

# THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED

MATTHEW 3:17



# **Baptism of Our Lord**

## **January 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**

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.

Music “When Jesus Came to Jordan” English Folk tune

### **The Gathering**

#### Call to Worship

“Come to the Water of Life” Blue #955

1. All who are thirsty for mercy,  
all who are thirsty for love;  
All who are thirsty for love, for mercy, come:  
Come to the Water of life.
2. All who are thirsty for healing,  
all who are thirsty for touch;  
All who are thirsty for touch, for healing, come:  
Come to the Water of life.
3. All who are thirsty for beauty,  
all who are thirsty for truth;  
All who are thirsty for truth, for beauty, come:  
Come to the Water of life.
4. All who are thirsty for justice,  
all who are thirsty for peace;  
All who are thirsty for peace, for justice, come:  
Come to the Water of life.

## \*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,  
Our creator,  
Our protector  
Our wellspring of life.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of  
our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: Merciful God,

**C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.  
Forgive us for the ways we act  
With judgment, cruelty, or indifference.  
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;  
We resist your call to oppose injustice;  
We give in to scarcity and fear;  
We assume the worst about one another.  
Cleanse us from our faulty  
And release us from their grasp.  
Show us your loving kindness.  
Restore our heart and repair your world,  
That we may live in Christ's ways.  
Amen.**

P: God proclaims these words of assurance;  
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name. You are mine.”  
In † Christ, you are forgiven.  
In the Spirit, you are made free.  
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,  
Live anew as beloved children of God.

**C: Amen**

1.     Bright and glorious is the sky,  
      radiant are the heavens high  
      where the golden stars are shining.  
      All their rays to earth inclining  
      beckon us to heav'n above,  
      Beckon us to heav'n above.
2.     On that holy Christmas night  
      through the darkness beamed a light;  
      all the stars above were paling,  
      all their luster slowly failing  
      as the wondrous star drew nigh,  
      As the wondrous star drew nigh.
3.     Sages from the east afar,  
      when they saw this wondrous star,  
      went to find the king of nations  
      and to offer their oblations  
      to the child, the newborn king,  
      To the child, the newborn king.
4.     Him they found in Bethlehem,  
      yet he wore no diadem;  
      there they saw a maiden lowly  
      with infant pure and holy  
      resting in her loving arms,  
      Resting in her loving arms.
5.     Guided by the star, they found  
      him whose praise the ages sound.  
      We too have a star to guide us,  
      Which forever will provide us  
      With the light to find our Lord,  
      With the light to find our Lord.



6. And this star, as bright as day,  
That will never lead astray  
With its message so appealing,  
Is the word of God, revealing  
Christ, the way, the truth, the life,  
Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

\*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

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

Kyrie 18



Music: Jacques Balthus  
© 1998, Les Presses de Talon, CEA Publications, Inc., agent

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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

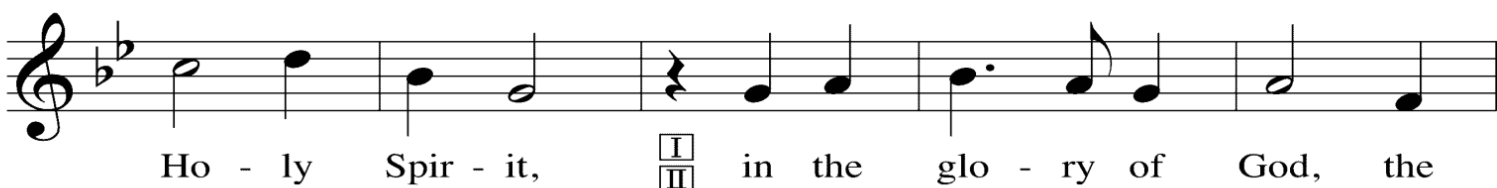
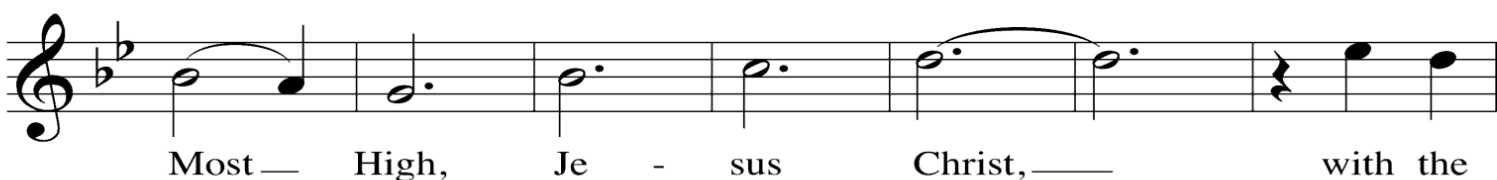
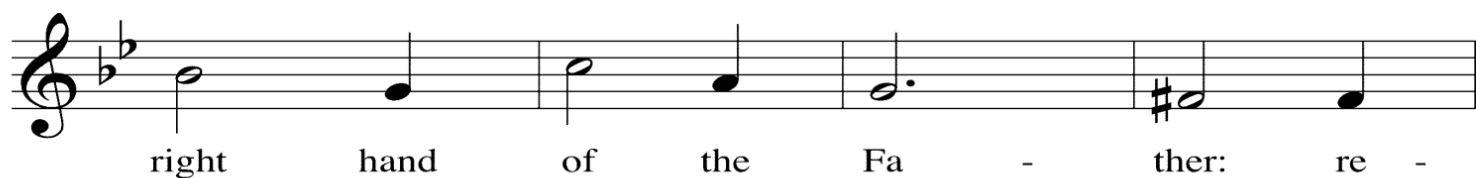
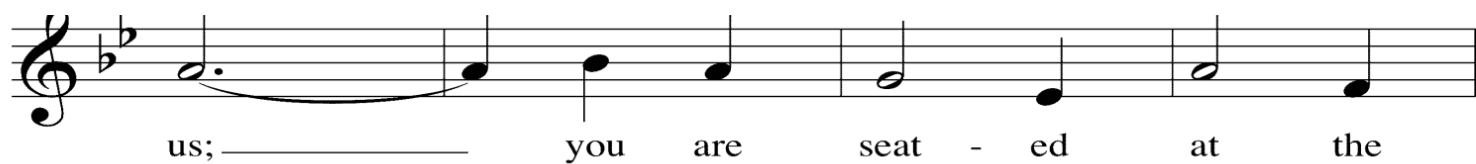
peo - ple on earth! —

