

SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

The Third Sunday of Lent

March 7, 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

March 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

The Word of the Lord

WLP Hymn #825 “Bless the Lord, my soul”

Jacques Berthier and The Taizé Community

(Cantor, All)

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God’s holy name.

Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life. *(All repeat.)*



Bless the Lord my soul and bless God’s ho-ly name.



Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in-to life.

Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed be the God of our salvation.

***All:* who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

The Confession

Presider: As we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

Presider: Most merciful God,

***All:* 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 our Savior 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.**

The Absolution

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

Trisagion S99 “Holy God (*sung 3 times*)

Plainsong, Mode 1; Bruce Ford

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you
All **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson Exodus 20: 1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19 *(please read responsively at the half verse)*

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *

and the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 One day tells its tale to another, *

and one night imparts knowledge to another.

3 Although they have no words or language, *

and their voices are not heard,

4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *

and their message to the ends of the world.

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *

it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; *

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; *

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; *

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; *

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *

sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *

and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends? *

cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; *

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, *

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

All Thanks be to God.

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Holy Gospel John 2: 13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Meditation following the sermon

Organ Solo

"Antiphon III"

The Apostles' Creed *said by all, standing*

Presider: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

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

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.
 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.
 Amen.

The Prayers of the People

WLP Hymn # 827 "O Lord hear my prayer" (*sung*) Jacques Berthier and The Taizé Community

O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r.
 When I call, an - swer me. O Lord hear my pray'r. O
 Lord hear my pray'r Come and list-ten to me. O

Our God is full of compassion and mercy, let us pray:

For the world and its leaders, for our President and our nation,
 and for the wellbeing of Creation,
 that there may be justice and peace on the earth.
 God of integrity, **hear our prayer.**

For Michael and Douglas our Bishops; and David and Nina our Presiding Clergy.
 For our fellow members in the diocese of Massachusetts,
 and for our ecumenical partners in mission;
 and all who minister to the world in the name of Christ.

In the Diocesan cycle of Prayer we pray for Christ Church, Fitchburg; Cathedral of the Beloved,
 Pittsfield; all retired clergy; Episcopal Public Policy network and US Disaster Program, Episcopal
 Relief and Development.
 In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo
 God of courage, **hear our prayer.**

For all who suffer from any kind of need or trouble, that they may find comfort and healing.
 David, Eileen, Teddy, Noreen, *Please offer your intercessions at this time.*

God of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, that they be gathered into your love and life eternal.
Especially the over 500,000 of our citizens who have died from the COVID pandemic. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all that is good and gracious in our lives, we offer our thanksgivings:

The People may add their own thanksgivings

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r.
When I call, an - swer me. O Lord hear my pray'r. O
Lord hear my pray'r Come and list-ten to me. O

The Peace

Jesus said to the disciples: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.' *John 14:27*

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

All And also with you.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider God be with you.

All And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations. 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 (*spoken*)

**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.**

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,**

now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider The Living Bread,
People given for the life of the world
The Gifts of God for the People of God

John 6:51

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Let us pray:

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

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of God's Son Jesus Christ our Savior;
and the blessing of God Almighty:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 409

“The spacious firmament on high”

Creation

1. The spacious firmament on high, with all the blue ethereal sky,
and spangled heavens, a shining frame, their great original proclaim.
The unwearied sun from day to day does his Creator's power display;
and publishes to every land the work of an almighty hand.
2. Soon as the evening shades prevail, the moon takes up the wondrous tale,
and nightly to the listening earth repeats the story of her birth:
whilst all the stars that round her burn, and all the planets in their turn,
confirm the tidings, as they roll and spread the truth from pole to pole.
3. What though in solemn silence all move round the dark terrestrial ball?
What though no real voice nor sound amid their radiant orbs be found?
In reason's ear they all rejoice, and utter forth a glorious voice;
Forever sing as they shine, “The hand that made us is divine.”

Presider Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior
People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary “Largo” from *Xerxes*

G.F. Handel

Ministers of the Celebration

PRESIDER

The Rev. David DeSmith

PREACHER

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

LECTOR

Debbie Stillman

PRAVERS

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, March 7

10:00 a.m. Facebook Service
11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
1:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Beloved
Grab and Go Lunch

FRIDAY, March 12

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

MONDAY, March 8

TUESDAY, March 9

7:15 p.m. Zoom Vestry Meeting

WEDNESDAY, March 10

THURSDAY, March 11

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

SATURDAY, March 13

SUNDAY, March 14

Daylight Savings Time Begins
10:00 a.m. Facebook Service
11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
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., Micah H.

Christ Church, Fitchburg;
Cathedral of the Beloved, Pittsfield;
All retired Clergy
Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN);
US Disaster Program, Episcopal Relief & Development

Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

MONDAY

Diocese of Athabasca (Canada)

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, Walter H., Jill, Barbara A., Jeff S., Shirley, Maryann J. and family, Marion, Charles W. Sydney A., Jeffrey B., Thomas S., Peter, Barbara D., William, Doris, Barbara, Erika, Johnathan W., Nancy G., all who are impacted by the Coronavirus, Pat, Jack, Susan, Frank L., Deane, Tom, David P, Teddy C., Eileen, David W., Marilyle, Joan H., Michael C., Amelia

Those with mental health issues

Diocese of Athooch (South Sudan)

WEDNESDAY

Diocese of Atlanta (USA)

THURSDAY

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

Diocese of Auckland (Australia)

FRIDAY

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

Diocese of North West Australia

SATURDAY

Diocese of Aweil (South Sudan)

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 Frazier, John and Jeanne Musgrove in loving memory of Ruth Wood.

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR at 11:00 a.m. following the Facebook service. The link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/92912815694?pwd=NEY2NINqbHVyeTNETjlrSG5BcFBzUT09> or go to zoom.us/join and enter meeting ID 929 1281 5694. The passcode is 619428. This link will work every Sunday.

MARCH VESTRY MEETING – Tuesday, March 9 at 7:15 p.m. via Zoom

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS NEXT WEEK; “spring forward” Saturday night, March 13 so you are not late to the service on Sunday morning.

ZION LUTHERAN INVITES YOU TO LENT VESPERS every Thursday evening at 5pm during Lent. Join Pastor Anna and Music Director Amy for a live Zoom Vespers; we will have time for music, prayer, and reflection, as we walk through Lent together. Please email the Zion’s office (office@zionlutheranpittsfield.org) for the Zoom link.

LIVING GREEN TIP

Greenhouse gas emissions fell during 2020 but as countries loosen COVID-19 restrictions, emissions in some areas are now greater than they were before the pandemic. Reducing our dependence on the automobile has the largest effect on our individual carbon footprint; so keep planning your errands and limiting your trips.

Cardboard –Home
Paper Toter:

Virginia Donovan
Craig Reynolds

MEETINGS HELD AT SAINT STEPHEN’S

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

Saint Stephen's

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Our Vestry

Erin Sullivan, Co-Warden
Craig Reynolds, Co-Warden
Angela Moon, Clerk
Leah Luczynski, Treasurer

Valerie Andersen
Louise Penney
Mark Miller
John Culver

Chris Plankey
Wendy Coakley

Our Staff

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Bert Boos, Office Assistant
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Weekday Sextons-Berkshire County ARC Jenell Pullano, Supervisor
Sunday Sexton Roy Stillman

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