The Reverend Mary Bea Sullivan, Director of Spirituality and Wellness
The Reverend Ron DelBene, Priest Associate
The Reverend CJ Van Slyke, Deacon Emerita

LAY STAFF

Kristyn Bara, Minister for Communication
Pat Bills, Minister for Stewardship and Development
Zachary Brown, Parish Administrator
Maria Elena Cruz, Housekeeper
Micah Cummings, Facilities Manager
Leslie Dunlap, Preschool Director and Wedding Coordinator
Ryas Esdale, Club 56 Intern
Kathy Graham, Director of Christian Education
Diane Hightower, Parish Life Coordinator
Ann Day Hunt, Financial Manager
Jennifer Jones, Director of Children's Ministries
Gretchen Lerner, Minister for Welcome and Evangelism
Taylor McLemore, Minister for Youth Formation
Andy Meginniss, Folk Music Director
Cate Mehrer, Youth Ministries Assistant
Whitney Page, Music Director
Natalie Tally, Pianist
Emma Woolhouse, Nursery Director

FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS - 10:15 TO 11:00 A.M.

Sunday Forum - Parish Hall
Inquirers' Class - Room 229

4K to High School - Carpenter Hall
Faith & Life Parents' Class - Room 228

SAINT STEPHEN'S SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II — Nave
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II — Nave and via Livestream
10:15 a.m. Formation for Adults & Children
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II — Nave
5:00 p.m. Celtic Eucharist — Nave
6:00 p.m. Simple Community Supper — Parish Hall

Nursery Available at 9:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 5:00 p.m.

Children's Chapel (4 yrs - 4th grade) at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. in Carpenter Hall