

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 September 25, 2022 10:00 a.m.
 Fourth Sunday of Creation Season
 Act

Voluntary

“All things bright and beautiful”

Anne Roberts

Hymn

“For the beauty of the earth”

Dix

For the Beauty of the Earth

1. For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,
 2. For the beau-ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
 4. For the joy of hu-man love, bro-th-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 5. For thy church, that ev-er-more lift-eth ho-ly hands a-bove,
 6. For thy-self, best Gift Di-vine, to the world so free-ly given,

for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies;
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light;
 for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight;
 friends on earth and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild;
 of-fering up-on ev-ery shore her pure sac-ri- fice of love;
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

WORDS: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864
 MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. by W. H. Monk, 1861

DIX
 77.77.77

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.*

First Lesson: Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours." Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

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

Thanks be to God.

- 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, *
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 He shall say to the LORD, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust."
- 3 He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter *
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his pinions,
and you shall find refuge under his wings; *
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, *
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, *
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.
- 14 Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.
- 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.

Second LessonSandra Steingraber (1959-), *Living Downstream*

We are all musicians in a great human orchestra, and it is now time to play the Save the World Symphony. You are not required to play a solo, but you are required to know what instrument you hold, and play it as well as you can. You are required to find your place in the score. What we love we must protect. That is what love means. From the right to know and the duty to inquire flows the obligation to act.

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

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Luke 16: 19-31

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glorify to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man

named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers-- that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

The Sermon

Rev. David DeSmith

Anthem

“Swing low, sweet chariot”

Traditional Spiritual/Elliot Schenck

Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home,
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see
Coming for to carry me home?
A band of angels coming after me,
Coming for to carry me home.

Affirmation of Faith (page 2 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; Barbara; Michele & Peter; Mona; Jim; Deb; Sheila, Maia & Marcia & family; those dealing with mental health issues;

the family of Barbara Macfarlane; We pray for a just peace for Ukraine, and for the well-being of all those in harm's way;

Those who have died *Barbara Macfarlane*

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 5 in booklet)*

Communion Anthem "Treasures in heaven" Allen Pote

Lay not up for yourself treasures on earth,
where moth and rust corrupt, and where thieves break in and steal.

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
Give unto God with cheerfulness not with necessity or with regret.

But give from within your heart.

Matthew 6:19; II Corinthians 9:7

Announcements

Hymn 810 "You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord" *Eagles Wings*
(The green hymnal)

Voluntary "The Ash Grove" Dale Wood
† † †

Resource for Second Lesson: Sandra Steingraber, *Living Downstream: An ecologist's personal investigation of cancer and the environment* (Da Capo press, March 2010).

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.

THE ELEVATOR IS CURRENTLY OUT OF SERVICE – the Property Committee is working to get things moving again.

COFFEE HOUR IS RETURNING – WITH YOUR HELP!

Volunteer hosts and a coordinator are needed to for this ministry. All are invited to share the gift of hospitality. If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Craig Reynolds (cmreyn@gmail, 413-822-0248) And thanks to Marie Sutton for her many years of service as coordinator.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS RETURNING! Please join us today after the 10 AM service as we re-dedicate the Sears Room, our new Sunday School space. PS – there will be refreshments.

SACRED GROUND, THIS FALL'S ADULT EDUCATION OFFERING, WILL BEGIN OCTOBER 4. IN PERSON, 6-7:30 p.m.

Sacred Ground is a film and reading based dialogue series about race, grounded in faith. Pick up a brochure at the church or read more on the church website.

YPF EVENT THIS AFTERNOON: meet at the Habitat for Humanity office, 314 Columbus St., at 12:30 p.m. Be ready to paint! Waiver required, found on the Habitat website.

THE TURKEY ANGELS ARE ALREADY AT WORK! This year St. Stephen's will provide 750 cans of plain corn and 750 boxes of corn bread mix. How can you help? Donate cans of corn, reimburse Joan Evans for the cornbread and/or make a donation to the Turkey Angels. (The price of turkey has gone up \$0.55/lb. this year.) Checks may be made out directly to Joan and sent to the church or dropped in the basket in church. To give online, see below. Please contact Joan with questions: 413-822-0889. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S IS EASY- Scan the QR code to find our giving form. Use the "Special Donations" fund for Thanksgiving related donations. Or, text "givetstephens\$*your amount*" to 73256. (example: givetstephens\$25 will donate \$25.)

LIVING GREEN TIP

Pack a Waste Free Lunch: Rather than disposable bags and drink containers pack your reusable lunch carrier with water bottle or thermos, cloth napkin and real silverware.

Bottles/Cans Toter Bill Morey

Cardboard-Breakdown Dot Lambert

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT

The Rev. David DeSmith

LECTORS

Tom Drury, Tom Dillon

ALTAR GUILD

Marie Sutton, Aloha Winchester, Roy Sutton

GREETERS

Sandy Soule, Claudia A. Curry

VESTRY GREETER

David Nevin

COFFEE HOUR

Josie Ellis, Suzanne White

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The Week's Altar Flowers

Are given by Dennis Carney in Loving Memory of his son Alex and mother Elizabeth

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Wednesday- September 28, Compline, 6:30 p.m., Zoom; Sunday-October 2nd, Eucharist at 10:00a.m. Sanctuary and Streaming.

St. Stephen's Table: Thursday and Friday, Grab and Go 4:30 p.m.

Classes for Afghan Evacuees:

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

Meetings: AA: Tuesday-Friday at noon; Friday at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Dining Room. **NA:** Saturday, 6:30 p.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; Bob, Michele & Peter R; Mona V; Jim L; Deb R; Sheila H; Maia & Marcia & family; those dealing with mental health issues; The family of Barbara Macfarlane; 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:

Local Food Programs
Pittsfield City Government
The Governor of Massachusetts

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

Trinity Church, Ware;
Global Missions Team
Greater Springfield Council of Churches;
For the mission of the Church

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Anglican Church of Burundi
Monday: Diocese of Mumbai (India)
Tuesday: Diocese of Mumias (Kenya)
Wednesday: Diocese of Mundri (South Sudan)
Thursday: Diocese of Mundy (South Sudan)
Friday: Diocese of Murang'a South (Kenya)
Saturday; Diocese of The Murray (Australia)

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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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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: Masks are now optional in all areas of the building. It is always okay to wear a mask at church; please respect that we are all at different comfort levels.

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

Social Distancing: These safeguards remain in place for the time being, including: every-other pew seating and non-contact passing of the peace.

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.