

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Lord's Day, December 29, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

***God Calls Us to Worship Him:** Responsive Reading of John 1:1-5

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Congregation: He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Pastor: In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Congregation: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

*** We Sing in Response:** #208 Red Hymnal *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

*** We Seek God's Presence in Prayer**

We Confess Our Sins Together : Gracious God, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts of this world. We loved the gifts more than the giver. In your mercy, help us to see that all the things we pine for are shadows, but you are substance; that they are quick sands, but you are mountain; that they are shifting, but you are anchor. We plead your forgiveness on the merits of Jesus Christ. Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his fullness for our emptiness, his glory for our shame, his righteousness for our dead works, his death for our life. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

– *From Reformed Resources on Monergism*

We Pray Silent Prayers of Confession

God Assures Us We Are Forgiven: John 8:31-32

*** We Sing In Response to God's Forgiveness:** #389 Black Hymnal *"All I Have Is Christ"*

*** We Confess Our Faith Together:** We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made: of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom... will never end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

– *Nicene Creed*

We Read From God's Word: John 15:18—16:4

We Pray For The Congregation and Community

We Memorize God's Word: John 1:18 “No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.”

We Present Our Tithes & Offerings In Worship

We Worship Through the Music of Offertory

* **We Sing the Doxology:** #731 Red Hymnal “*Doxology*”

* **We Give Thanks to the Lord**

* **We Sing In Preparation for the Word:** #642 Red Hymnal “*Be Thou My Vision*”

Pastor Reads the Sermon Text: Acts 6:8-15

Pastor Preaches God's Word: “*Stephen, Filled with Grace in His Gaze Upon Jesus*”
– Pastor Wes James

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

* **We Sing In Response to the Word:** #224 Red Hymnal “*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*”

* **The Lord Sends Us Out (Benediction)**

Sermon Outline
Acts 6:8-15
“Stephen, Filled with Grace in His Gaze Upon Jesus”
12-29-24

Proposition: God works mightily in those who fix their gaze on the wonder and works of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Main Point One: Stephen’s Strength

- Sub Point One: Filled with God’s Grace
- Sub Point Two: Performing Great Works
- Sub Point Three: The Freedman’s Dispute
- Sub Point Four: Prevailing Wisdom

Main Point Two: Stephen’s Opposition

- Sub Point One: A Secret Stirring
- Sub Point Two: False Accusations
- Sub Point Three: Stephen’s Arrest

Main Point Three: Stephen’s Face

- Sub Point One: The Council’s Look
- Sub Point Two: Stephen’s Appearance