

SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

The Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday

March 28, 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

It is right to praise you, Sovereign God, for the acts of love by which you have set us free. On this day Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly to suffer and to die and was greeted with branches of palm. Let these branches be for us symbols of his majesty and his sacrifice. May we who carry them follow Christ in the way of the cross which leads to life; through Christ who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Hymn 154 “All glory, laud, and honor” (*stanza 1*)

Melchior Teschner

Refrain: All glory, laud and honor to thee, Redeemer, king!
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1. Thou art the King of Israel, thou David’s royal Son,
who in the Lord’s name comest, the King and Blessed One.

Repeat refrain

The Liturgy of the Passion

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:9-16 (*please read responsively at the half verse*)

9 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; *

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

10 For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; *

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

- 11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- 12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.
- 13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
- 14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. *
I have said, "You are my God.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

Statement of Practice - Cathedral of the Beloved -

Rev. Sloan Letman

All of us are made in the image and likeness of God.
When God created all of creation,
God said it is GOOD.
God didn't say it we OK or meh...
It is GOOD.
And so whether you have had (a day filled with beauty and wonder
or a day that has left you depleted and exhausted),
Know this:
You are loved.
You are worthy of being loved even when you make mistakes.
There is a God who loves you whether you are able to believe it or not.
Your neighbor is loved.
Your neighbor is worthy of being loved even when they make mistakes.
We make choices that are not always loving:
We hurt each other and the world we share.
And as we are held responsible and work to make amends,
God loves us.
God always sees the divine spark within each of us,
And knows we are capable of so much more.
So, God invites this same gentleness towards ourselves and our neighbors.
God, who loves us, and
is made known in and through Jesus,
is mysterious and wonderful and goes beyond all our understanding.
So, let us take a moment to rest in the Spirit's presence,
And reconnect with her still small voice,
Which moves in and through all things.
As we behold the mystery of the One who is love
And whose love surrounds us,
is within us
and before us.

Prayers of the People, Form VI, BCP

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.
Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael and Elizabeth our Presiding Bishops, and Douglas and Jim our Bishops, for Nina, Jennifer, Sloan, and Anna our Clergy, and all who minister to God's people.
For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
Especially: *(Please add your own intercessions.)*
Hear us, God;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
(Please add your own thanksgivings.)
We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, particularly those killed in the shootings in Atlanta and Boulder, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
(Please add your own intercessions.)
Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Concluding Collect

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. 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:

The Sanctus

**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 Presider continues:

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 maker of all. Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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, Almighty God, 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 Christ. 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 our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, 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

A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction

Be known to us Lord Jesus,
in the breaking of the bread.

The Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Post Communion Prayer

(Anglican Church of Canada,
Post Communion Prayer, Form II
adapted, from Maundy Thursday)

Let us pray.

**Holy God, source of all love,
on the night Jesus broke bread with his disciples,
he gave them a new commandment,
to love one another as he loved them.
While we cannot receive the sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood,
write this commandment in our hearts;
give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all,**

**who gave his life and died for us,
yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Gospel of the Passion The Rev. Jennifer Gregg, Rev. Sloan Letman, Mr. William Frazier, Mr. Chris Plankey, The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Mark 15:1-47 As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

Hymn #172

"In the cross of Christ I glory"

Afro-American Spiritual

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

The service ends in silence; our observance of Holy Week has begun

Ministers of the Celebration

PRESIDER

The Rev. Dr. Nina Ranadive Pooley, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

CELEBRANT and PREACHER

The Rev. Jennifer Gregg, Cathedral of the Beloved

ASSISTING CLERGY

Rev. Sloan Letman IV, Cathedral of the Beloved

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, March 28

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

MONDAY, March 29

TUESDAY, March 30

WEDNESDAY, March 31

THURSDAY, April 1

4:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Table-
Grab and Go
5:00 p.m. Zoom Maundy Thursday

FRIDAY, April 2

4:30 p.m. Parish Office Closed
St. Stephen's Table-
Grab and Go
6:00 p.m. Zoom Good Friday Liturgy

SATURDAY, April 3

Vigil from the Cathedral

SUNDAY, April 4

10:00 a.m. Facebook Service
10:00 a.m. Parking Lot 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., Micah H.

Saints James and Andrew, Greenfield;
Lay Employees of our Diocese
Clergy Spouses and Families
Episcopal Church Missionary Community;
Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE)

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

MONDAY

Diocese of Bari (Nigeria)

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, 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, Rev. Judy J. Eric & Katelyn, Scott, Ann

Those with mental health issues

Diocese of Baringo (Kenya)

WEDNESDAY

Diocese of Barrackpore (India)

THURSDAY

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

Diocese of Bath & Wells (England)

FRIDAY

St. Stephen's Stewardship Team

Diocese of Bathurst (Australia)

SATURDAY

Diocese of Bauchi (Nigeria)

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. *Gifts this week are given by Christine and Craig Reynolds in honor of birthdays in the Furcinite and Reynolds families.*

NO ZOOM COFFEE HOUR PALM SUNDAY OR EASTER SUNDAY

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR at 11:00 a.m. will return April 11. The link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/92912815694?pwd=NEY2NINqbHVycTNETjlrSG5BcFBzUT09> or go to zoom.us/join and enter meeting ID 929 1281 5694. The passcode is 619428.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Pittsfield, invites you to join us and area clergy for online worship this Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 5:00 pm on Zoom: We will join Episcopal and Lutheran congregations in Berkshire County for Evening Prayer and “Dinner Church,” as we remember the Last Supper. You are invited to eat your evening meal as you have a directed conversation with others in small groups. Hosted by Zion Lutheran Church, link to worship can be found here: <https://zionlutheranpittsfield.org/>

Good Friday, April 2, 6:00 pm on Zoom : We invite you to a traditional service of Good Friday, hosted by Episcopal and Lutheran congregations in Berkshire County. Originating from many of our beautiful worship spaces, this service includes The Passion story from The Gospel of John, veneration of the cross, music, and prayer.

Good Friday Zoom

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84773193624?pwd=RGdPQ09mM2kxMk0xa3ZEampIRE1WZz09>

The Easter Vigil, April 3, 8:00 pm on Facebook and YouTube: Join the clergy and people of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts as we worship together with this pre-recorded service premiering on Saturday evening. This beautiful service of light and story includes the season’s first celebration of Easter.

Diocesan YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv7jWa-XhOJDS45WbiHVFwQ>

Diocesan Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalWMA/>

Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 4 at 10am, Join us for our Easter worship online with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Zion Lutheran Church and Cathedral of the Beloved. Link to online worship can be found on the home page of the St. Stephen's website: At 10:00 a.m .there will be a Service in the Parking Lot across from Zion’s Church, with Cathedral of the Beloved and Zion with (Communion)

LIVING GREEN TIP

Use Cruise Control

If your car has cruise control, then do use it! You paid for it along with your car. This will help to improve your mileage at least by 15%, which will in the process save the environment, gasoline and your wallet.

Cardboard-Breakdown
Bottles/Cans Toter

John Garinther
Craig Reynolds

Saint Stephen's

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Our Vestry

Erin Sullivan, Co-Warden	Valerie Andersen	Chris Plankey
Craig Reynolds, Co-Warden	Louise Penney	Wendy Coakley
Angela Moon, Clerk	Mark Miller	
Leah Luczynski, Treasurer	John Culver	

Our Staff

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Weekday Sextons-Berkshire County ARC Jenell Pullano, Supervisor
Sunday Sexton Roy Stillman

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