

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday November 19, 2023, 10 AM

Voluntary “Now thank we all our God” Jeffrey Honoré

Hymn 290 “Come, ye thankful people, come” *St. George’s, Windsor*

Opening Acclamation (*page 1 in booklet*)

The Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123 (*Please read responsively*) *Ad te levavi oculos meos*

1 To you I lift up my eyes, *

to you enthroned in the heavens.

2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *

and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

3 So our eyes look to the LORD our God, *
until he show us his mercy.

4 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

The Gospel Matthew 25: 14-30

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

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Affirmation of Faith (page 2 in booklet)

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. Especially: *Those on our prayer list: Ken & Diana; David; Tommie; Judy; Kathy; Patrick; Martie; Sue & Tom; Kate; Natasha; Kimberly; Jeff; Keith; Kathryn; Marcus; Patience; Mackenzie; Elizabeth; Evan; Sandy, Susan & Dan; Bill; Joan; Kristie; Soképha; the family of Gerald (Rory) O'Connor; We pray for a just peace for Ukraine, and for those suffering from violence in Israel and Palestine. (The People may add their own petitions.)*

Those who have died: *Gerald (Rory) O'Connor*

Choral Anthem “Bless the Lord, O my soul” Mikail Ippolitof-Ivanof

Bless thou the Lord, O my soul.
Blessed art Thou, O Lord.
Bless the Lord and forget not all his benefits:
Bless thou the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless His holy Name.
He is full of compassion and mercy,
long suffering and great in goodness.
He will not always be chiding nor keepeth He,
His wrath forever.
Bless thou the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless His holy Name.
O blessed art Thou, O Lord.

From the Russian Liturgy

The Great Thanksgiving (page 5 in booklet)

Communion Anthem “Followers of the Lamb” *ShakerTune/Dietterich*

Announcements

Hymn 397 “Now thank we all our God” *Nun danket alle Gott*

Voluntary “Now thank we all our God” *Sigfrid Karg-Elert*

PARISH NOTICES

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 "Give," and "St. Stephen's Table" from the Fund menu.

This week's gifts to the table are given by Nancy Ambrosi in loving memory of her Parents Jack & Elsie Browne and her Brother Jack Browne

SUNDAY FUNDAY FOR PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY CHILDREN- Nov. 26th. And on December 10th . (In the Sears Room.)

LIVING GREEN TIP

Regularly Maintain Your Vehicle: If your vehicle's engine is running correctly, the filters are clean and the tires correctly inflated, the vehicle will be more efficient on fuel. This reduces pollution and saves money. It's worth cleaning out the trunk now and again too- extra weight uses extra fuel.

Bottles/Cans Toter John Garinther

Cardboard-Breakdown Dot Lambert

HOLIDAY HANDBELL CONCERT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT

3:00 PM – Don't miss this opportunity to see the New England Ringers perform traditional and contemporary Christmas music. You'll have a chance to sing along, too. The concert is open to the public and free. Any donations made will go to support the music program here at St. Stephen's.

STOP & SHOP'S BLOOMIN' 4 GOOD PROGRAM BENEFITS ST. STEPHEN'S TABLE during both November and December. In November, shop at the Merrill Rd. store; in December the Dan Fox Dr. location will donate \$1 for every \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold.



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.) Message and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

KIDS PAINT N SIP, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, NOON – 4:00

PM will be held in St. Stephen's auditorium. This partnership with Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. is sponsored by a grant from the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. To volunteer contact Craig Reynolds.

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
LECTORS .	Tom Drury, Dan Moon
LAY MINISTERS	Susan LeBourdais, Debbie Stillman
ALTAR GUILD	Marie Sutton (Chair) Roy Sutton
GREETERS	Susan LeBourdais, Diane Forsyth
VESTRY GREETER	Jim Alden
ACOLYTE	Doug Demary

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Office Hours: Monday–Tuesday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Closed Thursday & Friday.

Worship: Wednesday, November 22, 6:30 p.m. Compline;
Saturday November 25, 5:00 p.m. & Sunday November 26, 10:00 a.m.

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

Meetings: AA – Monday – Friday at noon, Friday at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday at
10:00 a.m. NA - Tuesday & Wednesday 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 6:30 p.m.
Dining Room

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

In our Parish prayers, *We pray for:* Ken & Diana E; Tommie C; Judy; Kathy; Patrick W; Martie E; David; Sue & Tom S; Kate; Natasha; Kimberly; Jeff K; Keith C; Kathryn D; Marcus B; Patience B., Mackenzie P; Elizabeth H; Evan C; Sandy S; Dan & Susan L; Bill M; Joan M; Kristie; Sokpha I; the family of Rory O'Connor; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; We pray for a just peace for Ukraine, and for those affected by the violence in Israel and Palestine - may the root causes of violence and oppression be addressed, so that a new understanding of peace may prevail

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 Knesset Israel
Temple Anshe Amunim
The Supreme Court

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for.

All Saints, Worcester;
Chaplin to Williams College
Vergers' Guild;
Integrity ISA

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Diocese of Hyderabad (Pakistan)
Monday: Diocese of Ibadan (Nigeria)
Tuesday: Church of Bangladesh
Wednesday: Diocese of Ibadan North (Nigeria)
Thursday: Diocese of Ibadan South (Nigeria)
Friday: Diocese of Ibba (South Sudan)
Saturday; Diocese of Idah (Nigeria)

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VESTRY

Craig Reynolds, Co. Warden
Suzanne White, Treasurer
Christopher Perry, Clerk
John Culver
David Nevin
James Alden

Josie Ellis, Co. Warden
William O'Neil, Asst. Treasurer
Wendy W. Coakley
John Garinther
Chris Plankey

Our Staff

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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

We are delighted to have you with us today as we worship together. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is an inclusive parish welcoming all people - regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or creed. God loves you, and so do we!

All Are Welcome to Receive from God's Table.

Each week we share the bread and the wine: the gifts of God, given for the people of God. We invite you to receive communion, but, if you'd rather receive a blessing, please come forward and indicate that by crossing your arms across your chest.

Receiving Communion:

The bread - When you come forward hold your hands out together, palm up. The clergy person will place a wafer in your hands, and say, "The body of Christ." Your response: "Amen." (Please let the clergy know if you'd prefer a gluten free wafer.)

The wine - is offered by chalice bearers on either side of the aisle in front of the altar area. Those sitting on the right should choose the right side chalice, those sitting on the left, choose the left side chalice. The chalice bearer will offer the wine, saying, "The Blood of Christ." Your response: "Amen." You may receive the wine by taking a small sip from the chalice, or by dipping your wafer in the wine, taking care not to touch the wine with your fingers. You may also choose to hear the words and respond without choosing to partake of the wine.

Children are always welcome at worship!!

Families are welcome to sit wherever they wish; there are tables toward the back of the sanctuary for those who would like to color. There are child-friendly books in a bookshelf near the coloring station on the right side. There's a Nursery Nook in the Guild Room for caregivers of infants and toddlers who need to take a break during worship.

Caregivers, please come and go as your child needs to - for their safety, we ask that children be accompanied at all times.

Sunday school is offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, September through May.