Our Mission
is to be the heart and hands of Christ: nourishing people, transforming lives
Readings for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Collect
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.

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.

The Gospel

John 15:9-17

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.”

This Week’s Music

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.

Organ Solo  “All things bright and beautiful”  Michael Burkhardt

The Fraction Anthem  “Alleluia”  George Nesbit
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.

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., 1LT Curran J. D., Lance CPL Chad L., SPC Amanda D., Pvt. Corey F. D., Army Ranger SeanJ., Micah H.

St. Mark’s, Leominster
Commission on Ministry
Third Order of Franciscans
Faith Alive
The Episcopal Network of Stewardship (TENS)

Diocese of Busan (Korea)

MONDAY
Diocese of Busoga (Uganda)

TUESDAY
We remember all who need our prayers especially:

Those with mental health issues
Diocese of Butare (Rwanda)

WEDNESDAY
Diocese of Butere (Kenya)

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

Diocese of Buyc (Burundi)

FRIDAY
St. Stephen’s Teaching and Learning Team
St. Stephen’s Parish Life Team

Diocese of Byumba (Rwanda)

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.

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

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.
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 Don and Ann Phipps and James and Judith Clarke in honor of Bill Carter’s birthday.

DRIVE-IN CHURCH, 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.

Cardboard-Breakdown Don Phipps
Bottles/Cans Toter Craig Reynolds

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
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 Service with Zion and Cathedral of the Beloved
1:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Beloved Grab and Go Lunch
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Our Vestry
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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 Sextons-Berkshire County ARC
Meaghan Elmquist, Supervisor

The Diocese of Western Massachusetts
Sunday Sexton
Roy Stillman

Ministers of the this week’s Celebration

PRESIDER
The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church

LECTOR
Thomas 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 Szczepaniak, bass

VIDEO PRODUCTION
MusiChris DJ and Lighting Service

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