

First Sunday of Advent and Celebration of Baptism
November 27, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Voluntary “The hills are bare at Bethlehem” Emma Lou Diemer

Hymn 59 “Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding” *Merton*

Opening Acclamation and Lighting of Advent Candle

Hymn 438 “Tell out, my soul” (*stanza 1*) *Woodlands*

The Celebrant then continues:

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
 the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
 and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
 Many peoples shall come and say,
‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
 to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.’
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

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

Psalm 122 *(Please read responsively at the half verse.)*

Laetatus sum

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD, *
**the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the LORD.**
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

The Gospel Matthew 24: 36-44

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore 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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley

Anthem

"Never weather-beaten sail"

Charles Wood

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore.

Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more,
Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.

Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high Paradise.
Cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes:
Glory there the sun outshines whose beams the blessed only see:
O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee!

Thomas Campion

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate

Candidates who are unable to answer for themselves are presented by their Parents and Godparents, as follows

Celebrant The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Sponsors We present Charles to receive
the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?
Sponsors I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?
Sponsors I will, with God's help.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?
Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?
Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?
Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?
Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?
Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?
Answer I do.

The Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?
People **We will.**

Celebrant Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?
People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall
into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News
of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons,
loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you cherish the wonderful works of God
and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidates

The Celebrant then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for this child who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Baptism

The candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, who then pours water upon the candidate, saying

Charles, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross using Chrism and saying:

Charles, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

After the Baptism, a candle lighted from the Paschal Candle may be given to a sponsor of the newly baptized.

Celebrant: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All: We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you

People And also with you

Communion Anthem

“Dearest Lord Jesu”

J.S. Bach

Dearest Lord Jesu, oh why dost Thou tarry?
Come now for I am of waiting so weary,
Come now and comfort my heart in despair;
Take me from misery, sorrow and care.

Refrain: Come now, Lord Jesu,
Oh why dost Thou tarry? Oh why dost Thou tarry?
Come now for I am of waiting so weary, so weary.

Deck thee, oh deck thee, meet garment prepare Thee
Keep thy lamp burning, and oil ever near three,
Ready, oh faithful one, fit for the Feast
At midnight call for thee, oh wedding guest. *Refrain*

Hymn 60

“Creator of the stars of night”
(sung seated)

Conditor alme siderum

Announcements

Hymn 66

“Come, thou long expected Jesus”

Stuttgart

Voluntary

“Now the hills start to whisper”

James Biery

Today we welcome Saharah Johnson and Robin Houghtling who present their son Charles for baptism.

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 gifts to the Table are given by Nancy Lamoureaux in Loving Memory of her husband Gary Lamoureaux and sister-in-law Bonnie Johnson; by Nancy Ambrosi in Loving Memory of her parents Jack and Elsie Browne and brother Jack Browne.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IN SESSION - Children gather at 9:45 a.m. in the Sears Room on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Contact Josie Ellis with any questions - joze72@yahoo.com or 413-281-6416

COFFEE HOUR CHANGES - Seven Coffee Hour hosts have signed up to provide hospitality. To prevent our teams from being stretched too thin, in December we'll start having **Coffee Hour twice a month – on the 2nd and 4th Sundays**. This schedule matches our Sunday School offerings, so everyone can join in the fun. Should you be interested in hosting Coffee Hour in 2023, please contact Craig Reynolds for more information

ST. STEPHEN'S TO HOST DOWNTOWN PITTSFIELD'S KIDS' HOLIDAY EVENT - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! - As part of Downtown Pittsfield's *Festive Frolic*, St. Stephen's Auditorium will be the site of the Frolic's *Holiday Kids' Paint & Sip* event, **Saturday, December 3 from 11 AM to 3 PM**. This free event is best suited for ages 5 to 12, although older children are welcome. All materials, instruction, snacks, and juice will be provided by Downtown Pittsfield. Children, accompanied by an adult, are welcome to drop in anytime over the course of the event. While a staff member from Downtown Pittsfield will lead the Paint & Sip, volunteer help would be welcome! If you can offer an hour or so of your time on December 3, please contact Craig Reynolds at cmreyn@gmail.com or 413.822.0248 (text or call).



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

LIVING GREEN TIP

Keep an eye on your PSI: -If you're a driver, make sure that your tires are sufficiently inflated. Low tire pressure means more fuel is required to move your car, which will increase the size of your carbon footprint.

Paper Toter Bill Morey

Cardboard -Home Jeff Pringle

ADVENT ADULT FORMATION - Conversation focused on the book *Promise & Praise, Advent Word Reflections* led by Margot Sanger, Deacon Intern. 4 weekly meetings beginning this week. Contact the office to sign up.

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Dr. Nina R Pooley

LECTORS

Dan Moon, Wendy Coakley

ALTAR GUILD

Joan Evans

GREETERS

Paula Morey, Claudia A. Curry

VESTRY GREETER

Wendy Coakley

COFFEE HOUR

Josie Ellis

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Wednesday-November 30th , Compline at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom
Sunday-December 4th , , Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary and Streaming.

St. Stephen's Table: Thursday and Friday, Grab and Go 4:30p.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; Martie E; Tommie C; Jennifer; Kimberly E; Myron & Jean G; Janice F; Barbara L; Bob; Michele & Peter R; Mona V; Jim L; Shelia H; Maia & Marcia & family; Amy V; Geoff H.; Bob D. Tommie D.; Edie; Michael L; Joan M; Frances W-K; Dave D.; those dealing with mental health issues; We 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:

Habitat for Humanity in Pittsfield
Department of Mental Health
Government of the United States

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

St. Luke's, Worcester;
Human to Human
Pittsfield Council of Churches

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Nippon Sei Ko Kai
Monday: Diocese of Nsukka (Nigeria)
Tuesday: Diocese of Nyahururu (Kenya)
Wednesday: Diocese of Nyamiel (South Sudan)
Thursday: Diocese of Nyang (South Sudan)
Friday: Diocese of Southern Nyanza (Kenya)
Saturday; Diocese of Nzara (South Suan)

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

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VESTRY

Craig Reynolds, Co-Warden

Leah Luczynski, Treasurer

Angela Moon, Clerk

John Culver

David Nevin

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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Joy Mullen, Director of Music
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Dan Moon,
Director of St Stephen's Table
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Bert Boos, Office Assistant
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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: When local COVID metrics are in the “red zone” we require masks inside the church and Parish House. When infection rates fall below red, masks are optional. Masking information will be posted at the church and on the website. Masks are available for those who need them.

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

Social Distancing: These safeguards, including every-other pew seating and non-contact passing of the peace, may be relaxed when infection rates are low to allow for the fellowship of coffee hour.

Children are always welcome at worship!! Families are welcome to sit wherever they wish, and **Family Seating** has been set aside for those with children and younger teens (in the last rows of the sanctuary). Caregivers, please come and go as your child needs to - **we ask that children be accompanied at all times.** There's a Nursery Nook in the Guild Room for caregivers of infants and toddlers who need to take a break during worship. Sunday school is offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, in the Sears Room. Please ask an usher (or anyone wearing a name tag!) to show you the way. More information about Sunday School is available on the tables near the main entrance.