

Our Mission Statement

*St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship
God in Christ, nurture people growing in faith,
serve others with acceptance and love,
invite people to share the joy of the spirit.*

Reconciling in Christ

*"We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.
We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race
or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity,
gender expression, or relationship status.
We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or
mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances,
or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ."*

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.
2500 Soquel Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831/476-4700 FAX 831/476-3918
email: office@ststephenslutheran.org
Web Address: www.ststephenslutheran.org
Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. Noon—5:00 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
Church Musician: Gary Roberts
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens
Custodian: John Hopping
Videographers: Kent Madsen & Barb Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

Third Sunday after Epiphany January 22, 2023

WELCOME AND A NOTE TO VISITORS

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

The Gathering

*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
Who creates us,
Redeems us,
And calls us by name.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: *Most merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
And your beloved children.
We have turned our faces away from your glory
When it did not appear as we expected.
We have rejected your word
When it made us confront ourselves.
We have failed to show hospitality
To those you called us to welcome.
Accept our repentance for the things we have done
And the things we have left undone.;
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe
In the glory of your Son Born among us,
And reflect your love for all creation.
Amen.*

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JAN. 29 @ 11:00 AM

ALSO VIA ZOOM

(watch for email link)

We gather together immediately following worship to elect leadership to our Church Council, elect voting members for Synod Assembly, and approve a budget for 2023 that reflects our mission.

The Proposed Budget is available in the narthex.

Please plan on attending to support your church as we continue to seek God's will for our ministry together.

Please sign up to help on Sundays

It takes a lot of us to make things run smoothly during worship. Welcoming new folks & each other is our priority, so we cannot do without GREETERS. There are also spots for READERS and SET UP. Don't be shy, training is available. And let's be honest, COFFEE is always nice.

Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: Gary Toops, Donna Kemperer, Lisa, Family of Sandie Sanders, Craig Dahl, Family of Kurt Bell, Genell Csik, Mike Homa, Mateo, Family of Mark Cronquist, Erica Curry, Rosio, Barbara Stiles, Alessandra, John W., Family of Connor Kowalski, Shiela P., Mary Smith, Paul Cunningham, Barbara Allen, Beth Stiles, Anita & Howard, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Deborah Henry, Carla, Ellie, Adrian Cameron, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia),

Upcoming Events:

January Benevolence Offering = Community Bridges

TBA	Confirmation Class 6:30 pm
Jan. 23	Newsletter Deadline at noon
Jan. 24	Habitat Lunches 10:30 am
Jan. 24	Boyscouts 7:00 pm
Jan. 26	Preschool Chapel 10:15
Jan. 26	Bible Study 11:00 & 7:30 pm (Zoom)
Jan. 29	Annual Congregational Meeting 11:00 am Sign up for snacks
Jan. 30	Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm (helpers needed)
Feb. 1 & 15	Women's Café Group 6:00 pm
Feb. 5	Scout Sunday
Feb. 14	Church Council 6:30 pm

Pastor's Office Hours Weds. & Thurs. 10:00 to 1:00

P: Rejoice in this good news:

In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

Your are descendants of the Most High,

Adopted into the household of Christ,

And inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

C: Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

"Shine Jesus Shine" Red #671

REFRAIN:

Shine, Jesus, shine,

Fill this land with the Father's glory;

Blaze Spirit, blaze ,

Set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow ,

Flood the nations with grace & mercy;

Send forth your Word ,

Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, the light of your love is shining

In the midst of the darkness, shining

Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us

Set us free by the truth you now bring us

Shine on me, shine on me...

REFRAIN

As we gaze on your kingly brightness

So our faces display your likeness

Ever changing from glory to glory

Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story

Shine on me, shine on me...

REFRAIN

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence

From the shadows into Your radiance

By the blood I may enter Your brightness

Search me, try me, consume all my darkness

Shine on me, shine on me...

REFRAIN

*Greeting

*P: Grace and peace from God our Creator,
from God who became one of us, Jesus Christ,
and may the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Kyrie

Kyrie 18



Music: Jacques Bouffier
© 1998, Les Éditions de la CMA Publications, Inc. - Agence

1. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.
2. Christe eleison. Christe eleison.
3. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Glory to God

WOV #607

REFRAIN

Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, If you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

"I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?" **REFRAIN**

"I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?" **REFRAIN**

*Dismissal

P: Go with Christ into a weary world.
Share the good news.
C: Thanks be to God.

Serving Today

Reader: Janet Slay
Coffee Host: Mararet & Bill Schraft

*The Altar flowers are given By Rebecca Wickham
in celebration of John's birthday*



I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
 Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
 And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
 I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. *REFRAIN*

Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ
 strengthen us and keep us in God's grace now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Prayer after Communion

P: We give you thanks, gracious God,
 For we have feasted on the abundance of your house.
 Send us to bring good news
 And to proclaim your favor to all,
 Strengthen with the richness of your grace
 In your Son, Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

The Sending

*Blessing

P: God who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
 Who rejoices over you,
 And who calls you by name,
 † Bless your going about and your coming in,
 Today and forever.

