

Third Sunday after Pentecost
Saturday June 8, 5 p.m. & Sunday June 9, 2024 10 a.m.

Voluntary “Spirit of God, descent upon my heart” Joe Utterback

Hymn 594 “God of grace and God of glory” *Cwm Rhondda*

Opening Acclamation (*page 1 in booklet*)

The Collect

O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 8: 4-11, 16-20

All the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, “You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.” But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to govern us.” Samuel prayed to the LORD, and the LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, “No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People

Thanks be to God.



- 1 I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole **heart**; *
before the gods I will sing your **praise**.
- 2 I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your **Name**, *
because of your love and **faithfulness**;
- 3 For you have glorified your **Name** *
and your word above all **things**.
- 4 When I called, you **answered me**; *
you increased my strength **within me**.
- 5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O **LORD**, *
when they have heard the words of your **mouth**.
- 6 They will sing of the ways of the **LORD**, *
that great is the glory of the **LORD**.
- 7 Though the LORD be high, he cares for the **lowly**; *
he perceives the haughty from **afar**.
- 8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me **safe**; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall **save me**.
- *9 The LORD will make good his purpose for **me**; *
O LORD, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your **hands**.

The Gospel Mark 3: 20-35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glory to you, Lord Christ

The crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his disciples could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against

himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

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: *We pray for: Ken & Diana; Tommie; Judy; Kathy; David; Kate; Jeff; Keith; Kathryn; Marcus; Evan; Sandy; Sokpha; Robert; Mike ;Will; Jennifer; Judy; John; Brant; John; Jack; Steve; Mackenzie; Marty; Diane; The family of Martie Ekstrom; The family of John D. Hebert; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; the congregation of Nativity in Northboro; We pray for a just peace for Ukraine, and for those affected by the violence in Israel and Palestine.*

Please include your intercessions.

Those who have Died *Martie Ekstrom, John D. Hebert (Father of J.D Hebert)*

Offertory Anthem “He watching over Israel” from *Elijah*. Felix Mendelssohn

“He watching over Israel slumbers not, nor sleeps;
Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish;
He will quicken thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

(page 6, booklet)

Communion Anthem “Wondrous love”

arr. Carson Cooman

What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse, for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down;
when I was sinking down, sinking down;
when I was sinking down, beneath God’s righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul.
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.

To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing.

While millions join the them, I will sing!

American Folk Hymn

Announcements

Hymn 620

“Jerusalem, my happy home”

Land of Rest

Voluntary

“Praise to the Lord”

Johann Walther

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.

ST. STEPHEN’S TABLE NEEDS YOUR HELP – see insert for info.

THE CHOIR will be off for the summer. See the insert to learn how many years the members have been enhancing our worship.

ST. STEPHEN’S HOSTS CONCERT TO BENEFIT AFGHAN WOMEN JUNE 30, AT 4:30 P.M. The Cuatro Puntos Ensemble with Arson Fahim, composer and activist will perform in the sanctuary.

LIVING GREEN TIP

Use a Clothesline: Do your clothes a favor and switch off the dryer. Hang clothes outside to dry naturally. The material will last longer, it will smell and feel fresher and of course, you are saving on that power usage!

Paper Toter Brendan Dillon

Cardboard-Home Joan Evans



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.

HONORING OUR GRADUATES

Moving on from High School

Grace Garinther graduating from Taconic High School
 Lily Stasiowski, graduating from Waconah High School
 Anthony Trapani, graduating from Taconic High School
 Olivia Bostian and Madison Stec, granddaughters of David DeSmith
 and Jim Alden

Graduating from College

Alex Morin son of Melissa Morin and grandson of Carolyn and
 Ted Kaufmann
 Soleil Laurin, daughter of Jennifer Laurin

Completing Post Graduate Work

Channing Pooley, graduating from Tufts University with a Master of
 Science
 Jordana Reist, granddaughter of Diane Forsyth, graduating from Tulane
 University Law School

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT	5 p.m. & 10 a.m.	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
LECTORS	10 a.m.	Paula Morey, Tom Drury
LECTOR	5 p.m.	Dan Moon
LAY MINISTERS	10 a.m.	Paula Morey, Jim Cawse
LAY MINISTER	5 p.m.	Dan Moon
ALTAR GUILD		Joan Evans (Chair) Sandy Soules
GREETERS		Sandy Soule, Claudia A. Curry
VESTRY GREETER		Caleb Harmon
COFFEE HOUR		Caleb Harmon

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Wednesday, June 12, 6:30 p.m. Compline;
Sunday June 16, 10:00 a.m.

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

Meetings: AA –Monday - Thursday 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; E; David; Kate; Jeff K; Keith C; Kathryn D; Marcus B; Evan C; Sandy S; Sokpha I; Robert L; Mike E.; Will C.; Jennifer D. Judy J.; Brant; John H; Jack M; David W; Steve M; Mackenzie P; Marty P; Diane P, The family of Martie Ekstrom; The family of John D. Hebert; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; The congregation Nativity, Northboro; We pray for a just peace for Ukraine, and for those affected by the violence in Israel and Palestine.

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 Program
Pittsfield City Government
The Governor of Massachusetts

In Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

Christ Memorial Church, North Brookfield;
Budget & Finance Committee
National Cathedral Association
Action Centered Tutoring Services
(ACTS), Springfield

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo
Monday: Diocese of Southeast Florida (The Episcopal Church)
Tuesday: Diocese of Southwest Florida (The Episcopal Church)
Wednesday: Diocese of Fond du Lac (The Episcopal Church)
Thursday: Diocese of Fredericton (Canada)
Friday: Diocese of Free State (Southern Africa)
Saturday; Diocese of Free Town (West Africa)

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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'Neil, 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.