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



\*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 42:1-9

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 29

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Celebrate pg. 2

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**M: Thanks be to God.**

### ALLELUIA



\*Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 3rd Chapter

C: Glory to you O God.



\*Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day    *"Brightest and Best of the Stars"*    Red #303

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew drops are shining;  
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and monarch and savior of all.

What shall we give him in costly devotion?  
Shall we bring incense and off'rings divine,  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

\*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 Hymn

*“This Little Light of Mine”*

*Red #677*

This little light of mine, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
This little light of mine, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
This little light of mine, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Music      “Down Gallilee’s Slow Roadways”   Blue #916  
                 Hal Hopson / Sylvia Dunstan

\*Offering Prayer

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
And your abundance to the depths of the seas.  
Bless what we offer to your service;  
Our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
Now and always.

**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.....

### \*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: The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come eat this meal of gladness.

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).*

#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.

**REFRAIN**

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,  
Wade in the water, God's agoin' a trouble the water.

See that host all dressed in white,  
God's agoin' a trouble the water.  
The leader looks like the Israelite.  
God's agoin' a trouble the water.

**REFRAIN**

See that band all dressed in red,  
God's agoin' a trouble the water.  
Looks like the band that Moses led.  
God's agoin' a trouble the water.

**REFRAIN**

Look over yonder, what do I see?  
God's agoin' a trouble the water.  
The Holy Ghost a coming on me.  
God's agoin' a trouble the water.

**REFRAIN**

If you don't believe I've been redeemed,  
God's agoin' a trouble the water.  
Just follow me down to Jordan's stream.  
God's agoin' a trouble the water.

**REFRAIN**

Prayer after Communion

P: Nourishing God,  
At this table you have refreshed us  
With holy gifts of food and drink.  
Strengthen us for service,  
And send us out to embody your good news  
Of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray,

**C: Amen**

## Post Communion Hymn

“Light Shone in Darkness” Red #307

Light shone in darkness at the world’s creation,  
Bathing in beauty nature’s revelation.  
All that has being Cry in adoration,  
“Praise for the light. Amen!”

Light shone in darkness at the new creation;  
Christ rose in glory, won for us salvation.  
Sing, earth and heaven,  
Hymns of jubilation, praise for the light. Amen!

Light shines in darkness till the full creation;  
Christ’s body, groaning, suffers tribulation,  
longs for God’s justice,  
Global transformation, prays for the light. Amen!

## **The Sending**

### \*Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God  
† Bless you with joy,  
Anoint you with compassion,  
And send you in love.

**C: Amen**

### \*Closing Hymn

“When a Star is Shining” Blue #915

When a star is shining over eastern hills,  
When the air is silent, and the clamor stills,



When the night is waiting, and the old hopes rise,  
Then the time has ripened and the heart grows wise.

REFRAIN

Lead us on, lead us on,  
to a morning where the promise shines.  
Lead us on, lead us on,  
to a morning where the promise shines.

Where the world is waiting for an unknown day,  
Where a voice forgotten cries, "Prepare the way!"  
Where an earthly power makes the heart turn cold,  
There their gifts are offered — incense, myrrh, and gold.