C: **Amen**

*Closing Hymn "Here I Am, Lord" Red #574

"I, the Lord of sea and sky,
 I have heard my people cry.
 All who dwell in deepest sin
 My hand will save.
 I, who made the stars of night,
 I will make their darkness bright.
 Who will bear my light to them?
 Whom shall I send?"

(continued)

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth!

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth!

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on



us; ————— you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. —————

☐ Glo - ry to God in the high - est, ————— and peace ———

————— to God's peo - ple on earth! —————

☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, ————— ☐ you a - lone are the

Most — High, Je - sus Christ, ————— with the

Ho - ly Spir - it, ☐ in the glo - ry of God, the

Fa - ther. ————— A - men! ————— A - men! —————

☐ Glo - ry to God in the high - est, ————— and peace ———

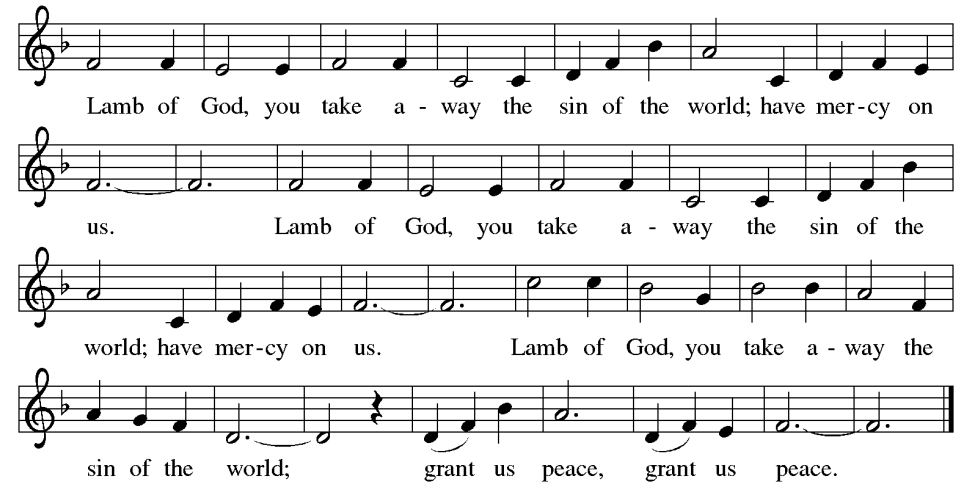
————— to God's peo - ple on earth! —————

Holy Communion

Visitors: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come and receive a special blessing if they have never communed. Communion is by intinction, we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Please follow the guidance of the ushers.

#195

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn "I Love to Tell the Story" Red #661

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.**

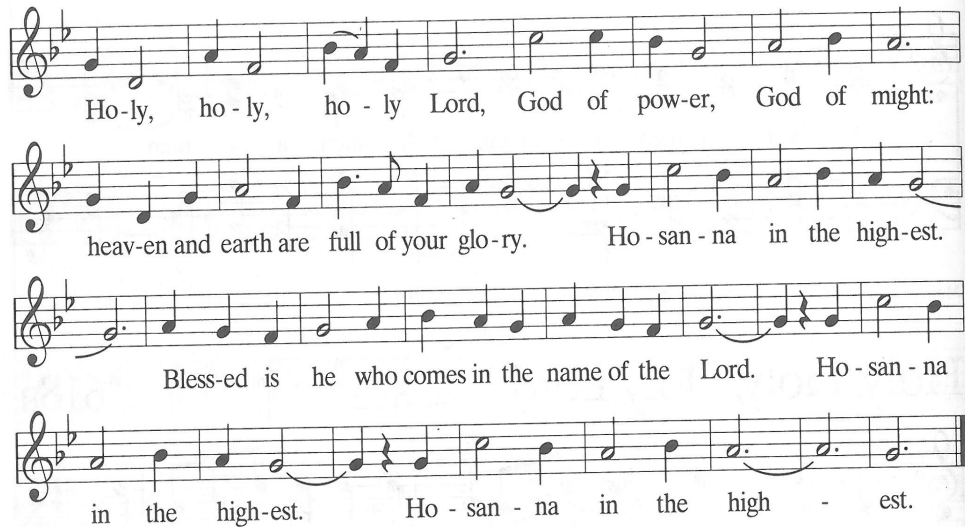
REFRAIN

**I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

**I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy word. REFRAIN**

619a

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

*Words of Institution*Lord's Prayer

C: 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

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to God's table.
 There is a place for you and enough for all.

*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: May God be with you. **C: And also with you.**
 P: Let us pray... **C: (following the prayer) Amen.**

The Word of God

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Celebrate pg. 3

L: Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation

ALLELUIA



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 4th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O God.

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:12-23

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“Will You Come and Follow Me” (The Summons) Red #798

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray’r in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris’ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found
to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Reception of New Member Tina Gates

*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

*Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.
C: And also with you.

The Communion Meal

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of
the gifts with which we have been blessed.

*Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God,
Sovereign of the universe
You offer us new beginnings
And guide us on our journey.
Lead us to your table,
Nourish us with this heavenly food,
And prepare us to carry your love
To a hungry world,
In the name of Christ our light.

C: Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them up to God.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....and join their
unending hymn: