

**SAINT STEPHEN'S
PARISH**

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Easter Sunday

April 4, 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

Easter Sunday
Collaborative Worshipping Communities of Downtown Pittsfield:
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Zion Lutheran Church and Cathedral of the Beloved
4 April 2021

Voluntary “Toccatà in D Minor”

J.S. Bach

Hymn 207 “Jesus Christ is risen today”

Easter Hymn

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
now above the sky he’s King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!
praise, him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Welcome

On behalf of the communities of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Zion Lutheran Church, and Cathedral of the Beloved, welcome to today's worship, as we gather together online to celebrate Easter Sunday.

Opening Sentences

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Presider may read the following:

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel:

The Lord your God is the only Lord.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul, with all your mind,

and with all your strength.

The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:29-31

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 *(Please read responsively at the half verse.)*

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *

his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let Israel now proclaim, *

"His mercy endures for ever."

14 The Lord is my strength and my song, *

and he has become my salvation.

15 There is a sound of exultation and victory *

in the tents of the righteous:

16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *

the right hand of the Lord is exalted! the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

17 I shall not die, but live, *

and declare the works of the Lord.

18 The Lord has punished me sorely, *

but he did not hand me over to death.

19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *

I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.

20 "This is the gate of the Lord; *

he who is righteous may enter."

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *

and have become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected *

has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing, *

and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 On this day the Lord has acted; *

we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Lesson Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Statement of Practice - Cathedral of the Beloved

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

(adapted from Common Worship, Church of England)

In faith and hope we pray:

For the Church of God, that She may be filled with truth and love,
and work for justice and mercy for all of your Creation.

For Michael and Elizabeth our Presiding Bishops, for Douglas and Jim our Bishops,
for Nina, Jenny, Sloan, and Anna our Clergy, and all who minister to God's people.

Risen Christ:

strengthen us to witness to your love.

For the peace of the world,
that a spirit of respect may grow among nations.

For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice,
and promote the dignity of every person.

For those who suffer due to violence, poverty, or natural disaster;
may all in need of refuge find relief and safety.

Risen Christ:

teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.

For our congregations and communities;
that we may be attentive to one another,
and responsive to the needs of the world.

For our friends and families, those we love;
for those who wish us harm, and any whom we have injured or offended.

Risen Christ:

may we reflect your love to the world.

For those whom you have entrusted to our prayers;
(please add your own intercessions)

Risen Christ:

grant them joy, peace, and health.

For all who have died
that they may know God's love and life eternal.
(please add your own intercessions)

As we commend ourselves, and one another to God's love and mercy,

Risen Christ:

send us forth to love as you love us.

Presider:

Praise to you, God of Abundance, for when we ask, you give; when we seek, you show the way. When we knock, you answer. Praise to you for your unfailing grace. Make us now your faithful people. Amen.

The Peace

Presider The Peace of Christ be always with you.

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

Anthem

“Magdalena”

Johannes Brahms

Early on that Easter morn
Mary Magdalena came, forlorn;
What found she where our Lord was laid,
but an angel.

The angel greeted her and said:
“Woman, why weepst thou?
He is not dead, He is arisen from the dead,
Jesus, whom thou seekest?”

“Mary”, Jesus saith to her,
Mary turned and called him “Master”,
For then in very truth she knew Him,
that he was the Saviour.

English version: Henry Drinker

An dem österlichen Tag
Maria Magdalena ging zu dem Grab;
was fand sie in dem Grabe stehn?
Einen Engel wohlgetan.

Der Engel grüßt sie in der Zeit:
“Den da suchet das vielselige Weib,
er ist erstanden von dem Tod,
den du salben wolltest.“

Maria!“ ruft er ihr zu hant,
da erkennt sie ihren Heiland,
sie sah in aller der Gebärde,
sam er ein Gärtner wäre.

Eucharist Prayer for Eastertide

*(Eucharistic Prayer IV,
The Scottish Episcopal Church, adapted)*

Presider: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to our God.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider:

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being. Your power sustains us, your love restores our broken world. Creating God, you are unceasingly at work, bringing order from chaos and filling emptiness with life. Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope. Jesus lives in us that we may walk in light.

Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love. As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by Christ who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Presider continues:

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Gracious God, for by the Cross eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery dawned the one whom they loved was not lost to them. Jesus is with us now in every place for ever.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, at supper with his disciples Jesus took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you." After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

Presider:

So, as we do what he told us,

People:

**we open our hearts to him;
we remember how he died
and rose again to live now in us.**

Presider:

Together with him we offer you these gifts:

People:

in them we give you ourselves.

Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that they may be the Body and Blood of your Son. Kindle the fire of your love in us, and renew us for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body, to live and work to your praise and glory; that we may grow together in unity and love and at the last, in your new creation, may we join the company of apostles, prophets, and all our brothers and sisters living and departed. All this we

ask through our Redeemer, 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 forever. **AMEN.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Fraction Anthem "Alleluia"

George Nesbit

The Invitation

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Presider: Let us pray.

