St. Philip's Episcopal Church

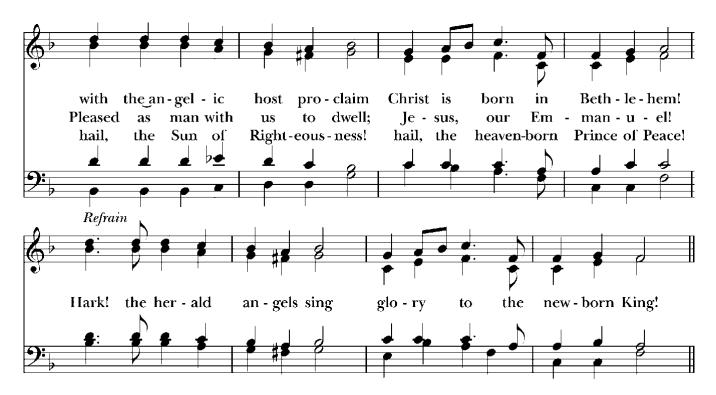
Christmas Day The Nativity of Our Lord



Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 a.m. December 25, 2025 Welcome! We offer one service today, which is broadcast on <u>Facebook Live</u> or <u>YouTube</u>, and you can view it live. Livestreaming begins at 10:25 a.m. If you are visiting, please fill out a visitor card (located in the pew rack) and drop it in the offering plate or hand to an usher.

The Word of God

Improvisation on "Divinum Mysterium" Halsey Stevens **PRELUDE** Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Mendelssohn HYMN The Hymnal 1982 #87 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry the new - born King! to Christ, by high-est Christ, the heaven a - dored; ev last - ing Lord; er -Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we more may die, no Peace on earth and rec - on - ciled! mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners late in time be - hold him come, Vir-gin's womb. off - spring of the born to raise us from the earth, born give sec - ond birth. to us Joy - ful, all join the tri-umph of the skies; ye na - tions, rise, Veiled in flesh the hail the in-car-nate God - head De - i - ty. see; Risen with heal-ing inhis wings, light and life all he brings, to

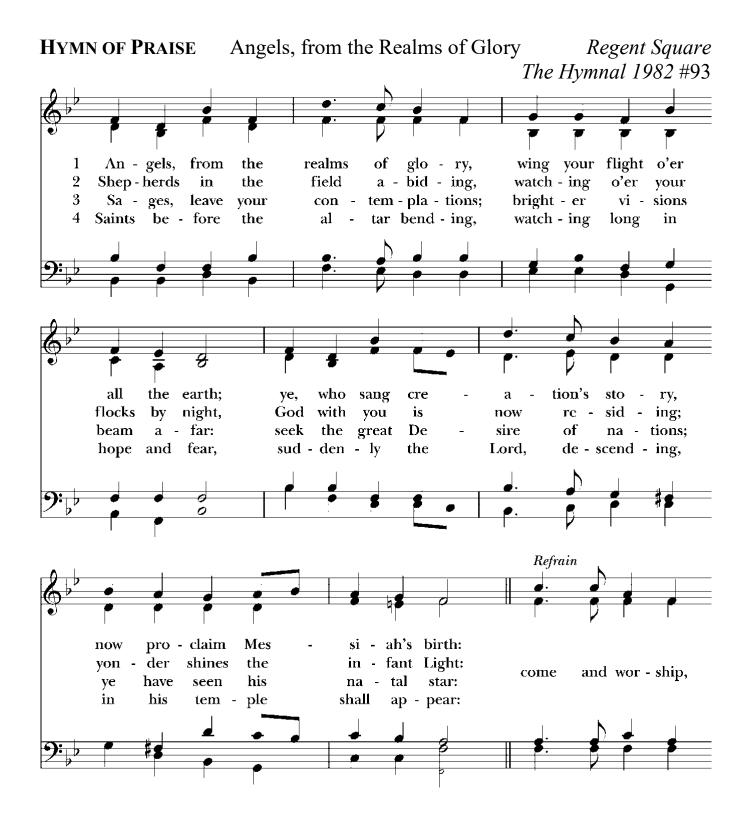


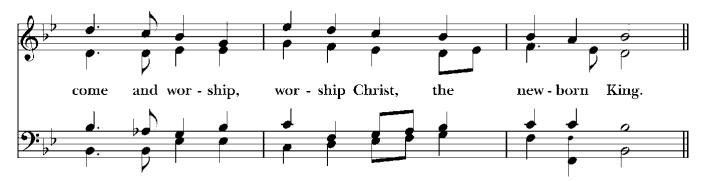
The Celebrant says to the People

CELEBRANT Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

(Hymn continued on the next page)





Officiant The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE And also with you.

