

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1935 The Plaza
Parish Office: 1229 Baker Avenue
Schenectady, New York 12309
518-346-6241; office@st-stephens.church

The Holy Eucharist: Rite I
The Fourth Sunday in Lent,
March 30, 2025

The Entrance Rite

The Prelude

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Spiritual/Page

Opening Hymn

Hymnal #449

The Word of God

The Penitential Order

Page #319

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People: **His mercy endureth for ever.**

Celebrant: **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

All: **Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Celebrant: The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Kyrie

Hymnal S-91

All: **Lord, have mercy upon us (x3)
Christ, have mercy upon us (x3)
Lord, have mercy upon us (x3)**

The Collect of the Day

Page #167

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Joshua 5:9-12

Lector : A reading from the book of Joshua:
The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt."
And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.
While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 32

Lector: Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:16:21

Lector: A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.
From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God

was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #489

The Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Celebrant: All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Jane Brady-Close

All:

**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.

Prayers of the People

Intercessor: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church in the world. Especially for Le Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, and for the Church of England and the Anglican Communion for the discernment of the Crown Nomination Committee.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop; Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop of Albany; and Jane Brady-Close, our Celebrant today, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald Trump, President of the United States; Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York State; and Gary McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that,; rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor those on our church family prayer list and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Give life and health to our church and community, and call and inspire the priest who will serve as our Rector.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of St. Stephen, and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Peace

Page #332

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

Can It Be?

Lopez

The Doxology

V.3, Hymnal #380

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer I

Page #333

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto our-

selves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymnal S-114

All:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.**

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant:

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People: AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Page #336

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Page #337

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Fraction Anthem (*Agnus Dei*)

Page S-158

All: **O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.**

The Invitation

Page #338

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Celebrant/Minister: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Amen.

Communion Hymn

LEV #101

Post-Communion Prayer

Page #339

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

The Concluding Rite

A Prayer over the People

Celebrant: Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn

Hymnal #686

The Dismissal:

Page #340

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Biery

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Our Intercessions for the week of March 30, 2025

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo.

Our Leaders: Donald Trump, President of the United States; Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York; and Gary McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady.

Our Church Leaders: Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop; Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop of Albany; and Mtr. Jane Brady-Close our Celebrant.

The Church of England and the Anglican Communion, and for discernment of members of the Crown Nomination Commission.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in need of strength and healing: Mary Ann Harrington, Marilyn Causey, Vincent Avila, Peter Nelson, Basil Dewdney, Austin Spang, Katherine Webber, Don Regula, Chris Morin, Helen Perkins, Perrin, Denise Crates, William O., Mtr. Sally Heiligman, Diana Belardo, Linda, Ann M., Joyce C., Billy K., Lee H., Millie G., Doreen M., Leslie, and Pope Francis.

For all those abused as young people while under the care of church and other institutions, that they will find justice and healing.

For all public employees that they may continue their work for justice, peace, and the common good, for those who have lost their jobs, and for all those who live in fear.

For those in the Military: Zachary.

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Announcements March 30, 2025

Serving Today:	Celebrant	Mtr. Jane Brady-Close
	Altar Guild:	Jean Stefanski
	Greeters:	Dave Crates Ron Stefanski
	Crucifer:	George Woodzell
	Eucharistic Ministers:	Basil Dewdney George Woodzell
	Lector:	George Woodzell
	Intercessor:	Don Csaposs
	Counter:	Judy Versocki
	Coffee Hour:	Theresa Fay & Alex Avila

Today we welcome back Mtr. Jane Brady-Close as our guest Celebrant and Preacher.

The Pussy Willows on the altar are a Lenten gift of Vicki Hoshko in memory of Marti Spang.

The Pastoral Care Committee will meet today in the Teen Lounge following the service.

Psalm Workshop and Liturgy: The St. Stephen's congregation is invited to attend a Psalm Workshop and Liturgy this evening **Sunday, March 30, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**, here at St. Stephen's. This event is sponsored by the Eastern New York chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Dr. Brian J. Taylor, director of music and organist at St. Georges Episcopal Church, Schenectady, will present how the psalms are sung in various traditions. A short liturgy will follow with the opportunity to sing psalms.

