

Last Sunday after the Epiphany
Saturday February 10, 5 p.m. & Sunday, February 11 2024, 10 a.m.

Voluntary “When morning gilds the skies” Dale Wood

Hymn 7 “Christ, whose glory fills the skies” *Ratisbon*

Opening Acclamation (*page 1 in booklet*)

The Collect

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

First Lesson: 2 Kings 2: 1-12

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a

double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

Psalms 50: 1-6

(Please read responsively)

Deus deorum

- 1 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.

The Gospel Mark 9: 2-9

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my

Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Affirmation of Faith

(page 2 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; Martie; Kimberly; Patrick; Sue & Tom; Kate; Natasha; Kimberly; Jeff; Keith; Kathryn; Marcus; Patience; Mackenzie; Evan; Sandy; Bill; Kristie; Sokpha; Judy; We pray for just peace for Ukraine, and for those affected by violence in Israel and Palestine, - may the root causes of violence and oppression be addressed, so that a new understanding of peace may prevail Please include your intercessions.

Offertory Solo

“I love to tell the story”

Emma Lou Diemer

The Great Thanksgiving

(page 6, booklet)

Communion Anthem

“Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness”

Anton Leupold

Announcements

Hymn 135

“Songs of thankfulness and praise”

Salzburg

Voluntary

“Now the Silence”

Charles Ore

† † †

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

SUNDAY FUNDAY FOR PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY CHILDREN- Today 9:45 a.m. gather in the Sears Room & February 25.

LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION begins Sunday, February 18. *Good Enough* by Kate Bowler is the perfect book for an imperfect Lent. Join facilitators Chris Plankey and Craig Reynolds for 3 Sundays, Feb. 18, March 3 & 17, at 9:00 a.m. in the Guild Room. There are a few copies of the book available; contact Craig Reynolds. More information about *Good Enough* is available on the St. Stephen's website.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY "The Final Conflict: the Passion According to John" led by The Rev. Marc Britt will meet from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at 2 Amy Ct., Pittsfield for 4 Thursdays: February 22, 29, March 7 & 14.

LIVING GREEN TIP

Use Energy Efficient Lightbulbs: Energy efficient lightbulbs are a simple way to reduce the amount of power you use. Not only will this help the planet, it will also save your bank balance too.

Bottles/Cans Toter John Garinther

Cardboard-Breakdown Mark Miller



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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YPF ON THE SUCCESS OF THEIR 1ST MOVIE FUNDRAISER AND SERVICE PROJECT!

60 backpacks were assembled to be given to the Department of Children and Families for distribution to youth going into foster care last Sunday afternoon, February 4. This is up from 45 last year and already the group is talking about expanding the effort next year. The auditorium was filled with families for a screening of *The Princess Bride*, snacks were sold and donations collected. Many thanks to the anonymous sponsor who paid for the movie screening rights and to DJ Chris Plankey who supplied the necessary equipment. Donations to pay for the supplies used to fill the packs are still being accepted. Checks should note the backpack project as should any other method of donation.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Wednesday, February 7, 6:30 p.m. Compline;
Sunday February 11, 10:00 a.m.

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

Meetings: AA –Tuesday-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

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT 10 a.m.	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
CELEBRANT 5 p.m.	The Rev. William Loutrel
LECTORS 10 a.m.	Jeff Pringle, Josie Ellis
LECTOR 5 p.m.	Susan LeBourdais
LAY MINISTERS 10 a.m.	Craig Reynolds, Susan LeBourdais
LAY MINISTER 5 p.m.	Susan LeBourdais
ALTAR GUILD	Susan Smith (Chair) Claudia A. Curry, Cathy Darling
GREETERS	Diane Forsyth, Joan Evans
VESTRY GREETER	Jim Alden
COFFEE HOUR	Caleb Harmon

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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; Evan C; Sandy S; Bill M; Kristie H; Sokpha I; Kristie S; 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:

Good Shepherd, Clinton;
The Rt. Rev. Gordon P. Scruton, VIII Bishop, retired
Office of Government Relations
Episcopal Communicators

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Episcopal Church of South Sudan
Monday: Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba (West Indies)
Tuesday: Diocese of Carlisle (England)
Wednesday: Diocese of East Carolina (The Episcopal Church)
Thursday: Diocese of North Carolina (The Episcopal Church)
Friday: Diocese of South Carolina (The Episcopal Church)
Saturday: Diocese of Upper South Carolina (The Episcopal Church)

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VESTRY

Josie Ellis, Co. Warden
Suzanne White, Treasurer
Christopher Perry, Clerk
David Nevin
James Alden
Caleb Harmon

John Garinther, Co. Warden
William O'Neill, Asst. Treasurer
Wendy W. Coakley
Chris Plankey
Beth-Anne Hamling

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 child-friendly books in a bookshelf near a coloring station in the back, on the right side of the sanctuary. There's a second coloring station on the front left, where there is also our **Kids' Own Space activity area**. 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.