OFFICIANT Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

The People are seated. The Reader says

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,

who brings good news,

who announces salvation,

who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,

together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see

the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,

you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the LORD has comforted his people,

he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

READER The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98 Cantate Domino

Please join me in reading the psalm responsively by half verse.

Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

- ²With his right hand and his holy arm * has he won for himself the victory.
- ³The LORD has made known his victory; *
 his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- ⁴He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, * and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- ⁵Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; * lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- Sing to the LORD with the harp, * with the harp and the voice of song.
- With trumpets and the sound of the horn * shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- ⁸Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, * the lands and those who dwell therein.
- ⁹Let the rivers clap their hands, *
 and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
 when he comes to judge the earth.
- In righteousness shall he judge the world * and the peoples with equity.

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-4 Remain seated. The Reader says

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The Word of the Lord. READER Thanks be to God. **PEOPLE**

(Hymn continued on the next page)





Refrain

PRIEST The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
PEOPLE Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

PRIEST The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Judith Davis

NICENE CREED

All stand as they are able.

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

The Lord God is both sun and shield; God will give grace and glory. In the house of our God, let us pray, "Lord God of hosts, *hear our prayer*."

We give thanks for your Church, O God. Bless it with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. May we be made happy in the knowledge of the hope to which we are called. Lord God of hosts,

PEOPLE Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for this nation, O God. Give to our leaders a spirit of wisdom. Deliver them from selfish ambition and give all the people a heart for your children, especially those little ones born into poverty. Lord God of hosts, PEOPLE **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for your creation, O God. Where there is desolation, bring forth springs of clean water. Where your creatures are without a place, may they find a place with you. Lord God of hosts,

PEOPLE Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for this city, O God. Set us on a straight path where we shall not stumble. Bring new life to languishing areas. Lord God of hosts,

PEOPLE Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all those in our lives, O God. We pray especially for those who know weeping and tears. Turn their mourning into joy, comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. Lord God of hosts,

PEOPLE Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the saints at rest, O God. Gather them into your great heavenly company. May they enjoy forever the riches of your glorious inheritance among the saints. Lord God of hosts,

PEOPLE Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant may add a concluding Collect.

PEACE

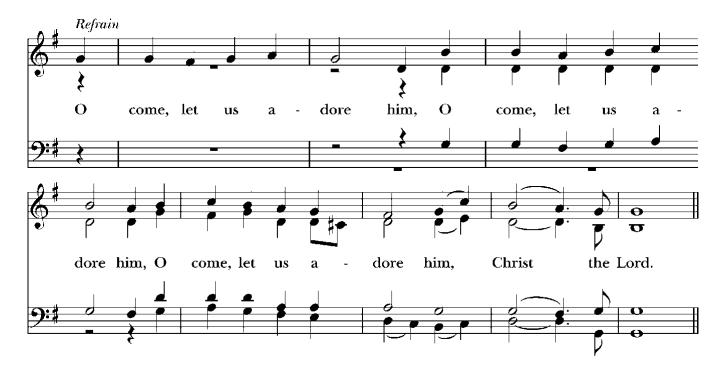
OFFICIANT The peace of the Lord be always with you.

PEOPLE And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion





GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing as they are able.

CELEBRANT The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE And also with you.
CELEBRANT Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE We lift them to the Lord.

CELEBRANT Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

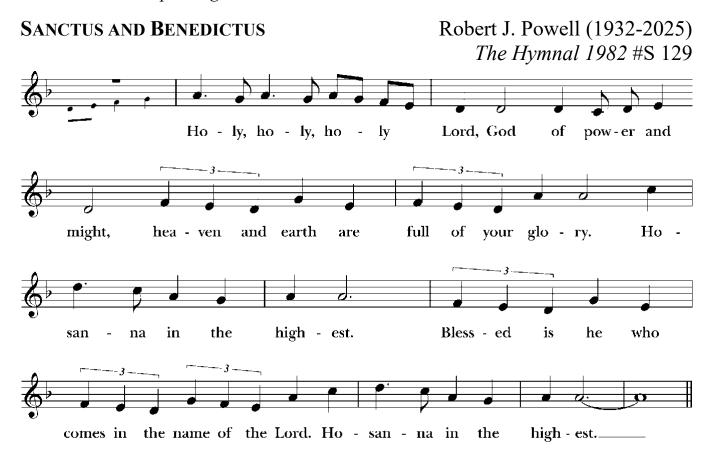
PEOPLE It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN*.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND FRACTION ANTHEM

CELEBRANT We break this bread

to share in the Body of Christ.

PEOPLE We who are many are one body,

for we all share in the one bread. Alleluia!

