



St Philip's
Come & See

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Sunday 26 December 2021
St Stephen's Day



Welcome to St Philip's

St Philip's COVIDSafe Plan - It is a requirement that everyone checks in via the *CBR Check In* app. If you need assistance the Sidespeople and Welcomers can check you in. We are asking all folk to be aware of the restrictions, to be careful and thorough with their hand hygiene, to be mindful of social distance and not to attend church if they feel unwell. We are now able to have up to 65 folk in church. Masks are mandated in the ACT and must be worn in places of worship.

Pew sheet & Order of Service: the Pew sheet including a complete order of service is available on our website. The QR code in the pews will direct you to the current edition, please use your phone/tablet and follow along. Alternatively service cards and a printed abridged Pew sheet is available.

Offertory: at the offertory when our gifts are brought forward, there is an opportunity for you to make your contribution. A self-serve EFTPOS machine is available in the foyer, you can use it before or after the service. St Philip's EFT details are also available if you would like to make a direct transfer: 702-389 05202512. Giving cards are in the foyer if you wish to place something in the offertory bag after giving electronically.

Communion: if you are baptised you are welcome to receive communion, which at present is in 'one kind.' If you would like to receive a blessing please cross your hands on your chest as you come forward.

Breakfast or Morning Tea: all our services are followed with hospitality on the Lamerton Centre deck, please join us - 'Come & See'

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

As I write preparations are underway for this year's Christmass celebrations. Once again unfortunately our gatherings are subject to ongoing restrictions and regulations, but I hope that the joy of the festival will see us through these trying times. Our COVIDSafe Plan has been revised following the mask mandate

Susan and I will be taking some time for R&R during January and I am very grateful that we have a team of Parish clergy able to cover my absence. Sunday services will resume at 8 and 10 from next Sunday and the Thursday Eucharists will continue.

Today we celebrate the feast of St Stephen, a day better known as Boxing Day and a celebration recalled by many only by the carol Good King Wenceslas! But it is an important Festival. We read of St Stephen in the Book of Acts as a Deacon and the first Christian martyr. It is a dramatic return to earth following the celebrations that preceded it, but is a salient reminder to us of the violence that followed the birth of Jesus and that the journey to the cross begins at Bethlehem.

Last Tuesday (St Thomas' Day) The Rev'd Bob Lindbeck celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. Congratulations Bob on 50 years of priestly ministry, rest assured of our gratitude and prayers.

Every blessing to you all for this season and for the coming year.

Martin

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Eucharist for St Stephen's Day

Introit Hymn

Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about
Deep and crisp and even
Brightly shone the moon that night
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man came in sight
Gathering winter fuel.

Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou knowst 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 winds 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 shall find the winters rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.

In his masters step he trod
Where the snow lay dinted
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed
Therefore, Christians all, be sure
Wealth or rank possessing
Ye, who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.

John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Entrance Antiphon

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him.

Acts 7:55,58

Introductory Rites

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

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: 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.

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

As Stephen rebuked God's people for not listening to the word of God,
let us confess our stubbornness and sin which resist the Holy Spirit.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep ✠ you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we 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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory,
for the example of Stephen, the first martyr,
who prayed for his persecutors,

and looked to him who was crucified,
your Son Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, in glory everlasting.

Amen.

Today's Readings

A reading from the second book of Chronicles (24:17-22)

Now after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came and did obeisance to the king; then the king listened to them. ¹⁸They abandoned the house of the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and served the sacred poles and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. ¹⁹Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the Lord; they testified against them, but they would not listen.

²⁰ Then the spirit of God took possession of Zechariah son of the priest Jehoiada; he stood above the people and said to them, 'Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has also forsaken you.' ²¹But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the Lord. ²²King Joash did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. As he was dying, he said, 'May the Lord see and avenge!'

Psalm 31:1-8

To you, Lord, have I come for shelter:
let me never be put to shame.

O deliver me in your righteousness:

incline your ear to me and be swift to save me.

Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress to defend me:
for you are my high rock and my stronghold.

Lead me and guide me for your name's sake:

**bring me out of the net that they have secretly laid for me,
for you are my strength.**

Into your hands I commit my spirit:
you will redeem me, O Lord God of truth.

I hate those that clutch vain idols:

but my trust is in the Lord.

I will rejoice and be glad in your loving-kindness:
for you have looked on my distress and known me in adversity.

You have not given me over to the power of the enemy:

you have set my feet where I may walk at liberty.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (6:8-10; 7:54-60)

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.

⁵⁴When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Gradual Hymn 294 (TiS)

Behold, a rose is growing,
of loveliest form and grace,
as prophets sang, foreknowing;
it springs from Jesse's race,
and comes a perfect flower,

in midst of coldest winter,
at deepest midnight hour.

