

Saturday January 11, 5 p.m. Sunday January 12, 2025 10 a.m.
First Sunday after the Epiphany
The Baptism of our Lord

Voluntary “Fairest Lord Jesus” Hermann Schroeder

Hymn 657 “Love divine, all loves excelling” *Hyfrydol*

Opening Acclamation *(page 1 in booklet)*

The Collect

Lord of the desert river, you search our depths and call us by name:
may your flame-born Spirit open the heavens that we might recognize you
in the one born of earth, Jesus Christ, the Gift of Peace. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 43: 1-7

Thus says the Lord,

 he who created you, O Jacob,

 he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

 I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

 and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,

 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,

 and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

 nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;

 I will bring your offspring from the east,

 and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

 and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

 and my daughters from the end of the earth--

everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 29 (Please read responsively)

Afferte Domino

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, *

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; *

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;

the God of glory thunders; *

the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; *

the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; *

the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *

and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;

the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; *

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe *

and strips the forests bare.

9 And in the temple of the Lord *

all are crying, "Glory!"

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; *

the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.

11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; *

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The Gospel: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to Luke

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Prayers of the People, *We pray for:* Ken; Keith; Marcus; Sokpha; Mike; Will; Judy; Marty; Ann; Marc; Sam; Pat; Becky; Susan; Drew; James; Ted; Aloha; Jeanne; Mel; Sandy; the family of Burnel Smith; the family of Donald George; a just peace for Ukraine, those affected by the violence in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon and those effected by the wildfires in Southern California.

Those who have died: Burnel Smith, Jimmy Carter, Donald George

The Peace

Offertory Anthem "Fairest Lord Jesus" *Silesian folk song*/Martin How

Fairest Lord Jesus, Lord of all creation,
Jesus, of God and Mary the Son;
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honour,
O thou my soul's delight and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the verdure and bloom of spring.
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes the saddest heart to sing.

Fair are the flowers, fairer still the sons of men,
In all the freshness of youth arrayed:
Yet is their beauty fading and fleeting;
My Jesus, thine will never fade.

German 17th Century

The Great Thanksgiving

Communion Anthem “Tomorrow shall be my dancing day”
arr. Richard Shepherd

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day,
I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play,
to call my true love to my dance; *Refrain*

Refrain: Sing O my love,
This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance.
Thus was I knit to man's nature,
to call my true love to the dance. *Refrain*

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
So very poor; this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
to call my true love to my dance. *Refrain*

Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Spirit on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above,
to call my true love to my dance. *Refrain*
Traditional

Hymn 811 “You shall cross the barren desert” *Be not afraid*
(WLP *The Green Hymnal*)

Voluntary “A Thornbury Fanfare” Malcolm Archer

† † †

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 in honor of Janice Ream's 90th birthday by William Frazier*

SUNDAY FUNDAY today will gather in the Sears Room 9:45 a.m.

SNOW/INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY - St. Stephen's will hold services as long as a celebrant or worship leader can get to the church safely. Cancellations will be posted on the church website. Saturday evening worshippers, please check before driving to church.

TEMPLE ANSHE AMUNIM WINTER FILM SERIES begins Sunday, January 12 at 2 PM with *Nathan-ism* a documentary about Nathan Hilu a guard at the Nuremberg trials. Tickets \$10. www.ansheamunim.org for more information.

THE ELECTION OF THE 10th BISHOP OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS will include three members of St. Stephen's. William Frazier and Amanda Watroba have been appointed to serve on the Search Committee, and Rev. Nina will serve on the Transition Committee.

Bottles/Cans Toter- John Garinther Cardboard-Breakdown - Susan Wojtasik



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.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 9, 2025, DURING THE 10:00 AM SERVICE.**

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9a.m.-4p.m.

Worship: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 6:30 p.m. Zoom Compline;
Sunday January 19, 2025 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

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT 5p.m. & 10 a.m.	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
LECTORS 10a.m.	Renee Kaley, Nancy Travis
LECTOR 5p.m.	Josie Ellis
LAY MINISTERS 10 a.m.	Elizabeth Trapani, Dan Moon
LAY MINISTER 5 p.m.	Josie Ellis
ALTAR GUILD	William Frazier, Diane Forsyth
GREETERS	Anne Williams, Diane Forsyth
VESTRY GREETER	
COFFEE HOUR	Angie Moon

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THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

In our Parish prayers, *We pray for:* Ken E.; Keith C; Marcus B; Sokpha I; Mike E.; Will C.; Judy J.; Marty P; Ann M; Marc B; Sam; Pat; Becky; Susan C; Drew; James; Ted K.; Aloha W.; Jeanne G.; Mel; Sandy S.; the family of Burnel Smith; the family of Donald George; President Jimmy Carter; a just peace for Ukraine, those affected by the violence in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon and those effected by the wildfires in Southern California.

And those serving in the armed forces and their families: MAJ Andrew B., CPT Nichols P., CPT 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:

Grace Episcopal, Amherst;
Building Bridges Veterans Initiative
The House of Bishops

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Church of Province of West Africa
Monday: Diocese of Lango (Uganda)
Tuesday: for the Diocese of West Lango (Uganda)
Wednesday: Diocese of Langtang (Nigeria)
Thursday: Diocese of Lebombo (Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola)
Friday: Diocese of Leeds (England)
Saturday; Diocese of Leicester (England)

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VESTRY

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

John Garinther, Co. Warden
William O'Neill, Asst. Treasurer
Wendy W. Coakley
Chris Plankey
Caleb Harmon

Our Staff

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Dan Moon,
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Weekday Sextons – Ecuadorian Women's Co-op
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.

Restrooms are located in our Parish House

Exit the sanctuary via the doors on either side of the altar and follow the signs.