All: **Risen Christ,
while we cannot receive your Body and Blood physically,
we entreat you to be spiritually present with us in this communion,
and in all that we do.
Be our companion in the way,
kindle our hearts, and awaken hope,
that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture
and the breaking of the bread.
Now, send us forth into the world
to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;

render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor everyone;
love and serve our God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and always.

Amen.

Hymn 180

“He is risen”

Unser Herrscher

1. He is risen, he is risen! Tell it out with joyful voice;
He has burst his three days’ prison; let the whole wide earth rejoice:
death is conquered, we are free, Christ has won the victory.
2. Come, ye sad and fearful hearted, with glad smile and radiant brow!
Death’s long shadows have departed; Jesus’ woes are over now,
and the passion that he bore sin and pain can vex no more.
3. Come, with high and holy hymning, hail our Lord’s triumphant day;
not one darksome cloud is dimming yonder glorious morning ray,
breaking o’er the purple east, symbol of our Easter feast.
4. He is risen, he is risen! He hath opened heaven’s gate:
we are free from sin’s dark prison, risen to a holier state;
and a brighter Easter beam on our longing eyes shall stream.

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in our Risen Savior.
Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!

Voluntary “Fugue in D Minor”

J.S. Bach

Ministers of the Celebration

PRESIDER

The Rev. Jennifer Gregg, Cathedral of the Beloved

CELEBRANT and PREACHER

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

ASSISTING CLERGY

Rev. Sloan Letman IV, Cathedral of the Beloved

LECTOR

Debbie Stillman

PRAYERS

William Frazier

ALTAR GUILD

Marie Sutton, William Frazier

VOCALISTS

Sarah Novak, *soprano*
Wavelyn Hine, *alto*

Jeffrey Hine, *tenor*
Robert Szczepaniak, *bass*

VIDEO PRODUCTION

MusiChris DJ and Lighting Service

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THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN'S

SUNDAY, April 4

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

MONDAY, April 5

TUESDAY, April 6

WEDNESDAY, April 7

THURSDAY, April 8

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

FRIDAY, April 9

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

SATURDAY, April 10

5:00 p.m. Sunday's Online Service
Available

SUNDAY, April 11

10:00 a.m. Online 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.

St. Francis', Holden
Laundry Love, Pittsfield, Worcester, Milford
Clergy in "Fresh Start"
Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations
Church Scholarship Society

The peace of Jerusalem

MONDAY

Diocese of Belize

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, Eileen, David W., Michael C., Amelia, Rev. Judy J. Eric & Katelyn, Scott, Ann P., Ernest W., family of Francis Groleau

Those with mental health issues

Diocese of Bendigo (Australia)

WEDNESDAY

Diocese of Benin (Nigeria)

THURSDAY

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

Diocese of Bentiu (South Sudan)

FRIDAY

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

Diocese of Bermuda

SATURDAY

Diocese of Bethlehem (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. *Gifts this week are given by Nancy Lamoureux in loving memory of her mother, Doris Hansen and husband, Gary Lamoureux.*

NO ZOOM COFFEE HOUR TODAY, EASTER SUNDAY

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

OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE in this holy season to the many members of the parish whose long hours of work behind the scenes combines to make these celebrations so glorious! Especially, we thank Music Director, Joy Mullen, William Morey and Roy Sutton as well as our office staff and our sextons. Thank you all for your hard work dedication and love.

LIVING GREEN TIP
Shop Local for Easter Treats

Buying candy or pastries from a local confectioner or baker cuts down on packaging and transportation of those goods and keeps more money in your community.

Cardboard-Home

Mark Miller

Paper Toter

Jeff Pringle

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS

Barbara and C. Douglas Blanchard
Gloria and Gene Brady
Caroline Lambert Bregg
John F. Brouker
Barbara K. Rawson Brouker

Marian W. Krause

Stephen Lambert
Harold (Roy) Lambert
Althea Krause Leyon

Judy J. Culver-Bueno

Cherie McMahon
Janet and Fred Morrison
Anna and William Morrow

Evelyn and Jack Garland
Pharris and Ernest Gray
Doris and Bill Guzzo

Roy Rawson

Jean Jones

Edith and John Sutton

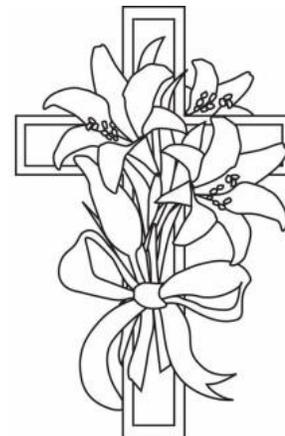
Herbert A. Krause

Evelyn D. Watson

In loving memory of the parents of Henry and Constance Biegel

In thanksgiving for the development of the COVID-19 vaccines

In loving memory of Koscher Rousseau family members



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

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector
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Joy Mullen, Director of Music
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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
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