Isaiah hath foretold it
in words of promise sure,
and Mary's arms enfold it -
a gentle maiden pure.
Through God's eternal will
this child to her is given
at midnight calm and still.

This rose, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendour
the darkness everywhere.
As human, yet true God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.

O Saviour, child of Mary,
you felt our human woe;
O Saviour, King of glory.
you all our weakness know.
Lead us at last, we pray.
to the full joys of heaven
and into endless day.

Anon German 15th century

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord.

Luke 2.10,11

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (10:17-22)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

Let us affirm the faith of the church

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified, who 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.**

Prayers of the People

In our prayers we remember those in need, particularly: Ben, Gage, Hugh, Sarah, Myrle, David, Otto, Mandy, Bob, Noel, Claudia, Ermida and Molly, those unable to gather with us, those in hospital, residential or home care and those from whom we are isolated.

We commend to God the recently departed, those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Norma Reynolds (28/12/2000), all whose memories are dear to us, and those who have no one to remember them.

The Greeting of Peace

Jesus said, 'In the world you face persecution.
But take courage; I have conquered the world.'
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

John 16.33

Offertory Hymn 501 (TiS)

Sing, my tongue, the Saviour's glory,
Of his flesh the mystery sing;
Of the Blood, all price exceeding,
Shed by our eternal King,
Destined, for the world's redemption,
From a Virgin's womb to spring.

Born for us, and for us given,
Born to live like us below,
He, a man, with us abiding,
lived the gospel seed to sow;
and at last faced death undaunted,
his self-giving love to show.

On the night of that last supper,
Seated with his chosen band,
first the Passover observing
he fulfils the Law's command;
Then as food, to the disciples
Gives himself with his own hand.

Word made flesh, his word life-giving
Gives his to flesh our food to be,
Wine as his own blood he offers,
then, though senses fail to see
faith alone the true heart awakens
to behold the mystery.

Therefore we before him kneeling
This great sacrament revere;
ancient forms all have their ending
for the newer rite is here;
Faith its aid to sight is lending,
though unseen, the Lord is here.

Glory let us give and blessing,
To the Father and the Son,
Honour might and praise addressing,
while eternal ages run,
And the Spirit's love confessing,
who from both, with both is one.

Thomas Aquinas c1227-74

Offertory

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For love of us fallen sinners
he most wonderfully and humbly chose to be made human,
and to take our nature upon him,
so that we might be born again by your Spirit
and restored in your image.

The love that brought him down to earth
lifted your martyr Stephen from earth to heaven.

By that love he spoke your word
with wisdom and the Spirit;
by that love he saw your glory
and Jesus at your right hand;
by that love he overcame the anger of his accusers
and forgave their cruelty;
by that love he committed his spirit into your hands
and won the crown of righteousness.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and
sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them

may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
For the remission of sins.
Do, this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
Proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

In faith we acclaim you O Christ:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

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 for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread and Communion

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread:

so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Communion Antiphon

The bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

John 6.33

Recessional Hymn 297 (TiS)

Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Christian people one and all.

See how God, for us providing,
Gave His Son and life abiding;
He our pilgrim steps is guiding
From earth's pain to heavenly joy.

Christ, from heaven to us descending
And in love our race befriending,
In our need His help extending,
Saved us from the cunning Foe.

Jacob's Star in all its splendour
shines with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the powers of hell.

From sin's bondage that possessed us,
From the prison that oppressed us,
From the sorrow that distressed us,
We, the captives, now are free.

Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing
And with thanks we come confessing,
you, O Jesus, as our Lord.

Dearest Child, in mercy, hear us,
From your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join the angelic choir.

Paul Gerhardt 1607-76

The Sending out of God's People

Merciful Lord,
we thank you for the signs of your mercy
revealed in birth and death:
save us by the coming of your Son,
and give us joy in honouring Stephen,
first martyr of the new Israel;
Most loving God, **you send us into the world you love.**

Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

God give you grace to be faithful witnesses,
to see heaven opened
and the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ;

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father ✕ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Reflection

We owe the words to our introit today to John Mason Neale (1818-1866), but few of us stop to ask who he was. Long before I became an Anglican I was fascinated by the life of Neale. I have collected as many of his books as I could find. Neale was born at St Pancras, London, in 1818. He had a distinguished career at Cambridge, but failed to gain an honours degree in classics because he had no ability in mathematics. This was required because of a quaint regulation which was repealed the following year. Neale was a brilliant linguist, not only in Latin and Greek but also in other languages, but he was cursed by poor health and his lungs were badly affected. He went to Madeira to save his life in 1844 and was there for some time. Eventually in 1846 Earl de la Warr presented him to the Wardenship of Sackville College, in East Grinstead, an old men's home, and he remained there for the rest of his life.

