Our Mission
is to be the heart and hands of Christ: nourishing people, transforming lives
THE HOLY EUCHARIST
May 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

The Word of the Lord

Hymn 529  “In Christ there is no East or West”  McKee

1. In Christ there is no East or West, in him no South or North, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

2. Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate’er your race may be! Who serves my Father as his child is surely kin to me.

3. In Christ now meet both East and West, in him meet South and North, all Christly souls are one in him, throughout the whole wide earth.

Welcome

The Opening Acclamation
Presider: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

The Collect of the Day
Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Let us pray.
O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Lesson  Acts 10: 44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

All  Thanks be to God.
Psalm 98  
*(please read responsively at the half verse)*

1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
   for he has done marvelous things.
2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
   has he won for himself the victory.
3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
   his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
   and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
   lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
   with the harp and the voice of song.
7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
   shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
   the lands and those who dwell therein.
9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
   and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
   when he comes to judge the earth.
10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
   and the peoples with equity.

The Second Lesson  1 John 5: 1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

The Holy Gospel  John15:9-17

Presider    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
All        Glory to you, Lord Christ.
Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Organ Solo “All things bright and beautiful” Michael Burkhardt

Our Affirmation of Faith, Form I The Nicene Creed

**This text of the Nicene Creed omits the phrase ‘and the Son’ in the third paragraph, recovering the original text of the First Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople, 325 and 381CE respectively.

Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

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. **
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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.

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 our Presiding Bishop, for Douglas our Bishop, for Nina our Rector.
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 congregation 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.

**Concluding Collect:**
Loving God, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive in our world, our Church and our hearts. Receive our prayers, restore and strengthen us in newness of life, and teach our hearts to live in you. **Amen.**

**The Confession**
If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation -
Behold, all things have become new!  
Let us confess our sins, seeking a new life of grace.  
*Silence is kept.*

O God of our Salvation,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbor  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

**The Absolution** *(Enriching Our Worship)*
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.**

**The Peace** *(Common Worship)*
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*

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

**Announcements:**

**Eucharistic 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, Form I
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.

Hymn 397  “Now thank we all our God”  (stanzas 1&2)

1. Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands and voices,
   who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
   who from our mother’s arms hath blessed us on our way
   with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us!
   with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
   and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
   and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

The Dismissal
Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in our Risen Savior.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!

Voluntary  “Fanfare for a New Day”  J. Wayne Kerr
**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. Mark’s, Leominster;
Commission on Ministry;
Third order of Franciscans
Faith Alive; The Episcopal Network
for Stewardship (TENS)

Busan (Korea)

**MONDAY**
Diocese of Busoga (Uganda)

**TUESDAY**
*We remember all who need our prayers especially:*
Timothy A., Clarence D., Ken & Diana E., Cyndi K., Henry L., Christina O., Clara V., Maureen W., Abby, Becca, Betty, Donna, Faye, Fiona, Heather, Jay, Jim, Joan, John, Josh, Judy H., Karen, Keith, Lisa, Marilyn, Mary, Melissa & Family, Nancy & Rick, Noreen, Pam, Patrick, Paula, Susan, Marion, Joe, Roy, Marie, Bob, Jill, Barbara A., Jeff S., Shirley, 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., Eric & Katelyn, Scott, Ann P., Ernest W., Michael T., William M., David W.

Those with mental health issues
Diocese of Butere (Kenya)

**WEDNESDAY**
Diocese of Butere (Kenya)

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

**FRIDAY**
St. Stephen’s Welcoming Team
St. Stephen’s Cooking Team

Diocese of Buye (Burundi)

**SATURDAY**
Diocese of Calabar (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 Don and Ann Phipps and James and Judith Clarke in Honor of Bill Carter’s Birthday.*

**THE MAY – JULY DAY BY DAY** has arrived at the office. We’re happy to drop a copy in the mail or meet you at the Allen St. door.

**ZOOM COFFEE HOUR** is on hiatus for the spring and summer.

**DRIVE-IN CHURCH SUNDAY, MAY 16, St. Stephen’s will again worship with Zion Lutheran and Cathedral of the Beloved. St. Stephen’s online worship service will be available as usual, too.**

**LIVING GREEN TIP**

*Use Online Directories.* How many people still use paper telephone directories? Virtually none, but the telecoms companies will still send them out unless you opt out. Opt out and use an online service instead. These directories can account for up to 10% of trash in landfill sites. If you still use a paper directory, don’t forget to recycle the old one.

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<th>Cardboard-Breakdown</th>
<th>Don Phipps</th>
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<td>Bottles/Cans Toter</td>
<td>Craig Reynolds</td>
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Ministers of the Celebration

PRESIDER
The Rev. Dr. Nina Randive Pooley

LECTOR
Tom Dillon

PRAYERS
William Frazier

ALTAR GUILD
Marie Sutton, William Frazier

PASTORAL CARE VISITOR
Sharon Billetter

VOCALISTS
Sarah Novak, soprano
Wavelyn Hine, alto
Jeffrey Hine, tenor
Robert Szczeniak, bass

VIDEO PRODUCTION
MusiChris DJ and Lighting Service

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THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN’S

SUNDAY, May 9
10:00 a.m. Online Service
1:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Beloved
Grab and Go Lunch

MONDAY, May 10

TUESDAY, May 11
7:15 p.m. Zoom Vestry

WEDNESDAY, May 12

THURSDAY, May 13
4:30 p.m. St. Stephen’s Table-
Grab and Go

FRIDAY, May 14

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

SATURDAY, May 15
5:00 p.m. Sunday’s Online Service
Available

SUNDAY, May 16
10:00 a.m. Online Service
10:00 a.m. Drive-in Church with Zion
and Cathedral of the Beloved
1:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Beloved
Grab and Go Lunch

All in-person A.A and N.A. meetings at St. Stephen’s remain suspended
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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

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Weekday Sexton
Meaghan Elmquist, Supervisor
Sunday Sexton
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