The Passion According to St. Luke: The reading of St. Luke's account of the Passion of Christ will be the Gospel reading on Palm Sunday, April 13. There is a sign up sheet in the nave extension for anyone interested in portraying one of the roles.

A Conversation on Hope: Join us this Thursday evening **April 3** in Begley Hall for a potluck supper, followed by a powerful and thought-provoking virtual conversation featuring three Episcopal Bishops who have courageously embraced truth-telling and continue to affirm that mercy and courage are essential in the face of silence. Sponsored by the Turquoise & Lavender Institute, the featured Speakers are Bishop Mariann Budde – Diocese of Washington, D.C., Bishop Craig Loya – Diocese of Minnesota and Bishop Michael Hunn – Diocese of the Rio Grande, moderated by Catherine Meeks, Ph.D. Potluck at 6:00 p.m.; program 7:00 - 8:15 p.m.

MoonCatcher Project Sewing Bee, Saturday, 4/5, 10 a.m.-Noon. We will host a MoonBee in the parish hall to create MoonCatcher Kits, reusable/washable menstrual pads and supplies for girls in poor countries. Bring your sewing machine if you have one. Even if you can't sew, you can participate. There are jobs for everyone! If you can bring refreshments or help set up at 9:00, contact Richey Woodzell. Also, please bring menstrual pads to stock the "period pantries" in our own community.

The Book Club will meet Tuesday, 4/8, at 1:00 p.m., in Begley Hall. This month's book is "The Hail Mary Project" by Andy Weir.

Palm Cross Making: Please join us in the Parish Hall on **Saturday, April 12 at 10 a.m.** to make palm crosses in preparation for Palm Sunday. Everyone is invited to lend a hand. Come join us for some fun and fellowship and learn or relearn this special art! It takes just a few minutes to learn and a few tries to perfect. For more info, contact Carolyn Morin.

Episcopal Relief & Development: We will be raising money for Episcopal Relief & Development throughout Lent. You may use the envelopes in the pews or make contributions online at episcopalrelief.org. See the display in the nave extension; you can use their "Hope Chests" for collecting change. And check the bulletin board opposite the parish library for updates.

Food Pantry donations: The pantry is always in need of personal care items. For the rest of March we will collect soap and body wash, and during April we'll collect menstrual supplies.

New Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet: There is a new Coffee Hour sign-up sheet in the nave extension for April 13 through mid-summer. Please take a minute to sign up for a date when you can host. If you have any questions, please see Linda Emaelaf or Carole Merrill-Mazurek. Thanks!

From the Street Soldiers: Spring is coming, and mud season is here, but we never let weather stop us from sharing needed essentials. Nearly all our friends do not own or have access to a car, so they must walk to reach us and walk to get home. Umbrellas would be very helpful to protect us on the walk to and from StreetSoldiers. We are looking for new or gently used umbrellas for adults and kids. If you have (a) working umbrella(s), or a promotional/free umbrella you don't need, or if you have a business with left over promotional umbrellas, we would be very grateful for any number and size. Umbrellas can be donated any Sunday between 3:00 and 4:00 in the borrowed parking lot of the Zion Lutheran Church located at 153 Nott Terrace, Schenectady.

Safe Church: The deadline for finishing the Praesidium Modules is the first weekend in May, for all those involved in St. Stephen's ministries. If you have questions, ask Doreen May.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 4/3, 6:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. A Conversation of Hope and potluck supper.
- 7:00 p.m.: Chancel Choir rehearsal.

Saturday, 4/5, 10:00 a.m.: MoonBee for the MoonCatcher Project in Begley Hall.

Tuesday, 4/8, 1:00 p.m.: Book Club meeting in Begley Hall.

Monday, 4/14, 7:00 p.m.: Vestry meeting.

Sunday, 4/13, 9:30 a.m.: Palm Sunday service.

Thursday, 4/17, 7:30 p.m.: Maundy Thursday service.

Friday, 4/18: Good Friday service/Stations of the Cross.

