



# Saint Stephen's Chapel

## Order of Worship

*“We seek to glorify God by preaching His Word and spreading the gospel of Grace in Boldness and Selflessness.”*

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*In the Sanctuary, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy, from darkness to light.*

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# Order of Worship

Saint Stephen's Chapel

December 4, 2022

*Second Sunday Of Advent*

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**The prelude** is a sacred curtain dropped between the world and the sanctuary. The dimming of the lights is the signal for the congregation to observe silence. During this time, be prayerful and reverent in preparation for the worship of our holy God in His sanctuary. (Please silence all phones and electronic devices.)

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*“If God be our God, He will give us peace in trouble. When there is a storm without, He will make peace within. The world can create trouble in peace, but God can create peace in trouble.”* **Thomas Watson**

*“God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.”* **C.S. Lewis**

**Invitation to Reflection**

Mr. Enrique Antu

**Call to Solemn Worship**

Rev. Manny Alaniz

*{God graciously invites us into His presence to worship Him.  
He enters into our busy lives to speak to us.}*

Minister: And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. “And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” We rejoice in the sign of Christ’s coming. Our King and Savior now draws near: Come, let us adore him!

*Luke 2:10-11*

**\* Song of Adoration:**

**God Rest You Merry Gentlemen**

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay  
Remember, Christ, our Savior, Was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power, When we were gone astray

(Chorus) O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

In Bethlehem, in Israel, this blessed Babe was born  
And laid within a manger, upon this blessed morn  
The which His Mother Mary, did nothing take in scorn (Chorus)

*\*Congregation Stands*

From God our Heavenly Father, A blessed Angel came  
And unto certain Shepherds, Brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born, The Son of God by Name  
(Chorus)

The shepherds at those tidings, Rejoiced much in mind  
And left their flocks a-feeding, In tempest, storm and wind  
And went to Bethlehem straightway, The Son of God to find  
(Chorus)

"Fear not then," said the Angel, Let nothing you affright  
This day is born a Savior, Of a pure Virgin bright  
To free all those who trust in Him,  
From Satan's power and might (Chorus).

**\*Prayer of Invocation**

Rev. Don Kinkead

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

Leader: Christian, "What do we believe?"

**All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Offertory Prayer**

**\* Song of Praise: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus***

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear  
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear  
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth  
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth"

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end  
by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall  
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King  
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone  
by Thine own sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

### **God's Renewal**

#### **Understanding Ourselves Rightly**

Mr. Jordan Wright

Leader: And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." (Mark 7:14-15, 21-23)

#### ***Public Confession***

Leader: Let us confess our sins together.

**All: Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you love us, but we have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and strength. You have opened your heart to us, and in our pride we have spurned your care. You have given us all things, and we have squandered your gifts. We have grieved you and caused hurt to others, and we are not worthy to be called your children. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Cleanse us from our sin and receive us again, that we might nevermore stray from your love but always remain within the sound of your voice.**

***Silent Confession*** {Take a few moments to silently confess your failures and shortcomings.}

#### **\* Assurance of Pardon and Comfort**

Galatians 2:20

*{God reminds our forgetful hearts of the grace that is ours in Jesus.}*

Leader: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

\* **Song of Renewal**

*On Jordan's Stormy Banks*

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand  
And cast a wishful eye  
To Canaan's fair and happy land  
Where my possessions lie

All oer those wide extended plains  
Shines one eternal day  
There God the Son forever reigns  
And scatters night away

(Chorus) I am bound (I am bound)  
I am bound (I am bound)  
I am bound for promised land  
I am bound (I am bound)  
I am bound (I am bound)  
I am bound for promised land

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath  
Can reach that healthful shore  
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death  
Are felt and feared no more (Chorus)

When shall I reach that happy place  
And be forever blessed?  
When shall I see my Fathers face  
And in His bosom rest? (Chorus).

**Announcements**

**Prayer for the People**

Mr. Wright

**The Greeting of Peace:**

Leader: Let the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts. To this peace we are called as members of a single body. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

\***Scripture Reading**

*Isaiah 54:9-10*

Mrs. Jackie Wright

*"To me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth. So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke you again. <sup>10</sup> Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you."*

**Reader:** This is The Word of The LORD

**People:** Thanks be to God

**The Sermon**

Rev. Alaniz

“Eternal Covenant Of Peace”

**Sermon Series:** Advent 2022

**Celebration of Holy Communion**

Rev. Alaniz

A Word About Communion at Saint Stephen’s Chapel:

*Communion is an opportunity for all of us to seek the Lord. It is an occasion for baptized Christians to be strengthened by our Savior. All who trust alone in Christ as Savior and Lord, embrace the Gospel, live at peace with their neighbor, and seek strength to live more faithfully are welcome to come forward. If you are not a Christian, please consider spending this time in prayer. Children who have not received their first communion should come forward with their hands folded and the wine server will pray for them.*

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*“Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.” (I Corinthians 11:27-29)*

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**Minister:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Minister:** Lift up your hearts.

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

**Minister:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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**Prayer of Consecration**

**Words of Institution**

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**Minister:** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All:** **Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**Minister:** Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.

**People:** **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

**Minister:** The gifts of God are for the people of God.

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**\* Song of Communion**

***Joy to The World (Our God Reigns)***

Joy to the world! The Lord is come

Let earth receive her King

Let every heart prepare Him room

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as the curse is found  
He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love.

*LaChance*

**Communion Prayer**

**\*Benediction Doxology**

**Isaiah 6 (Sanctus)**

Holy, holy, holy is The LORD of hosts!  
Holy, holy, holy is The LORD of hosts!  
The whole earth is full of His glory  
The whole earth is full of His glory  
The whole earth is full of His glory  
Holy is The LORD.

*Public Domain*

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Alaniz

Minister: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord turn his face to you and give you his peace.

**People: Amen! (With great enthusiasm)**

**Postlude\*\***

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**Worship: (New time & Location)**

**Saint Stephen's Chapel**

Every Sunday, 6:00p.m., at  
6585 Heath Road, SATX 78250

P.O. Box 680085  
San Antonio, TX 78268-0085

**Contact Information:**

[SaintStephensChapel.org](http://SaintStephensChapel.org)

Manny Alaniz, Pastor, 210-241-5969  
[manny@saintstephenschapel.org](mailto:manny@saintstephenschapel.org)

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**@SaintStephensChapel**

*\*Congregation Stands*

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**Serving Today, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

- Childcare & Training in the Pews – Sable Smith
- Hospitality – Jackie Wright

**Serving Next Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

- Childcare & Training in the Pews – Sandy Alaniz
  - Hospitality – Sandy Alaniz
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Virtual Bible Study Groups:** *Zoom*, contact Manny
  - **Bible Study Groups** – in person, contact Manny
  - **5-Minute Bible Study Podcasts** – Sent via text, please take a few minutes to listen to the study and share it with others.
  - **Prayer Gathering** – More info forthcoming!
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**Church Session:**

Lead Pastor: Rev. Manny Alaniz  
Associate Pastors: Rev. Don Kinkead  
Ruling Elder: Thomas Jordan Wright

**Music Leaders:**

Anthony Sanders – Vocals, Guitar, Piano

**Director Of Children's Ministry:**

Jackie Wright

**Audio / Visual Technician:**

Daniel Quintanilla