

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 12, 2021
Second Sunday of Creation Season
Earth and Sky

Trio	“Norwegian Song”	Edvard Grieg
	“Norwegian Dance”	Edvard Grieg

Welcome

Hymn 372 “Praise to the living God!” *Leoni*

The Collect of the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The First Lesson Gen 1:6-8,14-19

And God said, ‘Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.’ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.’ And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

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

Psalm19: 1-6 (*Order of St. Helena Psalter*) *read responsively at the half verse*

1 The heavens declare your glory, O God, *
 and the firmament shows your handiwork.

2 One day tells its tale to another, *

and one night imparts knowledge to another.

- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep you have set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

Second Reading

There is an awe and reverence due to the stars in the heavens, the sun, and all heavenly bodies; to the seas and the continents; to all living forms of trees and flowers; to the myriad expressions of life in the sea; to the animals of the forests and the birds of the air. To wantonly destroy a living species is to silence forever a divine voice. - **Thomas Berry** *The Dream of the Earth*

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

All Thanks be to God

The Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days

rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ

The Sermon

The Rev. Nina R. Pooley

Solo

“Creator of the stars of night”

Conditor alme siderum

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; Teddy; Jill; and Sally; We pray for the people of Afghanistan, and all recovering from recent storms.*

Those who have died: *Those killed in Afghanistar and those killed by Hurricane Ida.*

Communion Trio

Terzetinno

Carl Maria von Weber

Solo “Starlight”

from Sea Pieces

Edward MacDowell

Hymn 490

“I want to walk as a child of the light”

Houston

Announcements

Voluntary

“Psalm 19”

Benedetto Marcello

Ministers of the Celebration

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

PREACHER

Jane Winn

LECTOR

Matt Billetter
Susan Lebourdias

PRAYERS

Matt Billetter

ALTAR GUILD

Debbie Stillman

PASTORAL CARE VISITOR

Sharon Billetter

MUSICAL TRIO

Colin Behnke, *violin*
James Behnke, *cello*
Matthew Behnke, *piano, tenor*

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THIS WEEK AT ST STEPHEN'S

SUNDAY, September 12

9:00 a.m. Eucharist in the Sanctuary
and live-streamed

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

FRIDAY, September 17

Parish Office Closed

MONDAY, September 13

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

TUESDAY, September 14

SATURDAY, September 18

8:00 a.m. Habitat work day

WEDNESDAY, September 15

6:30 p.m. Zoom Compline
Link in eblast

SUNDAY, September 19

10:00 a.m. Eucharist in the Sanctuary
and live-streamed

THURSDAY, September 16

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. *This week's gift's to the Table are given by: Jane Hurt in memory of The Rt. Rev. John Tarrant*

COMPLINE FOR THE CLIMATE: 6:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 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 anytime before Oct. 10.

The resulting Word Cloud, to be revealed on Oct. 17, will create a collage unique to our parish at this still-challenging but very exciting time in our history. 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!

This week we are pleased to **welcome Jane Winn as our guest preacher**. Jane is the Executive Director of Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT). For news and events across the Berkshires, see their website: thebeatnews.org. Contact information: team@thebeatnews.org; (413) 464-9402

ADULT EDUCATION Sacred Ground, the Episcopal Church's film and readings based Racial Reconciliation program - really excellent way to dig into our own work around racism. See Eblast for more information, email Sarah to sign up (smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org). Our introductory session will be on Sept. 16 (6-7:30pm) on ZOOM. See Eblast or last Note from Nina for zoom link.

A.A. meetings: Monday at 6:30 p.m., Friday at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday – Friday at noon and Saturday at 10:00 a.m

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

SUNDAY

All persons 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.

St. Peter's, Springfield;
Financial Services, Kristina Cincotta
Church Musicians & Artists;
Historical Society of the Episcopal Church

Anglican Church of Tanzania

MONDAY

Convocation of Episcopal Church in Europe

TUESDAY

We remember all who need our prayers especially: Ken & Diana E; Maureen W; Noreen R; Deane; David W; Bill C; Pat W; Doug D; Margaret W; Teddy, Jill, Sally, Alex, all who are impacted by the Coronavirus, The people of Afghanistan, and all recovering from recent storms, those with mental health issues .

Diocese of Europe

WEDNESDAY

Diocese of Evo (Nigeria)

THURSDAY

Local Food Programs
Pittsfield City Government
The Governor of Massachusetts
Diocese of Exeter (England)

FRIDAY

St. Stephen's Teaching and Learning Team
St Stephen's Parish Life Team

Diocese of Ezo (Nigeria)

SATURDAY

Diocese of Faisalabad (Pakistan)

LIVING GREEN TIP

Do Errand Batches: Instead of doing each errand as it occurs to you, why not do them in a batch. This will save you time and will also reduce your fuel costs.

Cardboard-Breakdown John Garinther

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

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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

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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

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!