

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, September 26, 2021  
Fourth Sunday of Creation Season  
Tilling of the Soil

Voluntary

“Elegiac Melody”

Edvard Grieg

Welcome

Hymn 398 “I sing the almighty power of God”

*Forest Green*

1 I sing the al-might - y power of God, that made the moun-tains rise,  
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;  
3 There's not a plant or flower be - low, but makes thy glo - ries known;

that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the lof - ty skies.  
he formed the crea-tures with his Word, and then pro-nounced them good.  
and clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy throne;

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;  
Lord, how thy won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye,  
while all that bor - rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,

the moon shines full at his com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.  
if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!  
and ev - ery-where that I could be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

## **The Collect of the Day**

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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      Genesis 1: 9-13**

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

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

**ALL      Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm : 104: 25-34** (*Order of St. Helena Psalter*)

*Read responsively at the half verse*

25    Holy One, how manifold are your works! \*

**in wisdom you have made them all;**

**the earth is full of your creatures.**

26    Yonder is the great and wide sea

with its living things too many to number, \*

**creatures both small and great.**

- 27 There move the ships,  
and there is that Leviathan, \*  
**which you have made for the sport of it.**
- 28 All of them look to you \*  
**to give them their food in due season.**
- 29 You give it to them; they gather it; \*  
**you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.**
- 30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; \*  
**you take away their breath,  
and they die and return to their dust.**
- 31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; \*  
**and so you renew the face of the earth.**
- 32 May the glory of God endure for ever; \*  
**may the Holy One rejoice in all creation.**
- 33 God looks at the earth and it trembles; \*  
**God touches the mountains and they smoke.**
- 34 I will sing to God as long as I live; \*  
**I will praise my God while I have my being.**

## **Second Lesson**

A Reading from **Teresa of Avila** *Complete Works*

Teach me, Lord, to sing of your mercies. Turn my soul into a garden, where the flowers dance in the gentle breeze, praising you

with their beauty. Let my soul be filled with beautiful virtues; let me be inspired by your Holy Spirit; let me praise you always.

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

**All Thanks be to God**

**The Gospel: Mark 9: 38-50**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ**

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you, Lord Christ

The Sermon

*David R Nevin*

Solo “He’s got the whole world in his hands” *Afro-American Spiritual*  
M. Bonds

The Prayers of the People

Those on our prayer list: *Ken & Diane E; Maureen W; David W; Pat W; Noreen R; Margaret W; Jill; Olivia Rose; Eugene; Alex;*

Communion Solo “Moonlit Garden” Angela Birkhead-Flight

Hymn 291

“We plow the fields and scatter”

*Wir Pflugen*

*Refrain*

All good gifts a - round us are sent from heaven a - bove;

then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.

1 We plow the fields, and scat - ter the good seed on the land,  
 2 He on - ly is the Ma - ker of all things near and far;  
 3 We thank thee, then, O Fa - ther, for all things bright and good,

but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand;  
 he paints the way - side flow - er, he lights the eve - ning star;  
 the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food:

he sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
 the winds and waves o - bey him, by him the birds are fed;  
 the gifts we have to of - fer are what thy love im - parts,

the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
 much more to us, his chil - dren, he gives our dai - ly bread.  
 but chief - ly thou de - sir - est our hum - ble thank - ful hearts.

## Announcements

### Voluntary “Great and Glorious”

Colin Hand

## 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.

**COMPLINE FOR THE CLIMATE: 6:30 p.m.**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29** Zoom service, see weekly e-blast or website for link.

### **A WORD CLOUD FOR ST. STEPHEN'S**

As we come together as a community, all members of St. Stephen's are invited to participate in our first-ever Word Cloud Project!

Over the coming month, please consider a one-word answer to this question:

***In one word, what do you love/have you missed most about St. Stephen's?***

Then, submit your word in person or via email:

- Look for slips of paper at Sunday services starting Sept. 12 through Oct. 10, and deposit them in the designated offertory basket;

- Email project coordinator Wendy Coakley at wendycoakley72@gmail.com any time before Oct. 10.

The resulting Word Cloud will be revealed on Oct. 17. Thank you in advance for your word offering.

P.S. Yes, you may submit more than one word if it's too hard to choose just one thing you love most about St. Stephen's!

## **OCTOBER 10 AT 10 AM, CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY AND BISHOP'S VISITATION!**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR HARVEST DINNER, SATURDAY OCTOBER 23!** The Stewardship Committee and Vestry will host our Harvest Dinner. Our great chef Dan Moon will once again prepare a delicious dinner to kick off our Stewardship Campaign and give thanks for another year in the St. Stephen's Community. To keep our community safe, this will once again be a take-out meal. Mark your calendars for this yummy and fun treat!

### **LIVING GREEN TIP**

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

Cardboard-Breakdown      Susan Wojtasik

Thanks to BCARC for bringing the recycling totes out to the curb



## MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
PREACHER	David R. Nevin
LECTORS	Jim Cawse, Dan Moon
PRAYERS	Dan Moon
ALTAR GUILD	Joan Evans
PASTORAL CARE VISITOR	Sharon Billetter
SOLOIST	Gwen Davis

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## THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

### **In our Parish prayers, we pray for:**

Ken & Diane E; Maureen W; David W; Pat W; Noreen R;  
Margaret W; Jill; Olivia Rose; Eugene; Alex;

***And those serving in the armed forces and their families:*** MAJ Andrew B., CPT Nichols P., 1LT Curran J.D., Lance CPL Chad L., SPC Amanda D., Pvt. Corey F.D., Army Ranger Sean J., Michah H.

### ***We pray for our community:***

Local Food Programs  
Pittsfield City Government  
The Governor of Massachusetts  
St. Stephen's Caring for Others Team  
St. Stephen's Property Team

***In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for***

Holy Spirit, Sutton;

Global Missions Team

Greater Springfield Council of Churches;

For the mission of the Church

**In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:**

Sunday: Episcopal Church

Monday: Diocese of Southwest Florida (USA)

Tuesday: Diocese of Fond du lac (USA)

Wednesday: Diocese of Fredericton (Canada)

Thursday: Diocese of Free State (South Africa)

Friday: Diocese of Guyana

Saturday: Diocese of Gwagwalada (Nigeria)

## **THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

### ***Office Hours:***

Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### ***Worship:***

Wednesday, September 29: Compline for the Climate, 6:30 p.m. on ZOOM

Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>: Eucharist at 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary and streaming online; Blessing of the Animals at 2:00 p.m., St. Helena's, Lenox.

### ***St. Stephen's Table:***

Thursday and Friday, Grab and Go 4:30 p.m.

### ***AA Meetings:***

Monday and Friday at 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday thru Friday at noon; Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

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### **Our Vestry**

Erin Sullivan, Co-Warden  
Angela Moon, Clerk  
Valerie Andersen  
Louise Penney  
Mark Miller

Craig Reynolds, Co-Warden  
Leah Luczynski, Treasurer  
John Culver  
Wendy Coakley  
Chris Plankey

### **Our Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector  
[npoolley@ststephenspittsfield.org](mailto:npoolley@ststephenspittsfield.org)

Joy Mullen, Director of Music  
[jmullem@ststephenspittsfield.org](mailto:jmullem@ststephenspittsfield.org)

Sarah Morrison, Parish Administrator  
[smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org](mailto:smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org)

Dan Moon, Director of  
St. Stephen's Table  
[dmoon6648@gmail.com](mailto:dmoon6648@gmail.com)

William Frazier, Pastoral Leader  
[wfrazier413@gmail.com](mailto:wfrazier413@gmail.com)

Bert Boos, Office Assistant  
[bboos@ststephenspittsfield.org](mailto:bboos@ststephenspittsfield.org)

Weekday Sextons-Berkshire County ARC  
Sunday Sexton Roy Stillman

### **The Diocese of Western Massachusetts**

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher  
800-332-8513 [www.diocesewma.org](http://www.diocesewma.org)

## Welcome to Worship at St. Stephen's

It's good to be worshipping together in the sanctuary!  
Thank you for your understanding and patience as we observe the following protocols:

**Masks:** Please wear a mask at all times in the building. If you do not have one, the greeter can provide one for you. Please maintain appropriate social distance.

**Contact Information:** Preregistration is no longer required, but a greeter or usher may ask you for your contact information if you haven't worshipped with us recently. This is strictly a precautionary measure should the church need to respond to a contact tracing request from public health officials.

**Children are always welcome at worship!!** While there's no nursery offered at this time, **Family Seating** has been set aside for those with children and younger teens (in the last rows of the sanctuary). Parents, please come and go as your child needs to - though we ask that children be accompanied at all times.

**Singing:** We are thrilled to be able to sing hymns finally! Please keep your mask on while you sing and sing gently. While less than perfect, it's so wonderful to be able to sing again!