

# SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

## The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

### January 31, 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

10:00 A.M. January 31, 2021

Hymn 493 “O for a thousand tongues to sing”

*Azmon*

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer’s praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim  
and spread through all the earth abroad the honors of the Name.
3. Jesus! The Name that charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease;  
‘tis music in the sinner’s ears, ‘tis life and health and peace.
4. He speaks; and, listening to his voice, new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.
5. Hear him, ye deaf; ye voiceless ones, your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold, your Savior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!
6. Glory to God and praise and love be now an ever given  
by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

### 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.*

### *The Collect*

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

### **First Lesson** Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 111** *(please read responsively at the half verse)*

1 Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, \*  
**in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.**

2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! \*

**they are studied by all who delight in them.**

3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, \*

**and his righteousness endures for ever.**

4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; \*

**the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.**

5 He gives food to those who fear him; \*

**he is ever mindful of his covenant.**

6 He has shown his people the power of his works \*

**in giving them the lands of the nations.**

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; \*

**all his commandments are sure.**

- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, \*  
**because they are done in truth and equity.**
- 9 He sent redemption to his people;  
 he commanded his covenant for ever; \*  
**holy and awesome is his Name.**
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; \*  
**those who act accordingly have a good understanding;**  
**his praise endures for ever.**

**Second Lesson** 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

**The Holy Gospel** Mark 1:21-28

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

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

**Sermon**

The Rev. David DeSmith

**Organ Solo**    “Blessed are you who live in faith unswerving”

Johannes Brahms

**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 People pray responsively*

*Leader:* The exorcist in the house is Jesus and he takes on anything which might diminish us. May we give thanks that our Lord and Savior is in all the anxiety and pain of the world.

Let us then pray to the Lord who has everything to do with us, saying, **“hear our prayer.”**

Precious Lord, help us to recover holy amazement at your wondrous works and how you use us to be blessings to others: as first responders, health care workers, teachers, staff, administrators, laborers in all kinds of professions and trades; and through our children who so easily convey innocence, spontaneity, resiliency, awe and wonder.

*Silence (your own blessings and thanksgivings may be added)*

*Leader:* Lord, you have everything to do with us;

***People:* Hear our prayer**

Precious Lord, may we like the man with the unclean spirit, fight our way towards freedom: in our own lives, the lives of others, the life of the Church, the lives of our various communities, and in the life of our nation and world. Help us especially to fight for the lives of all those who are oppressed by the inequalities of our relationships, systems and institutions: the poor, the oppressed, the invisible, the silenced, the imprisoned, the marginalized, and all others too numerous to name.

*Silence (your own prayers may be added)*

*Leader:* Lord, you have everything to do with us;

***People:* Hear our prayer**

Precious Lord, we pray for the sick, the dying and all those in any trouble or grief, especially the victims of the Coronavirus pandemic; for the complete eradication of the virus. We give thanks for the newly developed vaccines and pray for their efficient and effective distribution.

*Silence (your own prayers may be added)*

*Leader:* Lord, you have everything to do with us;

***People:* Hear our prayer**

Precious Lord, give us words and actions that witness to our prayers. Help us to stand up and speak out; to speak truth to power, even protesting non-violently if so called; to share your abundance with others especially those who do not have enough. May we serve in your holy Name at all times and in all places.

*Silence (your own prayers may be added)*

*Leader:* Lord, you have everything to do with us;

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

Confession

Enriching Our Worship 1

Let us confess our sins to God.

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. 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**

**Hymn 488**

“Be thou my vision”

*Slane*

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
all else be naught to me, save that thou art  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my great Father; thine own may I be;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
3. High King of heaven, when victory is won,  
may I reach heaven’s joys, bright heaven’s Sun!  
Heart of my heart, whatever be fall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Celebrant*     Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

**Voluntary**     *Exeunt Omnes*

Richard Lloyd

†

## Ministers of the Celebration

### CELEBRANT & PREACHER

The Rev. David DeSmith

### LECTOR

James Alden

### 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 31

10:00 a.m. Facebook Service

1:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Beloved

Grab and Go Lunch

### MONDAY, February 1

### TUESDAY, February 2

### WEDNESDAY, February 3

### THURSDAY, February 4

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

Grab and Go

### FRIDAY, February 5

Parish Office Closed

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

Grab and Go

### SATURDAY, February 6

### SUNDAY, February 7

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.

St. Thomas', Auburn  
Daughters of the King  
Evangelism Initiatives, Racial Reconciliation and  
Creation Care

Dioceses of Lucknow (India) and Guatemala

### MONDAY

Diocese of All Saints Cathedral (Kenya)

### TUESDAY

*We remember all who need our prayers especially:* Timothy A., 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., the family of Robert J.

Those with mental health issues

Diocese of Aluakluak (South Sudan)

### WEDNESDAY

Diocese of Amazônia (Brazil)

### THURSDAY

Habitat for Humanity in Pittsfield  
Department of Mental Health  
Government of the United States

Diocese of Amichi (Nigeria)

### FRIDAY

St. Stephen's Caring Welcoming Team  
St. Stephen's Cooking Team

Diocese of Amritsar (North India)

### SATURDAY

Diocese of Andaman & Car Nicobar Islands (North India)

## WE WELCOME THE. REV. DR. NINA POOLEY!

Nina will begin her service at St. Stephen's on February 1<sup>st</sup> in typical COVID era fashion – virtually. Luckily, technology allows for close communication and the wonderful Rev. David DeSmith will continue to be on call. Stay tuned for more information.

## 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 by Bill Carter in celebration of Teddy's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

**FROM MANY, ONE: CONVERSATIONS ACROSS DIFFERENCE**, a campaign urging Episcopalians and our neighbors to engage in the spiritual practice of listening and honest conversation across the many differences that separate us began on Monday, January 18. For more information go to [episcopalchurch.org/from-many-one](http://episcopalchurch.org/from-many-one)

**THE DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14.** It will be a Zoom meeting at 11:00 a.m. following the online service. Please contact the office if you would like the link. ([smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org](mailto:smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org))

#### **LIVING GREEN TIP**

**Insulating your home will reduce your energy needs by keeping warm air in and cold air out in the winter.** But insulation itself has an energy cost, so when looking to upgrade, look at alternatives to fiberglass which can be up to 10 times more energy intensive to produce than “greener” options.  
(<https://elemental.green>)

Cardboard Breakdown:      John Garinther  
Bottles and Cans Toter:      John Garinther

#### **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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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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