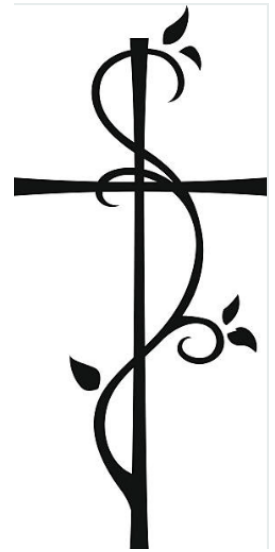


# ST PAUL'S ELKINS PARK

*An Inclusive Multicultural Episcopal Church*

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 28, 2024 9:00 a.m**



## **Welcome to St. Paul's Elkins Park!**

*We are on a mission to know Christ;  
to make Christ known in our community;  
and to follow His Way of compassion and service to others.*

**The Rev. John D. Daniels**, Priest in Charge  
**The Rev. Simpson Coriolan**, Priest Associate  
**The Rev. Jeannie Sachs**, Deacon  
**David Antony Lofton**, Music Director  
**Tessika McClendon**, Soprano  
**Shango-Jamal Lewis**, Baritone

## ***Holy Eucharist*** **The Ministry of the Word**

**Prelude**     *Prelude Opus 28 No. 15*     Frederic Chopin

### **WELCOME**

**Opening Hymn**     *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*     Blue #423 vs 1,4

**Opening Sentence**

*Celebrant:* Blessed be the Lord Our God.

*People:* ***For ever and ever.***

*Celebrant:* We seek to walk the path of Christ.

*People:* ***May the Spirit be among us, in us, and through us.***

**Hymn of Glory**    *In My Life, Lord, Be Magnified*

Levas #216

**The Collect**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The First Lesson**    **Acts 8:26-40**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.  
*People: Thanks be to God.*

## **Psalm 22:24-30**

## ***Deus, Deus meus***

My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations. To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

## **The Second Lesson**

**1 John 4:7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Hymn** *Fairest Lord Jesus*

Blue #383

## **The Gospel**

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 15:1-8**

*People: Glory to you, Lord Christ*

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he

prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord

*People:* ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

## **The Homily      The Rev. John Daniels**

### **Our Affirmation of Trust in all that is Holy**

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.***

## **The Prayers of the People**

*(The Reader and People pray responsively)*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.  
*(Silence)*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
***For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.***

For Congress and the President, for peace among the nations, for all those in uniform  
now serving in harm's way, and for those who suffer for the sake of conscience.  
***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***

Give us hope in this time of uncertainty. Strengthen those who are afraid and give us  
courage in the face of violence and hate. Open our hearts and the hearts of our  
enemies to your ways of peace; break down the walls that divide us.  
***Make us instruments of reconciliation and show forth your love.***

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Daniel, our Diocesan Bishop; for John, our Priest in Charge, for Simpson, our Priest Associate, for Jeannie, our Deacon, for David our Music Director, for Tessika and Shango-Jamal, our singers, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all people everywhere;

***For all who serve in God's Church.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation,

*(The People may add their own petitions, either silently or aloud)*

Hear us, Lord;

***For your mercy is great.***

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*(The People may add their own thanksgivings either silently or aloud)*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*(The People may pray for those who have died, silently or aloud.)*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

***Who put their trust in you.***

***Celebrant and People:***

**Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors**

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

*Celebrant:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

**The Peace**      (*All stand.*)

*Celebrant:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People:*      *And also with you.*

*(The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.)*

## **Words of Welcome and Announcements**

# **The Holy Communion**

*Enriching Our Worship*

Eucharistic Prayer I

## **Offertory Anthem**

*I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*

By G. F. Handel

Tessika McClendon, *soprano*

## **The Doxology:**

**Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow**

**Blue #380** *verse 3*

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. *Amen.*



*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

*Celebrant:* It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body.

Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

*Celebrant and People: Sanctus*

**Blue #S 130**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*Celebrant:* Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves;  
we would not see your goodness in the world around us;  
and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.  
Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah, you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus.

Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory.  
Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil,  
opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."  
As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out in forgiveness. 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.**

*Celebrant:* Remembering his death, resurrection, and ascension, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with St. Paul and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name forever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

*Celebrant:* And now, let us say together the words Our Savior taught us,  
***Celebrant and People:***

Our Father, who art in heaven	as we forgive those
Hallowed be thy Name,	who trespass against us,
Thy kingdom come,	and lead us not into temptation,
Thy will be done,	but deliver us from evil,
On earth as it is in heaven.	for thine is the kingdom,
Give us this day our daily bread,	and the power, and the glory,
And forgive us our trespasses,	for ever and ever. <b><i>Amen</i></b>

**The Breaking of the Bread** (*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*)

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. 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 and the one cup. Alleluia.***

***Agnus Dei***

**Blue #S 164**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Grant us peace.

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. All are welcome at the Lord's table. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**Post Communion Prayer**

***Celebrant and People:***

Loving God, we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image,  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and  
Blood.

