

SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020



Our Mission

is to be the heart and hands of Christ: nourishing people, transforming lives

Our Core Values

May be found on our Web Page

THE HOLY EUCHARIST
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020

Hymn 438

“Tell out my soul”

Woodlands

1. Tell out, my, soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy Name the Lord, the Mighty One.

3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children’s children and for evermore!

Greeting, Announcements

The Word of God

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

***People* And blessed be his kingdom now and forever. Amen.**

The Celebrant prays:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Celebrant Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,

***People* Have mercy upon us.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Lesson 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

People Thanks be to God

Canticle 15

The Song of Mary Magnificat *(please read responsively at the half verse)*

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
 He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
 He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
 The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Second Lesson *Romans 16: 25-27*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Solo "The Angel Gabriel from heaven came" *Gabriel's Message/Paul Manz*

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke,

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Holy Gospel *Luke 1: 26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. David DeSmith

The Nicene Creed *said by all, standing*

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 Leader and the People pray responsively.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy".

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our new Rector, the Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley, and her family; for a smooth transition in the days ahead, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Doug our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust especially the President, Vice-President, President-elect and Vice president-elect, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the complete eradication of the COVID-19 pandemic and for those who bravely put their lives on the line to serve and save others: members of the armed services, health care workers, first responders, law enforcement personnel, educators, grocery store workers and all others, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Stephen and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

Silence

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.

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**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our 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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:

Celebrant and People say **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.**

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People say

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Stephen and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

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.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Spiritual Communion Prayer

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech 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

Blessing “And the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister, Mary and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always **Amen**

Hymn 56 “O come, O come Emmanuel”
(*stanzas 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8*)

Veni, veni Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to the, O Israel!

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. (*Refrain*)
4. O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave. (*Refrain*)
5. O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. (*Refrain*)
7. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thy self our King of Peace. (*Refrain*)
8. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. (*Refrain*)

Priest Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary "Caprice" - *Magnificat on the Second Tone*

Louis Clerambault

Ministers of the Celebration

CELEBRANT & PREACHER

The Rev. David DeSmith

LECTOR

Donald Phipps

PRAYERS

William Frazier

ALTAR GUILD

Marie Sutton, William Frazier

PASTORAL CARE

Aloha Winchester

VOCALISTS

Wavelyn and Jeffrey Hine

VIDEO PRODUCTION

MusiChris DJ and Lighting Service

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THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN'S

SUNDAY, December 20

10:00 a.m. Facebook Service
1:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Beloved
Grab and Go Lunch

5:00 and 10:00 p.m. Facebook Service
3:00 p.m. St. Stephen's Table

MONDAY, December 21

TUESDAY, December 22

5:00 p.m. Advent Vespers on Zoom

FRIDAY, December 25

Christmas Day
Parish Office Closed
10:00 a.m. Facebook Service
NO St. Stephen's Table

WEDNESDAY, December 23

1:00 p.m. Parish Office closes

SATURDAY, December 26

THURSDAY, December 24

Christmas Eve
Parish Office Closed

SUNDAY, December 27

10:00 a.m. Facebook Service
1:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Beloved
Grab and Go Lunch

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

SUNDAY

All persons serving in the armed forces and their families: MAJ Andrew B., CPT Nicholas P., ILT Curran J. D., Lance CPL Chad L., SPC Amanda D., Pvt. Corey F. D., Army Ranger Sean J., MAJ Michael C., Micah H.

Saint Matthew's, Worcester
Safe Church Officer, Tanya R. Wallace
Berkshire Interfaith Organizing (BIO)
Church Pension Group (CPG)

The Mothers' Union throughout the Anglican Communion

MONDAY

Dioceses of South West Tanganyika (Tanzania) and Esan (Nigeria)

TUESDAY

We remember all who need our prayers especially: Timothy A., Madge B., Clarence D., Ken & Diana E., Cyndi K., Henry L., Christina O., Kevin S., Clara V., Maureen W., Abby, Becca, Betty, Donna, Faye, Fiona, Heather, Jay, Jim, Joan, John, Josh, Judy H., Karen, Keith, Linda, Lisa, Maia, Marilyn, Mary, Melissa & Family, Nancy & Rick, Noreen, Pam, Patrick, Paula, Susan, Barbara, Zeke, Marion, Joe, Roy, Marie, Bob, Robert J., Walter H., Jill, Barbara A., Jeff S., Shirley, Maryann J. and family, Marion, Charles W. H., Sydney A., Jeffrey B., Ray, Thomas S., Peter, Barbara D., Ray, William, Doris, Barbara, Erika, Johnathan W., Nancy G., Louis C., all who are impacted by the Coronavirus, Pat, Jack, Francis, Susan, Frank L., Deane, Tom, David P. Joan K., Teddy C.

