

Saturday January 25 5 PM & Sunday January 26, 2025 10 a.m.  
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

**Voluntary** "Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness" Johannes Brahms

**Hymn 409** "The spacious firmament on high" *Creation*

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

**The Collect**

God of freedom, you break the seals and let the Spirit flow: make us impatient to greet the time fulfilled, the poor lifted up, the oppressed set free and your love made manifest in Jesus Christ, the Anointed Servant.

**Amen.**

**The First Lesson:** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

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

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 19**

*(Please read responsively)*

*Caeli enarrant*

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \*  
**and the firmament shows his handiwork.**
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, \*  
**and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
- 3 Although they have no words or language, \*  
**and their voices are not heard,**
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, \*  
**and their message to the ends of the world.**
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \*  
**it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;**  
**it rejoices like a champion to run its course.**
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens  
and runs about to the end of it again; \*  
**nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; \*  
**the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.**
- 8 The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; \*  
**the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; \*  
**the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, \*  
**sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
**and in keeping them there is great reward.**
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
**cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion over me; \*  
**then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.**
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight, \*  
**O LORD, my strength and my redeemer**

**The Gospel:** Luke 4: 14-21

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

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

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

Rev. Joel Bergeland

**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; Mark; Steven, Kathy, Jim, Brenda, Janis, Donna, Sharyl, Philip, Sigurd, Irene, Steve, Griffin, Heather, Marilyn, Janet, David, Patricia, Megan, Steve, Katie, Dee, Laura, Kristy; 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:* Ellie Pickard, Deb

**The Peace**

**Offertory Anthem** “For the beauty of the earth”

Mark Schweizer

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies  
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies. (*Refrain*)

*Refrain:* Lord of all to Thee we raise,  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light. *(Refrain)*

For the joy of human love, brother sister parent child,  
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild. *(Refrain)*

For your church that evermore, lifts holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore, her pure sacrifice of love. *(Refrain)*

Folliott Pierpoint

**The Great Thanksgiving** *(page 6 in the booklet)*

**Communion Anthem**      “Consecration”      Frederick Chatfield

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee.  
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect, and use every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne.  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

Frances Havergal

**Hymn 539**      “O Zion haste”      *Tidings*

**Voluntary**      Psalm 19”      Benedetto Marcello

**WELCOME ZION LUTHERAN!**

**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** January 26, gather in the Sears Room 9:45 a.m.

**2025 CHURCH DIRECTORY** – Please update the office if your contact information has changed or you’d like to receive birthday or anniversary cards. 413-448-8276 or mail@ststephenspittsfield.org

**EXPLORING THE PSALMS: A THREE-SESSION LENTEN STUDY** - Join us this Lent for a three-session adult education series diving into the rich and diverse world of the Psalms. Together we'll journey through these ancient poems that speak to every human experience: Sessions: March 16, March 30, and April 6 at 9:00 AM.

**BUILDING UPDATES:**

- The Berkshire Immigrant Center has moved to 141 North St..
- Jewish Family Services is still coordinating refugee resettlement services out of their 3<sup>rd</sup> floor office. They are always in need of furniture for the families they serve. 413-464-8075.
- The volunteer-run 3<sup>rd</sup> floor donation room remains open when a JFS staff person is on site. Donations need approval from Jenny Greenfeld who manages the room. 413-329-2930.

**ANNUAL MEETING** - Sunday, February 9, 2025, 10:00 am

**ANNUAL REPORTS DUE** - Tuesday, January 28

Bottles & Cans Toter- Chris Plankey	Cardboard-Breakdown Don Phipps
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**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.

**MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION**

CELEBRANT 10 AM	Rev. Joel Bergeland
CELEBRANT 5 PM	The Rev. David Desmith
LECTORS 10 AM	Daniel Moon, James Cawse
LECTOR 5 PM	James Alden
LAY MINISTERS 10 AM	James Cawse, David Nevin
LAY MINISTER 5 PM	James Alden
ALTAR GUILD	David Nevin
GREETERS	Laura Kelly, Jennifer Townsend
VESTRY GREETER	Caleb Harmon
COFFEE HOUR	Caleb Harmon

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## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

**Worship:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 6:30 p.m. Zoom Compline;  
Sunday February 2, 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

## 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 D.; Becky; Susan C; Drew; James; Ted K.; Aloha W.; Jeanne G.; Mel; Sandy S.; Mark; Steven, Kathy, Jim, Brenda, Janis, Donna, Sharyl, Philip, Sigurd, Irene, Steve, Griffin, Heather, Marilyn, Janet, David, Patricia, Megan, Steve, Katie, Dee, Laura, Kristy; Deb; Ellie; 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:***

Habitat for Humanity in Pittsfield  
Department of Mental Health  
Government of the United States

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

St. John's, Athol  
Church Without Walls, Springfield  
Spouses of deceased clergy  
House of Deputies  
Jubilee Ministries

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

Sunday: Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria  
Monday: Diocese of Liverpool (England)  
Tuesday: Diocese of Liwolo (South sudan)  
Wednesday: Diocese of Llandaff (Wales)  
Thursday: Missionary Area of Lodwar (Kenya)  
Friday: Diocese of Lokoja (Nigeria)  
Saturday; Diocese of Lomega (South Sudan)

St. Stephen's Episcopal church  
67 East Street + Park Square  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

413-448-8276  
[mail@ststephenspittsfield.org](mailto:mail@ststephenspittsfield.org) (e-mail)  
[ststephenspittsfieldnews@gmail.com](mailto:ststephenspittsfieldnews@gmail.com) (news items)  
[www.ststephenspittsfield.org](http://www.ststephenspittsfield.org)



### **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**

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector  
[ninapooley@revnina.org](mailto:ninapooley@revnina.org)

Joy Mullen, Director of Music  
[jmullen@ststephenspittsfield.org](mailto:jmullen@ststephenspittsfield.org)

Sarah Morrison, Parish Administrator  
[smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org](mailto:smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org)

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 – 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](http://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.