

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 7, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Voluntary "I call to Thee Lord Christ" J.S. Bach

Hymn 390 "Praise to the Lord" *Lob den Herren*

The Collect of the Day

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

Thanks be to God.

The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; *
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals himself in glory.

3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
**before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.**

4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of his people.

5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, *
**those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."**

6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
for God himself is judge.

7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak:
"O Israel, I will bear witness against you; *
for I am God, your God.

8 I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; *
your offerings are always before me.

23 Consider this well, you who forget God, *
lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.

24 Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me; *
but to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God."

The Gospel Luke 12: 32-40

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he

will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Solo "My Lord, what a morning" Traditional Spiritual/Harry Burleigh

My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
My Lord what a morning, oh my Lord what a morning,
When the starts begin to fall, when the stars begin to fall.
Done quit all my worldly ways join that heavenly band?
Done quit all my worldly ways join that heavenly band Oh!
My Lord what a morning; My Lord what a morning
Oh my Lord, what a morning; when the stars begin to fall.

Revelation 8:10

Affirmation of Faith (*page 4 in booklet*)

The Prayers of the People

Those on our prayer list: Ken & Diana; David; Margaret; Jill; Jennifer; Martie; Tommie; Kimberly; Janice; Sokpha; Myron & Jean; Pat; Barbara; Gwen; Michele & Peter; Mona; Jim; Deb; the family of Elizabeth Chisum, the family of Patricia MacWhinnie; We pray for a just peace for Ukraine, and for the well-being of all those in harm's way;

Those who have died *Elizabeth Chisum, Patricia MacWhinnie*

The Great Thanksgiving (*page 7 in booklet*)

Communion Solo "Consider the lilies" J.W. Bischoff

Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?
Behold the fowls of the air, for they sow not,
neither do they reap, nor gather into barns;
yet your heavenly Father feedeth them.

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow;
they toil not, they toil not, neither do they spin.
And yet I say unto you,
that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

If God so clothe the grass of the field,
Shall He not much more clothe you,
O ye of little faith?

Matthew 6:25-30

Announcements

Hymn 316 “This is the hour of banquet and of song” *Canticum refectiois*

Voluntary “Christ, the life of all the living” Anton Leopold

† † †

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.

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN- Volunteers are needed for Sunday, August 28 & Labor Day weekend, Sunday September 4. Please contact Marie Sutton 413-281-2535



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN’S IS EASY- Scan the QR code to find our giving form. Or, text “giveststephens\$*your amount*” to 73256. (example: giveststephens\$25 will donate \$25.)

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, WE WILL JOIN OUR NEIGHBORS FOR WORSHIP AT ZION LUTHERAN – same time, 10:00a.m., with air conditioning and easy parking.

KEYS TO THE BUILDING - we will be verifying who has keys to the building. Look for a letter this coming week.

LIVING GREEN TIP

Use Canvas Bags: There are enough plastic bags in the world, so you should instead use ones that you can use over and over and over again. This doesn't apply to just grocery shopping, but to any shopping you do.

Paper Toter Jeff Pringle

Cardboard- Home Jeff Pringle

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

LECTORS

Matthew Billetter, Kathryn Jensen

ALTAR GUILD

Sue Smith, Claudia A. Curry

GREETERS

Paula Morey, Susan LeBourdais

VESTRY GREETER

Christina Wynn

LEMONADE on the LAWN

Joan Evans

SOLOIST

Gwen Davis, *alto*

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Office Hours:

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

Worship:

Sunday August 14th, we will join our neighbors at Zion Lutheran for worship-10:00 a.m.

St. Stephen's Table:

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

Classes for Afghan Evacuees:

ESL – Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 10:00 a.m.

Driver's Ed – Tuesday, Thursday: Noon

Financial Literacy – Wednesday: 2:00 p.m.

AA Meetings: Tuesday thru Friday at noon; Friday at 6:30 p.m.; 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; Margaret W; Jennifer; Martie E; Tommie C; Kimberly E. Sokpha I; Myron & Jean G., Janice F; Barbara L; Patricia M, Bob, Gwen S; Michele & Peter R; Mona V. Jim L; Deb. R; Patricia MacWhinnie and her family, Elizabeth Chisum and her family; pray for a just peace for Ukraine, and for the well-being of all those in harm's way

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:

The Christian Center
Congregation of the Knesset Israel
Temple Anshe Amunim
The Supreme Court

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

All Saints', South Hadley;
Congregations in the Berkshires Region
Episcopal Young Adults'
Anglican Society

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Church of the in the Province of the West Indies
Monday: Diocese of Mbeere, Kenya
Tuesday: Diocese of Mbhashe, Southern Africa
Wednesday: Diocese of Mbujimayi, de L'Englise Anglicane Du Congo
Thursday: Diocese of Meath & Kildare, Ireland
Friday: Diocese of Medak, South India
Saturday; Diocese of Wad Medani, 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

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Dan Moon,

Director of St Stephen's Table

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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

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 continue to wear masks when moving about the sanctuary, and when in the common areas of the building. When in the pews, masks are optional. Please respect that we are all at different comfort levels.

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.