



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 8, 2024

Second Sunday in Advent

The prelude is a sacred curtain dropped between the world and the sanctuary. The dimming of the lights signals 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.)

“To rest in God is to cast all our cares upon Him, knowing He is faithful to bear them and give the peace that surpasses understanding.” **Hugh**

Latimer

“The greatest unkindness you can do to the Father is not to believe that His heart is full of love to you. Faith brings the soul to rest in the love of God.” **John Owen**

Invitation to Reflection

Mr. Derek Alaniz

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

*** Invocation**

*** Song of Adoration**

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
And heaven and nature sing

(Continues next page)

**Congregation Stands*

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
Repeat the sounding joy

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
And wonders of His love.

Watts

God's Renewal

Understanding Ourselves Rightly

Rev. Kinkead

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)

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Leader: Christian, let us affirm what 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.*

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

* ***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**

Blessed Be Your Name

Redman

Blessed Be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name
Blessed Be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed Be Your name
Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say
(Chorus) Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name
Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be'
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

(Continues next page)

Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say (Chorus 2x)

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be Your name.

Announcements

Prayers of the People

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.

**** Dismiss our children for *Training in the Pews Today*****

The Sermon

Rev. Alaniz

“God’s Rest”

*Scripture Reading

Hebrews 4:9-13

Mr. Derek Alaniz

So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

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

**Congregation Stands*

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**

Isaiah 43 (I Am the Lord)

When you pass through the waters

I will be with you

And the waves will not

Overcome you

Do not fear

For I have redeemed you

I have called you by name

You are Mine

(Chorus) For I am the Lord your God (I am the Lord your God)

I am the Lord your God (I am)

The Holy One of Israel, Your Savior

I am the Lord (do not fear)

I am the Lord (do not fear)

I am the Lord (do not fear)

I am the Lord (do not fear)

(Continues next page)

**Congregation Stands*

When you walk through the fire
You'll not be burned
And the flames will not
Consume you
Do not fear
For I have redeemed you
I have called you by name
You are Mine. (Chorus)

For I am the Lord your God (I am the Lord your God)
I am the Lord your God (I am)
The Holy One of Israel
Your Savior.

Public Domain

Communion & Offertory Prayers

***Benediction Doxology**

Praise God

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.

Public Domain

***Benediction**

Rev. Alaniz

Leader: 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**

(Music printed by permission: CCLI # [21708423](#))

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New American Standard Bible, copyright © 2020 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Worship: (New time & Location)

**Every Sunday, 1:30 p.m., at
9599 Braun Road, SATX 78254**

Contact Information:

Manny Alaniz, Pastor, 210-241-5969
manny@saintstephenschapel.org

Saint Stephen's Chapel

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

SaintStephensChapel.org

Like Us on Facebook!
[@SaintStephensChapel](#)

Serving Today, December 8th

- Childcare & Training in the Pews – Lauri Kinkead
- Hospitality –

Serving Next Sunday, December 15th

- Childcare & Training in the Pews – Jasmen Barron
- Hospitality –

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Prayer Gathering** – to be announced.
- **Virtual Bible Study** – to be announced.
- **Christian Education** – after worship! Coming soon.
- **Next Potluck Lunch**, to be announced!
- **5-Minute Bible Study Podcasts** – coming soon!!

Sermon Notes:

Main Idea: God's Word functions like a scalpel, penetrating the division of soul and spirit, calling us to enter into the heavenly rest of His glory obtained through faith in Jesus Christ.