

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 19, 2023, 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.**

**Voluntary**                    “Deck thyself, my soul with gladness”                    J.S.Bach

**Hymn 493**                    “O for a thousand tongues to sing”                    *Azmon*

**Opening Acclamation**    (*page 1 in booklet*)

**The Collect of the Day**

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Lesson**    Samuel 16: 1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the LORD.” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful

eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

**Thanks be to God.**



**Psalm 23**

*(sung by all)*

*Dominus regit me*

- 1 The LORD is my **shepherd**; \*  
I shall not be in **want**.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green **pastures** \*  
and leads me beside still **waters**.
- 3 He revives my **soul** \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's **sake**.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no **evil**; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they **comfort me**.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who  
**trouble me**; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running **over**.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of  
my **life**, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for **ever**.

**The Gospel** John 9: 1-41

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glorify to you, Lord Christ**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he

had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he

comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**Sermon**

Margot Page Sanger

**Choral Anthem**

“Brother James’ Air”

arr. Alan Bullard

**Affirmation of Faith** (page 3 in booklet)

**The Prayers of the People**

Those on our prayer list: *Ken & Diana; David; Tommie; Michele & Peter; Maia & Marcia & family; Geoff; Bob; Edie; Michael; Ratha; Jessica; Tom; the Chau family; Judy; Jan; those dealing with mental health issues; We pray for a just peace for Ukraine, for the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria; and for the well-being of all those in harm’s way;*

Those who have died:

**The Great Thanksgiving** (page 4 in booklet)

**Communion Anthem**

“Take my hand, precious Lord”

Kenton Koe

When the darkness appears and the night draws near and the day is past and gone,  
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand;  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.  
Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Thomas Dorsey

**Lift Every Voice & Sing Hymn 181** “Amazing Grace!” *New Britain*  
(The red hymnal)

## Announcements

**Hymn** “In the bulb there is a flower” (see insert) *Promise*

### Hymn of Promise

*Unison*

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
2. There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, in-fini-ty;

in co-oons, a hid-den prom-ise: but-ter-flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn in ev-ery dark-ness, bring-ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be-liev-ing; in our life, e-ter-ni-ty.

In the cold and snow of win-ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu-ture; what it holds, a mys-ter-y,  
In our death, a res-ur-rec-tion; at the last, a vic-to-ry,

un-re-vealed un-til its sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.

WORDS: Natalie Sleeth, 1986  
MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, 1986

PROMISE  
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## Voluntary

“Fugue in D Minor”

Felix Mendelssohn

## 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.

**EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS** may be made until April 4. Envelopes are located at both entrances to the sanctuary. You may also give online through the St. Stephen's website.

**YPF IS FUNDRAISING FOR FOSTER KIDS** – Young People's Fellowship is collecting donations to provide 30 Comfort Care Packs to children entering foster care. Please note "Foster Care Backpack project" with your donation. More information on the church website.

### LIVING GREEN TIP

**Refresh your air filters:** Clean—by vacuuming with water—or replace your HVAC filters every three months. Your heater or air conditioning will blow more efficiently and draw less power.

Paper- Toter- Jeff Pringle

Cardboard- Home- Paula Morey



**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.)

### MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT 10 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Nina R Pooley

PREACHER 10 a.m.

Margot Sanger

CELEBRANT 5 p.m.

The Rev. David DeSmith

LECTORS 10 a.m.

Angie Moon, Gwen Davis

LECTOR 5p.m.

Barbara McShane

LAY MINISTERS 10 a.m.

Josie Ellis, Craig Reynolds

LAY MINISTER 5 p.m.

Barbara McShane

ALTAR GUILD

Debbie Stillman, Claudia A. Curry

GREETERS

Claudia A. Curry, Sandy Soule

VESTRY GREETER

Bill O'Neill

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## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

**Worship:** Wednesday – March 22, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Compline,  
Sunday- March 26, 10:00 a.m. & 5p.m.

**Lenten Psalm Reflections:** Thursday – March 23, 9:00 a.m.

**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; Tommie C; Michele & Peter R; Maia & Marcia & family; Geoff H.; Bob D. Tommie D.; Edie; Michael; Ratha; Jessica; Tom; Jan E; the Chau family; Judy J.; those dealing with mental health issues; We pray for a just peace for Ukraine, for the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria; 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:***

Saints James and Andrew, Greenfield;  
Cathedral in the Night, Northampton;  
The Board of Examining Chaplains  
The Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF);  
Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church

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

Sunday: Anglican Church of Southern Africa  
Monday: Diocese of Rokon (South Sudan)  
Tuesday: Diocese of Rorya (Tanzania)  
Wednesday: Diocese of Ruaha (Tanzania)  
Thursday: Diocese of Ziwa Rukwa (Tanzania)  
Friday: Diocese of Rumbek (South Sudan)  
Saturday; Diocese of Rumonge (Burundi)

## **Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church**

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[ststephenspittsfieldnews@gmail.com](mailto:ststephenspittsfieldnews@gmail.com) (news items)

[www.ststephenspittsfield.org](http://www.ststephenspittsfield.org)



### **VESTRY**

Craig Reynolds, Co-Warden

Suzanne White, Treasurer

Christopher Perry, Clerk

John Culver

David Nevin

James Alden

Josie Ellis, Co-Warden

William O'Neill, 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

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Sarah Morrison, Parish Administrator

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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:** 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.

**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.