Many years ago, on a camping holiday in Britain, my wife and I made a pilgrimage to Sackville College. I have photographs of his study and the beautiful memorial to Neale dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Neale is now recognised as one of the fathers of the Anglo-Catholic Revival in the Church of England. Neale's sister was the Mother Superior of a convent he also founded. For a man in poor health his literary output, many volumes of commentary on Scripture, sermons and letters and especially his translations of ancient hymns, as well as a history of the Holy Eastern Church, form a remarkable heritage. Neale did not lack courage. On one occasion his life was threatened by a rioting mob of ardent Protestants who tried to kill him because of his High Church convictions.

His link to the ancient de la Warr family is interesting because it seems that the American state of Delaware, where President Biden lives, was named after that family. Neale gained an honorary doctorate from Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, USA. It was a disgrace that the Church of England had no honour for this remarkable man in his own life-time. Today at last his contribution to the Anglo-Catholic Revival of the Church is recognised and all Christians appreciate his great hymns. Neale died in 1866, aged 48.

*The Rev'd Bob Willson
Former Rector of St Philip's O'Connor.*

News

The Parish Council is making plans for next year's AGM. If you have responsibility to produce a report please be mindful of the deadline (Sun 6 February). If you are you are having a break during January, do enjoy your holiday. During this season please consider your role in the life of the Parish, if you are able of offer your time and talents as a Warden or Councillor please speak to Martin.

Envelopes are available at the back of the Church for this year's **Christmas Bowl**. This year the focus of the project is the unfolding humanitarian disaster in Ethiopia. The Christmas Bowl serves to provide safety in exile for people forced from their homes by conflict and disaster. Your gift through the Christmas Bowl will support local partners to meet urgent needs and help create a world where uprooted people have a safe place to belong.

Welcome a Foreign Student The Australian National University has many students from other nations. Often they find themselves quite isolated during their studies. It is interesting and mutually enriching for foreign students and Canberra residents to meet. ANU Chaplaincy is facilitating these contacts. If you would like to welcome a foreign student or students to your home for a meal or some other occasion then please contact us under the heading: Foreign Student Hospitality on email chaplaincy@anu.edu.au. Then we will coordinate and introduce you to the student(s) who would enjoy accepting your invitation.

This week @ St Philip's

Today

9am

St Stephen's Day (First Sunday after Christmass)

Eucharist

Thursday 29 Dec

10am

Josephine Butler, social reformer (d.1905)

Eucharist

Sunday 2 Jan

8am

Second Sunday after Christmass

Eucharist

10am

Eucharist with hymns

Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-14, Ps 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:1-18

Roster

		26-Dec-21		2-Jan-22	9-Jan-22
	Sunday of Month	4th		1st	2nd
	Liturgical Season	St Stephen's Day		2nd Sunday after Christmas	Baptism of Our Lord
	Flowers	Flower team		Flower Team	Flower Team
8am	Celebrant	<i>n/a</i>	8am	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Lyn Porritt
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)				
	Sidespeople			Margaret & Russell	Alison & Alistair
	Liturgical Assistant			Lisa C	Ellie P
	1st Bible reader - OT			Margaret M	Alistair D
	2nd Bible reader - NT			Russell M	Alison D
10am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	10am	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Lyn Porritt
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)				
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Tim & Shane		Denise M, Nirmal F & Fred A	Helen & Hardy P & Laura W
	Liturgical Assistant	Brian McK			Rebecca K
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F		Colin F	Colin F
	1st Bible reader - OT	Shane W		Ann M	Ashton R
	2nd Bible reader - NT	Tim G		Denise M	Fiona D
	Morning Tea	<i>Bring your left overs!</i>		<i>self serve</i>	<i>self serve</i>
	<i>Additional details/notes</i>	<i>9am - only one service. Thurs 29 Dec - Rev'd Lyn Porritt presiding</i>		<i>School Holidays. Thurs 6 Jan - Rev'd Jeannette McHugh presiding</i>	<i>School Holidays. Thurs 13 Jan - Rev'd Lyn Porritt presiding</i>

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 6 January 2022

Sunday 6 February

Wednesday 9 February

Sunday 27 February

Wednesday 2 March

Epiphany – Eucharist 10am

Deadline for AGM Reports

Parish Council

Parish AGM

Ash Wednesday

The Christmas flowers are in loving memory of June and John Carnahan who enjoyed many Christmas morning services at St Philip's. From the McCaskie family.