

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 15, 2022 10:00 a.m.**

**Voluntary**                    “All glory be to God on high”                    J.S. Bach

**Hymn 296**                    “We know that Christ is raised”                    *Engelberg*

**The Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The First Lesson**     Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised

God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 148**

*(please read responsively at half verse.)*

*Laudate Dominum*

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD from the heavens; \*

**praise him in the heights.**

2 Praise him, all you angels of his; \*

**praise him, all his host.**

3 Praise him, sun and moon; \*

**praise him, all you shining stars.**

4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, \*

**and you waters above the heavens.**

5 Let them praise the Name of the LORD; \*

**for he commanded, and they were created.**

6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever; \*

**he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

7 Praise the LORD from the earth, \*

**you sea-monsters and all deeps;**

8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, \*

**tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

9 Mountains and all hills, \*

**fruit trees and all cedars;**

10 Wild beasts and all cattle, \*

**creeping things and winged birds;**

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, \*

**princes and all rulers of the world;**

12 Young men and maidens, \*

**old and young together.**

13 Let them praise the Name of the LORD, \*

**for his Name only is exalted,**

**his splendor is over earth and heaven.**

14 He has raised up strength for his people

and praise for all his loyal servants, \*

**the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!**

## **The Second Lesson** Revelation 21:1-6

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them as their God;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel** John 13: 31-35

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ**

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

**Solo**

"The Holy City"

Stephen Adams

**Affirmation of Faith** (page 2 in booklet)

**The Prayers of the People**

*Those on our prayer list: Ken & Diana; David; Noreen; Margaret; Jill; Jennifer; Martie; Tommie; Kimberly; Janice; Sokpha; Myron & Jean; Pat; Jeanne; Jim & Marietta; Barbara; the family of Virginia Kaufmann; We pray for a just peace for Ukraine, and for the well-being of all those in harm's way*

**Those who have died** *Virginia Kaufmann;*

**The Great Thanksgiving** (page 5 in booklet)

**Communion Solo** “God shall wipe away all tears” Sir Arthur Sullivan

**Announcements**

**Hymn 624** “Jerusalem the golden” *Ewing*

**Voluntary** “Let all creation dance” Michael Burkhardt

† † †

**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.

**EASTERTIDE COMPLINE FOR THE EARTH** is held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. The weekly liturgy and readings may be found at [ststephenspittsfield.org](http://ststephenspittsfield.org). Contact the office for the Zoom link.

**LAUNDRY LOVE ANTICIPATES GROWING DEMAND** as they reach out to families of Pittsfield school children who have been reported as missing school due to a lack of clean clothes. Additional contributions are most welcome.

**THIRD THURSDAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY WITH CATHEDRAL OF THE BELOVED** – Helpers needed to tie-dye and read with children among other tasks. Thursday, May 19 between 5 and 8:30 PM. Please contact Martha Congdon: 413-447-5913

**LIVING GREEN TIP**

**Leak –proof your home:** Save the environment by making your home leak proof. Ensure you are not losing warmth or cool through leakages, by having your home properly insulated and window and door seals checked. By doing so, you are saving energy and money.

Paper Toter Jeff Pringle

Cardboard-Home Paula Morey

**MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION**

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

LECTORS

Susan LeBourdais, Karen Wallace

ALTAR GUILD

Sue Smith, Claudia Curry

GREETERS

Claudia Curry, Paula Morey

VESTRY GREETER

Leah Luczynski

SOLIST

Sarah Novak, *soprano*

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**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

***Office Hours:***

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

***Worship:***

Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup>, Compline at 6:30 p.m., Zoom

Sunday: May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Eucharist at 10: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:***

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

## THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

**In our Parish prayers, we pray for:** Ken & Diana E; David W; Noreen R; Margaret W; Jill; Jennifer; Martie E; Tommie C; Kimberly E. Sokpha I; Myron & Jean G., Janice F; Pat C; Jeanne; Jim & Marietta C; David; Ann J; Barbara L.; the family of Virginia Kaufmann;

***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  
Hospital and Healthcare workers

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

Trinity Church, Milford;  
Bement-Waterfield Educational Grant Committee  
National Episcopal Health Ministries;  
Episcopal Parish Services

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

Sunday: the Scottish Episcopal Church  
Monday: Diocese of Liverpool (England)  
Tuesday: Diocese of Liwolo (South Sudan)  
Wednesday: Diocese of Llandaff (Wales)  
Thursday: Missionary Diocese of Lodwar (Kenya)  
Friday: Diocese of Lokoja (Nigeria)  
Saturday; Diocese of Lomega (South Sudan)

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### **VESTRY**

Craig Reynolds, Co. Warden  
Leah Luczynski, Treasurer  
Angela Moon, Clerk  
John Culver  
David Nevin  
Christina Wynn

Josie Ellis, Co. Warden  
Suzanne White, Asst. Treasurer  
Wendy W. Coakley  
John Garinther  
Chris Plankey

### **Our Staff**

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

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

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

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

Bert Boos, Office Assistant  
[bboos@ststephensfield.org](mailto: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!**

The staff, wardens and vestry are grateful for your patience and understanding as we move forward cautiously - balancing the safety of this community and those we serve, with changing COVID numbers and protocols. Thank you for observing the following:

**Masks:** We ask that everyone wear a mask when inside the building: sanctuary and Parish House.

**Singing:** We are thrilled to be able to sing hymns again! Please sing gently.

**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.

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