

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**January 23, 2022**

**Voluntary**      “Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness”    Anton Leupold

**Welcome**

**The Collect of the Day**

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The First Lesson    Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 19**

*Caeli enarrant*

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \*  
**and the firmament shows his 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 has he 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.**
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect  
and revives the soul; \*  
**the testimony of the LORD is sure**  
**and gives wisdom to the innocent.**
- 8 The statutes of the LORD are just  
and rejoice the heart; \*  
**the commandment of the LORD is clear**  
**and gives light to the eyes.**
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean  
and endures for ever; \*  
**the judgments of the LORD are true**  
**and righteous altogether.**
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
more than much fine gold, \*  
**sweeter far than honey,**  
**than honey in the comb.**
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
**and in keeping them there is great reward.**
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
**cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion over me; \*  
**then shall I be whole and sound,**  
**and innocent of a great offense.**

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my  
heart be acceptable in your sight, \*  
**O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

**The Gospel    Luke 4: 14-21**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

**Solo** "The spacious firmament on high" from *Creation* Franz Josef Haydn  
*Soloist: Matthew Bebnke, tenor*

**Affirmation of Faith**

(page 2 in booklet)

**The Prayers of the People**

Those on our prayer list: *Ken & Diane E; David W; Patrick W; Noreen R; Margaret W; Jill; Jennifer; Keith; Martie E; Tommie C; Kimberly; Jancie F; Sokapha I; Paul & Amy A. Myron & Jean G; and the congregation of South Congregational Church, Pittsfield (as they prepare to say goodbye to Rev. Joel Huntington next Sunday).*

## The Great Thanksgiving *(page 6 in booklet)*

### Announcements

**Communion Solo** “I know the Lord’s laid his hands on me” *Traditional Spiritual*  
*Soloist: Matthew Bebnke, tenor*

**Voluntary** “O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling” Mark Sedio

† † †

### 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.

### **ST. STEPHEN’S IS HOME TO THE NEW BERKSHIRE OFFICE OF JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES AND AFGHAN ESL PROGRAM –**

This week the Property Committee readied the third floor apartment for the new Berkshire office of Jewish Family Services (JFS), the agency coordinating the relocation of Afghan evacuees in our county. JFS is also coordinating the ESL classes that will be held in the Auditorium.

**VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING IS COMING – FEBRUARY 6** The Zoom meeting will begin around 11:45 a.m. to provide time for socializing. The formal meeting will begin at 12:00 p.m. Meeting materials, including the proposed budget and Zoom link, will be distributed the week prior to the meeting.

**ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TUESDAY JANUARY 25** – Ministry Leaders and Committee Chairs please get your reports to the office by close of business Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

**LIVING GREEN TIP**

**Launder Sensibly:** For your own pocket, and the good of the environment, don't wash half loads. Wait until there's enough to do a load and cut your laundry in half. Also, think about the water temperature. If every household switched from hot to a warm cycle, it could save the equivalent of 100,000 barrels of oil per day.

.Paper Toter Jeff Pringle

Cardboard-Home Joan Evans

**MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION**

|                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| CELEBRANT             | The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley    |
| LECTORS               | Donald Phipps                  |
| PRAYERS               | Kathryn Jensen                 |
| ALTAR GUILD           | Debbie Stillman, Erin Sullivan |
| PASTORAL CARE VISITOR | William Frazier                |
| GREETERS              | Claudia A. Curry, Sandy Soule  |
| VESTRY GREETER        | Louise Penney                  |
| SOLOIST               | Matthew Behnke, <i>tenor</i>   |

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**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

**Office Hours:**

Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Closed Friday

**Worship:**

Wednesday: January 26<sup>th</sup> , Compline Prayer, 6:30 p.m., Zoom

Sunday: January 30<sup>th</sup> , Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary and streaming.

**St. Stephen's Table:**

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

**ESL Classes for Afghan Evacuees:**

Monday and Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Thursday: 10:00 a.m.

**AA Meetings:**

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

## THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

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

Ken & Diane E; David W; Pat W; Noreen R; Margaret W; Jill; Jennifer; Keith; Martie E; Tommie C; Kimberly E. Sokapha I; Paul & Amy A. Myron & Jean G., Janice F., and the congregation of South Congregational Church, Pittsfield (as they prepare to say goodbye to Rev. Joel Huntington next Sunday).

***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., Micah H.

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

Local Food Programs  
Pittsfield City Government  
The Governor of Massachusetts

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

St. John's, Athol;  
Church Without Walls, Springfield;  
Spouses of deceased clergy  
The House of Deputies;  
Jubilee Ministries

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

Sunday: Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui  
Monday: Diocese of Kafanchan (Nigeria)  
Tuesday: Diocese of Kagera (Tanzania)  
Wednesday: Diocese of Kajiado (Kenya)  
Thursday: Diocese of Kajo-Keji (South Sudan)  
Friday: Diocese of Kamango (L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo)  
Saturday: Diocese of Kampala (Uganda)

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church  
67 East Street + Park Square  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
413-448-8276  
mail@ststephenspittsfield.org (e-mail)  
ststephenspittsfieldnews@gmail.com (news items)  
www.ststephenspittsfield.org



### 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  
ninapooley@revnina.org

Joy Mullen, Director of Music  
jmullen@ststephenspittsfield.org

Sarah Morrison, Parish Administrator  
smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org

Dan Moon,  
Director of St Stephen's Table  
[dmoon@pittsfield.net](mailto:dmoon@pittsfield.net)

William Frazier, Pastoral Leader  
wfrazier413@gmail.com

Bert Boos, Office Assistant  
bboos@ststephensfield.org

Weekday Sextons - Berkshire County ARC  
Sunday Sexton Roy Stillman

### The Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher  
800-322-8513 [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 will 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 or Sunday school 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:** For the time being, we have discontinued congregational singing. We hope you enjoy the music provided by our organist and choir members.