Those with mental health issues

Dioceses of Etche and Etsako (Both in Nigeria)

WEDNESDAY

Dioceses of Evo (Nigeria) and Exeter (England)

THURSDAY

The Christian Center
Congregation of Knesset Israel
Temple Anshe Amunim
The Supreme Court

Dioceses of Ezo (South Sudan) and Faisalabad (Pakistan)

FRIDAY

St. Stephen's Participating in Worship Team

The Peace of Jerusalem and the People of Bethlehem

SATURDAY

Dioceses of Fianarantsoa (Madagascar), Florida (USA) and False Bay (South Africa)

St. Stephen's calls a new Rector!

The Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley will be joining St. Stephen's in February.

Nina comes to us from St. Bartholomew's in Yarmouth Maine She will be joined by her husband Ken, adult daughters, Mackenzie and Channing, dog Finn, and a few cats.

The calling of this Rector was the coordinated effort of the Profile and Search Committees and the Vestry. The Profile Committee, Craig Reynolds, Maribeth Barney, Liz Trapani, Susan Wojtasik, and Chris Plankey, truly captured the heart of St. Stephen's and attracted qualified candidates. The Search Committee, David Nevins, Alec Gilman, Susan LeBourdais, Craig Smith, Josie Ellis, Cathy Carchedi, John Garinther, Chris Perry and Wendy Coakley did their due diligence to find the best match for us. A few weeks ago, the Vestry invited Nina for a conversation which we did in person here at St. Stephen's using all safety protocols. Both the Search Committee and Vestry voted unanimously to call Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley as our new Rector.

Additional information, including a letter from Rev. Dr. Pooley, has been mailed or emailed to the parish and can be found on St. Stephen's website and in this week's eblast.

WHO ARE WE? St. Stephen's Parish is a community of people who together seek to serve our community, drawing strength and joy from worshipping together. We don't all believe the same, act the same, vote the same, or dress the same – but we strive to love the same, as Christ loved and served all people.

ST. STEPHEN'S TABLE - Gifts in thanksgiving or in memory can be made by sending a donation to the church with the name of the person to be honored or remembered. You can also make a donation online! Just go to our website, select "Support Our Ministries," and follow the prompts to the list of gift opportunities. Select "St. Stephen's Table" and follow the directions. *This week's Gifts to the Table are given in by Cathy Carchedi.*

VIRTUAL VESPERS ADVENT SERVICE: Tuesday's during Advent at 5:00p.m. Contact the office, smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org, for the link or look on Realm. The last service will be on December 22.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES WILL BE VIRTUAL THIS YEAR. One service of Festival Holy Eucharist with familiar carols and music will be available for our participation and viewing on Christmas Eve at 5 P.M. and 10 P.M. as well as on Christmas Day at 10 A.M. and Sunday, December 27 at 10 A.M. There will be no other worship service on Sunday, December 27. We will resume with our virtual worship on Sunday, January 3 at 10 A.M. when we will celebrate the Feast of The Epiphany. You may access the service on our [Facebook](#) page or through the [St. Stephen's website](#).

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS AND FLOWER DONATIONS are being accepted at the office during business hours, by mail and [online](#). Look for the "Christmas/Christmas Eve" option under Funds when making an online gift. Deadline: December 21 for tributes to be included in the bulletin.

2021 PLEDGES ARE STILL BEING ACCEPTED. If you did not receive a pledge card, please contact the office and we will send one out.

LIVING GREEN TIP

Is this Christmas a chance for you to change up some old traditions? With fewer big family gatherings, maybe we can think about new menus that focus on locally produced meats and vegetables rather than ingredients that travel the globe to get to our local store.

Cardboard Breakdown: Don Phipps

Bottles and Cans Toter: Bill Morey

MEETINGS HELD AT SAINT STEPHEN'S

All AA and NA meetings remain suspended due to COVID-19

Saint Stephen's

A Jubilee Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

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Our Vestry

Tom Dillon, Co-Warden

Erin Sullivan, Co-Warden

Mark Miller, Clerk

Leah Luczynski, Treasurer

Valerie Andersen

Louise Penney

Angie Moon

John Culver

Chris Plankey

Wendy Coakley

Our Staff

The Rev. David DeSmith, Bridge Pastor

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Sarah Morrison, Parish Administrator

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William Frazier, Pastoral Leader

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Weekday Sextons-Berkshire County ARC Jenell Pullano, Supervisor

Sunday Sexton Roy Stillman

The Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher

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