Now send us forth a people, forgiven,  
healed, renewed; that we may  
proclaim your love to the world and  
continue in the risen life of Christ our  
Savior. **Amen.**

**The Blessing**

*Celebrant:* The blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier,  
be with you and with those you love, this day, and for ever more.

*People: Amen.*

**Closing Hymn**

***Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*** Blue #657 vs 1,3

## **The Dismissal**

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth with the Risen Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*People:* ***Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.***

**Postlude** ***Come, Christians, Join to Sing*** *by Charles Bateman,*  
*arr. by Mark Hayes*

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## Saint Stephen's Ministries Wish List



Our homeless outreach desperately needs supplies. Please help us to continue to help others by contributing these needed items.

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### Hope and Healing Bags

#### Snacks:

- Package of crackers  
Either cheese or peanut butter
- Cereal fruit bar
- Small container applesauce or fruit mix or Go-go Fruit Squeeze
- Bumble bee Chicken Salad (small container)
- Water
- Juice pack

#### Person Care:

- Toothbrushes (individual packs)
- Toothpaste (individual packs)
- Soap (mini bars)
- Baby wipes
- Hairbrush
- Body lotion (small bottles)
- Chapstick
- Band-Aids/gauze rolls
- Antibiotic ointment
- Sanitization Wipes
- Feminine Hygiene products
- Socks
- Poncho rain jacket
- Emergency mylar blankets
- Sewing kits

### Clothing Closet

*Guest usually requests larger sizes allowing space for layering*

*Items can be gently used*

- Caps and hats
- T-shirts/long sleeves:  
medium, large, XL
- Sweaters/fleeces:  
Large, XL
- Underwear (new)
- Thermals
- Pants:  
Men's: 34, 36, 38  
Women's: 6, 8, 10
- Scarves, gloves
- Coats:  
large, XL
- Sleeping bags
- Cotton blankets
- Shoes  
Men's: 10 to 13  
Women's: 7 to 10

*Guest usually requests sneakers with a bit of stretch.*



St. Stephen's mission is to care for souls through sacred encounters by reinventing congregation, is committed to the alleviation of suffering due to poverty and homelessness. We appreciate your support!

From Deacon Jeannie—

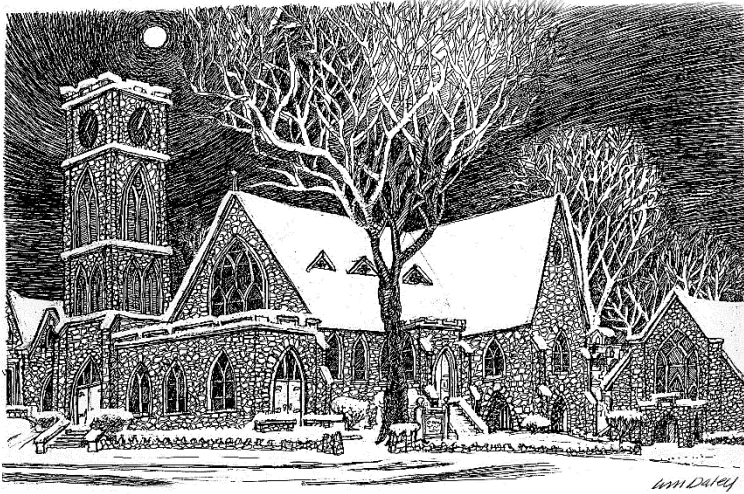
Dear Friends, A follow-up on some questions many of you have had about St. Stephen's. They are open on Wednesday from 1pm-3pm and on Thursday from 11:30am until 3 pm. There is a healing prayer service on Thursday at 12:15pm. Beginning in the fall, all deacons in the diocese will be on rotation for Sunday Evensong. I will share details about this once they are solidified.

For knitters and crocheters: The Bright Lights Hat and Glove ministry led by your deacon, looks to have 50 hand made hats, bright colors, please, ready to take to St. Stephen's for November 1st.

If you would prefer to use Amazon to send an item directly to St. Stephen's, please copy and past this link into your browser:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3MD229VKTDM99/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3MD229VKTDM99/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

**Other ministry news:** Also in the fall, at least one deacon will lead adult support groups by either zoom or in person. These support group topics include support for adults facing loneliness, aging, grief, LGBTQIA, divorce, among others. Calendars for these support groups will be posted on the Diocesan Calendar as soon as they begin to take place.



# ST PAUL'S ELKINS PARK

*An Inclusive Multicultural Episcopal Church*

**7809 Old York Road  
Elkins Park, PA 19027  
(215) 635-4185  
office@stpaulselkinspark.org**

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**Tessika McClendon**, Soprano  
**Shango-Jamal Lewis**, Baritone

***St. Paul's Episcopal Church is a multi-cultural community of faith  
with members from all over the world.***

## **Sunday Service**

9:00 a.m. Family Communion in the Sanctuary or on Zoom

***Contemporary worship with ancient depth and great music***

**www.stpaulselkinspark.org  
www.stpaulsfriends.org**

*Subscribe to our calendar: [www.stpaulselkinspark.org/parish-life/events/](http://www.stpaulselkinspark.org/parish-life/events/)*

(Drawing above by William Daley)