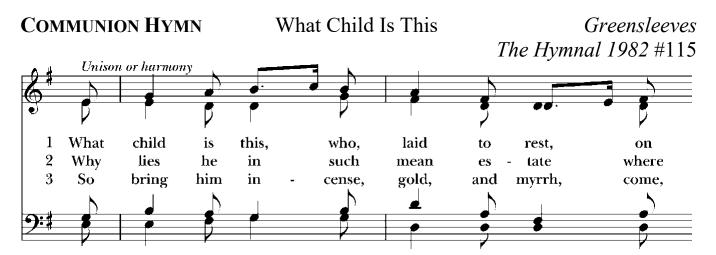
THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek Christ are invited to receive the bread and wine standing or kneeling at the altar rail. If you choose not to receive the wine, let the server know that you want only the bread by placing one hand over your heart (receiving only the bread is full communion). If you prefer not to take communion, you may come forward for a blessing, crossing your arms over your chest, or not come forward at all; no one will judge you.

To receive the wine by intinction, please come to the altar rail. Extend your hands, palms flat, and the bread will be placed there for you to dip the bread into the wine.

To receive the wine by sipping from the chalice, please also come to the altar rail, consume the bread, then please help the Lay Eucharistic Minister guide the chalice to your lips to sip.

Please wait for an usher to release you from your pew to come forward. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.





PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

This prayer takes the place of the Postcommunion Prayer for those worshiping at home.

Gracious God, since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The people stand as they are able.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant and People

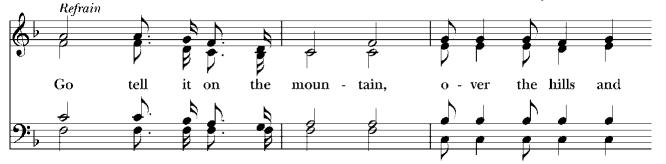
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It on the Mountain The Hymnal 1982 #99





THE DISMISSAL

After the Dismissal, the People respond

PEOPLE Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Noël Suisse

Louis-Claude Daquin



Hearing Loop assistance is available inside this building. Set hearing aid on "T" (telecoil) setting. Headsets are also available in both the narthex and Miller Hall that will allow access to the Hearing Loop. Please see an usher for help.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

During the holiday season, we invite all children to attend all services, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We look forward to seeing the children in church, and the nursery will reopen on Sunday, December 28, 2025.

HEARING THE WORD CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

On Wednesday, December 25, 2025, we welcome the Rev. Dr. Judith A. Davis to preach at our morning service. Judith is an adjunct priest at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, an adjunct professor of Religion at Brevard College, a faculty member of the Diocese of Western North Carolina's IONA School for Ministry, and a board member of the Transylvania Choral Society. She is an artist, especially of religious icons, and in her free time she goes birdwatching and plays golf. She retired as rector of Christ Church Episcopal in Harwich Port, MA on Cape Cod in 2018 when she and her family moved to Brevard. Her son Jamie Gilson is a choral scholar at St. Philip's. Please join us in welcoming Judith!

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS TO BENEFIT CAMP HENRY AND BOUND FOR GLORY CAMP

The Vestry has designated that the loose plate and designated offerings from the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services benefit our Cornerstone Centennial 2026 gift designees: Camp Henry, the Episcopal camp at Lake Logan, and Bound for Glory Camp, a free literacy and adventure camp for struggling readers in Brevard. Please include "Christmas Offering" on the memo line or envelope with your offering.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 24 - JANUARY 2

The parish office will be closed Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - Friday, January 2, 2026. However, someone will check messages each weekday, and - as always - a priest will be on call for pastoral emergencies. Note: Most groups do not observe regular schedules this week; we suggest that you confirm your group is actually meeting before you travel.

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Wait! Don't put away those Christmas decorations! In our liturgical year, the Christmas season immediately follows Advent. The traditional Twelve Days of Christmas begin with Christmas Eve on the evening of December 24 and continue until the feast of Epiphany on January 6. In church, notice that our hangings change to white, symbolizing purity, hope, and joy: Christmas is the season when we proclaim the unique nature of our God – that God does not stand distant from us, but fully enters our lives – Emmanuel, "God with us."