Sunday, 4/20: 9:30 a.m.: Easter Sunday service.

Sunday, 4/27: presentation during coffee hour by Mary Giordano, Executive Director of Family Promise of the Capital Region.

Sunday, 5/4: Deadline for completion of Praesidium Safe Church modules.
- Schenectady CROP Walk for the Hungry.

Welcome!

We are glad you have chosen to worship and give thanks to God with us.

WORSHIP: The Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Join us for refreshments most Sundays in Begley Hall after our service.

Members of the parish offer Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, and 8:00 a.m. on Sunday. Please contact the church office for the link.

Other services are announced.

HYMNS: Our hymns are posted on hymn boards and are listed in our bulletin. They are drawn from the blue *Hymnal* and the black-and-red *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. “Service music,” indicated with an “S” before the number, comes at the beginning of the *Hymnal*. Hymns come in the second section. Hymns from *Lift Every Voice and Sing* are preceded by an “LEV.”

CHILDREN: We are delighted to have children of all ages and love hearing their voices. We offer a children’s sermon when children are present and post a brief children’s message each week on our website. The greeters can give them an activity pack. There is a nursery with toys and a comfortable chair if you would like to take a break from the service with your child or find a quiet place to nurse. In the Episcopal Church it is customary for parents to determine the appropriate age for children to take communion. We can always offer “first communion” instruction to you/your children.

COMMUNION: All baptized persons may receive Holy Communion. If you do not wish to take the bread (wafer) or the wine, place your arms across your chest and a member of the clergy will ask God's blessing upon you and on any children not yet receiving communion. If you would like the elements brought to your seat, please speak with a greeter.

FOR THOSE WITH ALLERGIES: If you would like to receive communion wafers that are gluten-wheat -yeast-dairy-egg-soy-nut- and corn-free at Communion, please ask for one from the ministers distributing communion.

OFFERTORY: During the offertory, the greeters take up a collection for funds which support the church and our various ministries. Many people pledge annual support, which is helpful in developing our budget. All contributions are welcomed.

MASKS: The use of masks is optional. The greeters can provide you with one if you like.

CONVERSATION / PASTORAL VISITS are available. Please contact the Parish Office.

MEMBERSHIP: We welcome visitors from other churches as well as those for whom church is a new experience. If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to talk with you about becoming a member. Please speak with a warden or fill out a pew card for someone to contact you.

LABYRINTH: Our labyrinth, in the courtyard between the church and Begley Hall, is an adaptation of the millennia-old classical type. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has only one path in and out; there are no tricks or dead ends. The path winds from the exterior to the center and can become a mirror for our journey of life, touching our sorrows and releasing our joys. Walk it with an open mind and an open heart. Instructions are available at the back of the church.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION: Please be in touch with the parish office if you have suggestions for this ministry.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Prayer request sheets can be found on the lectern in the back of the church. You can place anyone on our "Prayer Chain" by contacting Suzanne Taylor at popage@aol.com or by contacting the parish office. Please get the permission of those you add for their names to be used. We will include your request for four weeks in our services of Morning Prayer and count on you to keep us updated.

COMMUNICATION: You may contact us at 518-346-6241 (Office Phone); office@st-stephens.church (e-mail); <https://st-stephens.church> (website); and <https://www.facebook.com/SaintStephensSchenectady>. The Parish Office is generally open Mondays-Fridays from 8:30-11:30 a.m

Church Staff & Lay Leaders:

George Woodzell, Senior Warden
Carole Merrill-Mazurek, Junior Warden
Susan Lohnas, Organist
Douglas Lohnas, Director of the Choir
Jon Ewbank, Office Manager
Denise Crates, Treasurer
Theresa Fay, Clerk

Vestry

Ruth Basantes Denise Crates
Basil Dewdney Linda Emaelaf
Vicki Hoshko Stan Jakubowski
Deborah O'Connor Jean Stefanski



Artwork:

“Return of the Prodigal Son” ca 1620–69 by Rembrandt (Rembrandt van Rijn) (Dutch, Leiden 1606–1669 Amsterdam); Etching, pen and ink ; from the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Nwew York, NY.