Lead us on, O Daystar, in the quiet night;  
Guide us through the shadow with your gentle light;  
Show us in a manger our redemption's sign;  
Bring us to a morning where the promise shines.

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Music

"We Are Called"

David Haas



*The Altar Flowers are given  
By Connie Cunningham  
Celebrating Family birthdays*

## Serving Today

Reader: Mark Linder  
Coffee Host : Rebecca Wickham  
Office Help: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



### SHORT TERM

Bob Holzwarth, Mary Robe & Family, Renee, Family of Laura Gates, Sina & Bella, Katie's family, Chad Fields, Laura, Ayla, Tate & Terry, Beth Stiles, Margaret Schraft, Laura & twin babies, James, Don & Taiyo, Gary & Connie Stevenson, Family of Bobbie Erickson, Kevin, Marc Northcott, Cheryl & David Craig, Beth, Liz, Joan Wilson Family, Sam, Florence, Tom Williams, Tim Oldfield, Kathy M., Nancy, Jennifer Linkeon, Corrine & Daniel, Connie Garcia & Family, Tina & family, Ana, Kathybelle Barlow, Family & friends of Rev. Jim Carr, Grey, Levi, James, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Isaac & Marissa, Mateo & Lina, Atlas, Sal, Katarina.

LONG TERM Those suffering with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Beth UG, Brian Utto, Kathy Brooks, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), Miller, April, Aaron Johnson, Shelby, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Mike, Susan Anderson, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris & John B., Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

# Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 25 at 11 am



We gather together to elect leadership to council, elect voting members for Synod Assembly, and approve a budget for 2026 that reflects our mission. Please plan on attending to support your church as we continue to seek God's will for our ministry together. Contact the office if you can assist with the coffee hour (provide finger foods & clean up).

## Other Giving Options

We are now able to receive donations made by:  
credit card, debit card, PayPal, Venmo & Zelle.

There are three choices:

- 1) **Vanco**, our regular electronic giving provider;
- 2) **PayPal / Venmo / Zelle** for single one-time gifts;
- 3) **PayPal** with the possibility of recurring donations and an option to cover the fees. All are available at <https://ststephenslutheran.org>





# TAIZÉ

Prayer Silence & Meditative Song

**Wednesday, January 21st at 6:00 pm**

Are you feeling a bit out of sorts, stressed, harried, super busy? At times, I do. When I lived in San Jose and was a member of Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, I discovered the power of a Taizé service to help me find peace, calm, connection to community and to God.

Taizé was founded during World War II by Brother Robert Schutz. The community has grown into an international center for spirituality. Its mission emphasizes reconciliation, peace, and unity among Christians from diverse backgrounds. The heart of Taizé worship are simple repetitive chants that create a serene atmosphere conducive to meditation & prayer.

A Taizé service includes beautiful melodies that allow us to enter into a spirit of prayer. The simplicity of the chants invites everyone to participate. The service includes scripture readings and moments of silence providing space for personal reflection and listening to God's voice.

The service includes candle lighting, symbolizing our prayers and intentions for ourselves and others.

A Taizé service to be a midweek opportunity to step away from the busyness of life and immerse ourselves in God's presence. It is an opportunity for all of us – families, singles, youth, seniors – to pause, pray and connect with God and one another in a peaceful environ. It is an opportunity to gather together for a powerful evening of faith, meditation & community.

If you would like to join a group of us in planning a Taizé experience for St. Stephen's and the wider SC community please let us know .

- Mark Linder

# Upcoming Events:

January Benevolence Offering = Community Bridges

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Jan. 13 | - Scouts 6:00 pm<br>- Knitters 6:15 pm  |
| Jan. 14 | - Preschool Chapel 10:15 am<br>- Bible Study 7:30 pm  |
| Jan. 15 | - Knitter's 10:15 am<br>- Annual Reports due<br>- Men's A.A. 7:00 pm  |
| Jan. 16 | A. A. Group 7:00 pm   |
| Jan. 22 | - Newsletter Deadline<br>- Women's Café 6:00 pm Dinner & Devotions  |
| Jan. 21 | Taize Service 6:00 pm   |
| Jan. 25 | Annual Meeting after 10 am worship  |
| Jan. 29 | Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm  |
| Jan. 31 | Provide AFC Shelter Dinner 5:45—7:15 pm<br>St. John's 125 Canterbury Drive Aptos<br>Offer your resources to our neighbors without housing.<br>We are all worthy of dignity and connection. You can assist those without homes to a better life. (see sign up) |
| Feb. 1  | Scout Sunday—meet the troop & enjoy their treats  |
| Feb. 18 | Ash Wednesday Worship   |

\* Sign up to Read, Host Coffee & Dedicate Altar Flowers \*

**Pastor's Office Hours Weds 10:00 to 1:00**

## **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](mailto:office@ststephenslutheran.org)  
Web Address: [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)  
Office Hours: Mon.—Friday. 12:00 —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: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barb Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539