



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.”

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.

Order of Worship

Saint Stephen's Chapel

December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas Day

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.)

"Obedience is the fruit of faith." **William Ames**

"To love God is the greatest of virtues; to be loved by God is the greatest of blessings.." **Unknown Author**

"The first duty of a Christian is obedience." **William Gurnall**

Invitation to Reflection

Mr. Derek Alaniz

Call to Solemn Worship

Rev. Manny Alaniz

Minister: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Psalm 96:7-9

*** Song of Adoration**

Everlasting God

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord

(Chorus) Our God, You reign forever

Our hope, our strong Deliverer

You are the everlasting God

The everlasting God

You do not faint

You won't grow weary

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord (Chorus)

You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on the wings
Like eagles (Chorus)

You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on the wings
Like eagles
From everlasting to everlasting
God, You are everlasting.

Tomlin

***Prayer of Invocation**

Rev. Alaniz

***Affirmation of Faith**

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q/A #21

Leader: Christian, "Who is the Redeemer of God's people?"

All: The only Redeemer of God's people is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.

Offertory Prayer

*** Song of Praise**

From The Depths of Woe (Psalm 130)

From the depths of woe I raise to Thee.

The voice of lamentation; Lord, turn a gracious ear to me,
And hear my supplication. If Thou iniquities dost mark,
Our secret sins and misdeeds dark

O who shall stand before Thee? (Who shall stand before Thee?) (2x)

To wash away the crimson stain, Grace, grace alone availeth
Our works, alas! Are all in vain, In much the best life faileth
No man can glory in Thy sight, All must alike confess Thy might
And live alone by mercy (Live alone by mercy) (2x)

Therefore my trust is in the Lord, And not in mine own merit
On Him my soul shall rest, His word, Upholds my fainting spirit
His promised mercy is my fort, My comfort and my sweet support
I wait for it with patience (Wait for it with patience) (2x)

**Congregation Stands*

What though I wait the live-long night, And til the dawn appeareth
My heart still trusteth in His might, It doubteth not nor feareth
Do thus, O ye of Israels seed, Ye of the Spirit born indeed
And wait til God appeareth (Wait til God appeareth) (2x)

Though great our sins and sore our woes
His grace much more aboundeth, His helping love no limit knows
Our upmost need it soundeth, Our Shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free

From all their sin and sorrow (All their sin and sorrow) (2x).

God's Renewal

Scripture Warning

Rev. Alaniz

Leader: For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." (Galatians 3:10-11)

Public Confession

Leader: Let us confess our sins together.

All: O Lord, I have a wild heart, and cannot stand before you. I am like a bird before a man. How little I love your truth and ways! I neglect prayer. My mind is a bucket without a bottom, with no spiritual understanding. My conscience is without conviction or contrition, with no sins to acknowledge. My heart is without affection, and full of leaks. Give me a broken heart that yet carries home the water of grace.

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

*** Assurance of Pardon and Comfort**

Colossians 1:13-14

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

Leader: He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

*** Song of Renewal**

Holy Spirit

There's nothing worth more
That could ever come close
No thing can compare
You're our living hope
Your presence, Lord

I've tasted and seen
Of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free
And my shame is undone
Your presence, Lord

(Chorus) Holy Spirit, You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord

There's nothing worth more
That could ever come close
No thing can compare
You're our living hope
Your presence, Lord

I've tasted and seen
Of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free
And my shame is undone
Your presence, Lord (Chorus).

Torwalt

Announcements

Prayer for the People

Rev. Alaniz

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**

John 14:21-24

Mr. Derek Alaniz

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”²² Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”²³ Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

The Sermon

Rev. Alaniz

“Where Love Is, Obedience Follows”

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.

"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)

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.

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

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

* Song of Communion

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live
There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ
No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the pow'r of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Koch & Craig

Communion Prayer

***Benediction Doxology**

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A-men.

Praise God

Public Domain

***Benediction**

Rev. Alaniz

Leader: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Go in His peace.

People: Amen! (With great enthusiasm)

Postlude**

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**Congregation Stands*

Serving Today, December 31st

- Childcare & Training in the Pews – No T.I.P.
- Hospitality – Sandy Alaniz

Serving Next Sunday, January 7th

- Childcare & Training in the Pews – Sandy Alaniz
- Hospitality – Jackie Wright

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

Musicians:

Anthony Sanders - Vocals / Piano

Audio / Visual Technician:

Alexander Harrison

Director Of Children's Ministry:

Jackie Wright