Christmas Flowers and Greenery 2025

Gifts for the beautiful array of flowers and greenery for our Christmas services have been given to the Glory of God and:

In memory of Stanley, Eleanor, and Elizabeth Chapman by Ruth Chapman

In thanksgiving for Sam, Annelise, Emily, Lawton, Catherine, Hannah, and Sam by Ann Ives

In thanksgiving for William Gilbert and Betsy Smith and our children Laura Grace and Trevor by Ellen and Geoff Davis

In memory of Priscilla Bobst Caldwell and Dian Smith Brewton by Peggy Bridges

In memory of Matthew and Anna Mayberry, John Wallace, and Roberta Tonissen by Richard and Martha Mayberry

In memory of Jack Roland McBrayer by Mary Alice McBrayer

In memory of Donald and Rachel Bleasdale by Susan Winsor

In memory of Patrick Phillips by Lisa Rodke

In thanksgiving for Iseley, Gatlin, Adelina, Lorelai, and Teagan by the McKague family

In memory of Becky Ambrose by Jeff and Kathy Ambrose

In memory of Aleen Steinberg and Joyce Douglas by Jacquelyn Rogow

In memory of Harry Sherwood by Mary Sherwood

In memory of Keith Roland by Thomas and Jessalyn Valentine

In memory of Verling Milton Votaw, Mary Elizabeth Mount Votaw, John Votaw, Mark Votaw, Rhoda Votaw, Virginia Votaw Addis, Robert Addis, Richard McKenzie Hamor, Martha Jellison Ayotte, Richard Joseph Ayotte by the Rev. Alastair and Holly Votaw

In thanksgiving for Ben, Maggie, Anna, Kaleb, Mikala, Asher, Brayden, Henry, Finley, Rose, Stella, and Lucy by Jan and Denis Bolena

In memory of Elizabeth Allison Bridges, James Oliver Bridges, James Donald Bridges, William Christopher Bridges, and Barbara Weld Bridges by Peggy Bridges

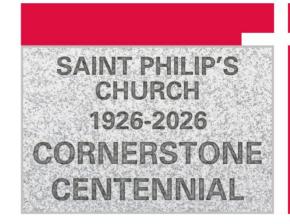
COVER ART: *Icon of Christ in the Manger,* Judith Davis, 2024.

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MINISTERS of WORSHIP

Celebrant	The Rev. Dr. Judith Davis
Organist	Dr. Vance Reese
Cantor	Jamie Gilson
Acolyte	Peggy Bridges
Reader	Mary McGinnis
LEM	Peggy Bridges
Usher	Susan Murray
	Tom Murray
Liturgical Coordinator	Peggy Bridges

Celebrate with us



Toin us ... to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of our historic church building. We're planning opportunities for fellowship, in 2026 worship, music, history, fun, fundraising, and much more.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

50s Potluck and Family Game Night

Focus on our church family as we recreate an old-fashioned 1950s Potluck Dinner and Family Game Night for all ages. Optional: Dress in 50s-style clothing! Prizes will be awarded for game winners and best 50s attire.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Cornerstone Centennial Evensong

A service of Choral Evensong featuring a Magnificat setting dedicated to the Rev. Elizabeth Roles, poetic texts by the Rev. Dr. Judith A. Davis, and new music by composers Thomas Rex Harrison and Jesse Kaiser.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Live and Silent Auction

A festive auction with music, snacks, and door prizes. Proceeds will support Camp Henry, the Episcopal camp at Lake Logan, and Bound for Glory Camp, a free literacy and adventure camp for struggling readers in Brevard.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

'Historically Speaking' with the Rev. Elise Johnstone

The Rev. Elise Johnstone, a descendant of one of the founding families of the Episcopal Church in Transylvania County, is Rector of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Seattle, WA. Join us for a conversation with her and parishioner Craig Gralley, author of the forthcoming book Echoes of Eden in Western North Carolina: The Johnstone Settlement, 1852-1864. Elise will also preach and teach Sunday, August 30.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

Service of Acknowledgement

The Rev. Elise Johnstone joins us for a special service as we speak honestly to God about the sin of slavery and look forward with hope to a renewed future.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17

Bishop's Celebration

An evening with the Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin in celebration of our Cornerstone Centennial.

ALSO COMING IN 2026

More Centennial Events

Watch for announcements about a book signing with Craig Gralley. We're also planning History Tours in the summer, with opportunities to learn about local sites with connections to the history of St. Philip's and surrounding communities.





256 E Main Street, Brevard, NC 28712 828.884.3666 www.stphilipsbrevardnc.org

† † †

MINISTERS: The Baptized People of God The Rt. Rev. José Antonio McLoughlin, Bishop The Rev. Elizabeth Roles, Rector

† † †

OUR VISION: Rooted in God's word and guided by Christ's example, St. Philip's Episcopal Church will be a loving, inclusive community committed to living out Christ's commandments.

† † †

OUR MISSION: Guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and informed by Scripture, tradition and reason, we will:

- Learn and teach by word and example how God continues to be at work in the world and in our lives;
- Love and serve all people as Christ loves us;
- Grow in faithful stewardship of the resources God has given us; and
- Celebrate joyfully this faith in our life, worship, prayer, and service.

† † †