

SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

January 10, 2021



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

January 10, 2021

Hymn 616 “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

1. Hail to the Lord’s Anointed, great David’s greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2. He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.
4. Kings shall bow down before him, and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
5. O’er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest:
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his Name shall stand forever, his changeless Name Of Love.

The Word of God

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

People **And blessed be God’s 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.

People **Amen.**

Gloria in excelsis *(all saying together)*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant prays the Collect.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

First Lesson Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29 *(please read responsively at the half verse)*

1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *

worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; *

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *

the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *

the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *

and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire; the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Second Lesson Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel Mark 1:4-11

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. David DeSmith

Organ Solo "O Jesus, grant us hope and comfort"

J.W. Franck

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Celebrant Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your Commitment to Jesus Christ?

People I do.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People 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.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Leader: For all people in their daily life and work;

***People:* For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Leader: For this community, the nation, and the world;

***People:* For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Leader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

***People:* For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Leader: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

***People:* For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Leader: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

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

Leader: For Michael Curry our Presiding Bishop, and Douglas Fisher our Bishop(s); and for all bishops and other ministers;

***People:* For all who serve God in his Church.**

Leader: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Leader: Hear us, Lord;

***People:* For your mercy is great.**

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

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

Leader: We will exalt you, O God our King;

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

Leader: We pray for all who have died, especially Priscilla, Daniel and Madge, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Leader: Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

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

Leader: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People: Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B)

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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Sanctus *said by all*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Bless'd is the one 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 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 for ever. **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 Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

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 being 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 the 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

LEVAS Hymn 141 “Shall we gather at the river”

Robert Lowry

1. Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod;
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God.

Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

2. On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. (*Refrain*)
3. Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. (*Refrain*)
4. Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. (*Refrain*)

Celebrant Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit!
People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary “I want to walk as a child of the light”

Wayne Wold



Ministers of the Celebration

CELEBRANT & PREACHER

The Rev. David DeSmith

LECTOR

Debbie Stillman

PRAYERS

William Frazier

ALTAR GUILD

Marie Sutton, William Frazier

VOCALISTS

Wavelyn Hine

Jeffrey Hine

VIDEO PRODUCTION

MusiChris DJ and Lighting Service

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THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN'S

SUNDAY, January 10

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

FRIDAY, January 15

4:30 p.m. Parish Office Closed
St. Stephen's Table-
Grab and Go

MONDAY, January 11

SATURDAY, January 16

TUESDAY, January 12

SUNDAY, January 17

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

WEDNESDAY, January 13

THURSDAY, January 14

4:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Table-
Grab and Go

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.

Grace Episcopal, Amherst
Building Bridges Veterans Initiative
The House of Bishops

Dioceses of Lebombo (Mozambique), Southern Ohio (USA) and Southern Philippines

MONDAY

Diocese of Leeds (England)

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., Thomas S., Peter, Barbara D., Ray, William, Doris, Barbara, Erika, Johnathan W., Nancy G., all who are impacted by the Coronavirus, Pat, Jack, Francis, Susan, Frank L., Deane, Tom, David P, Joan K., Teddy C., Eileen, Joan M., David W., Bert B., family of Priscilla Z., family of Daniel D.

Those with mental health issues
Dioceses of Leicester (England), Southern Virginia (USA)
and Gloucester (England)

WEDNESDAY

Dioceses of Lesotho and Southwark (England)

THURSDAY

The Elizabeth Freeman Center
Pittsfield Area Council of Congregations
Members of Congress

Dioceses of Lexington (USA) and Southwell & Nottingham (England)

FRIDAY

St. Stephen's Teaching and Learning Team
St. Stephen's Parish Life Team

Dioceses of Liberia and Southwest Florida (USA)

SATURDAY

Dioceses of Lichfield (England) and
Southwestern Virginia (USA)

PARISH NOTICES

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 loving memory of Ginger Smith and in honor of by Hannah Anderson, Barbara Barry, John Culver, Charlene DiCicco and Ken Wheelock.*

2021 PLEDGE ENVELOPES WERE MAILED BEFORE CHRISTMAS if you did not receive yours, please contact the office.

SAVE THE DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 FOLLOWING THE ON-LINE SERVICE! This will be a Zoom meeting, the link will be available closer to the meeting date.

IF THE ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED, YOU KNOW IT'S ANNUAL REPORT TIME!

Committee chairs and others who must submit reports, don't dally at your keyboard, your info don't delay; get your fingers typing, this reminder please obey and email Sarah Morrison your missive right away. (smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org) Deadline is February 1, 2021.

LIVING GREEN TIP

Commit to eating less meat in 2021, meat production accounts for 14.5% of man-made greenhouse gases. The 2 primary drivers are methane from the animals and deforestation for pastureland and raising crops to feed the animals. (www.forbes.com)

Cardboard Home: Virginia Donovan
Paper Toter: Craig Reynolds

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, Wendy Coakley and the Rev. Frances Hills 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, may be found on St. Stephen's website.

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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Joy Mullen, Director of Music

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Sarah Morrison, Parish Administrator

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Dan Moon, Coordinator of St. Stephen's Table

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William Frazier, Pastoral Leader

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Bert Boos, Office Assistant

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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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