

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.

First Sunday in Lent Saturday March 8, 5p.m. & Sunday March 9, 2025 10a.m.

Voluntary

"Jesus in the desert"

James Biery

Hymn 688

"A mighty fortress is our God"

Ein feste Burg

The Collect

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16

(Please read responsively) Qui habitat

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, *
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 He shall say to the Lord,
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust."

9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,

10 There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.

12 They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

14 Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.

The Gospel Luke 4: 1-13

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

67 East Street + Park Square

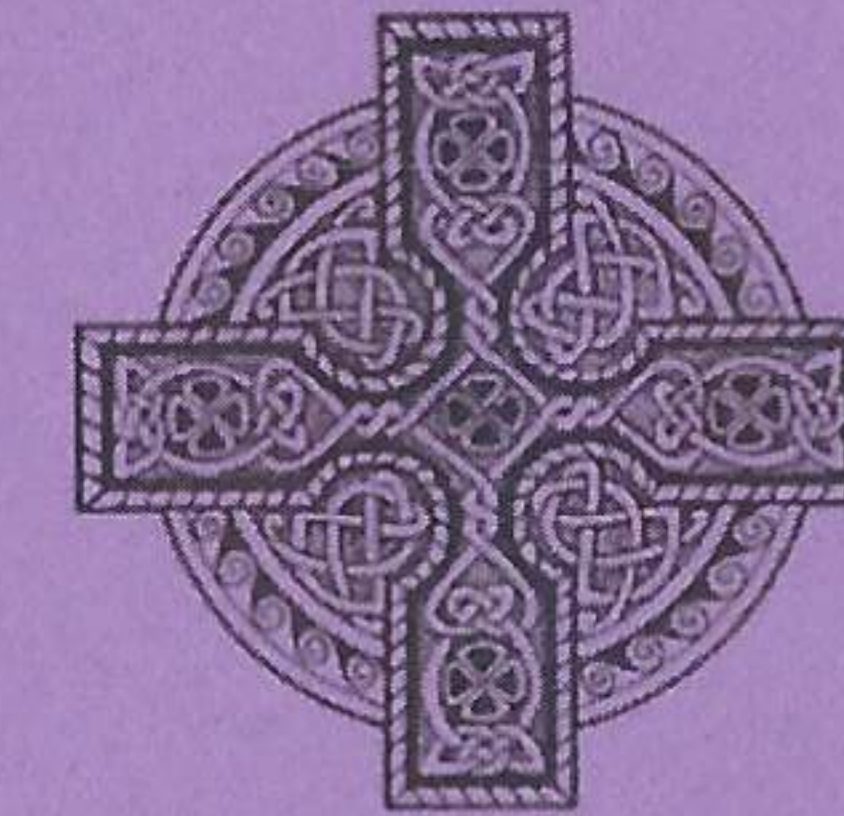
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J. Christopher Perry, Treasurer
Christopher Plankey, Clerk
Caleb Dillon Harmon
William Morey
Christine Furcinite-Reynolds

David Nevin, Co-Warden
William O'Neill, Asst. Treasurer
James Alden
James Brennan
Leah Luczynski

Our Staff

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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

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Office Hours: Tuesday--Thursday, 9:00a.m.4p.m.

Worship: Wednesday-March 12, Compline at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom
Sunday March 16, 10a.m.

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

Classes for Afghan Evacuees: ESL – Monday and Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.

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

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

In our Parish prayers, we pray for: Ken; Keith; Marcus; Sokpha; Mike; Will; Judy; Marty; Ann; Marc; Chris; Pat; Becky; Susan; Drew; James; Ted; Aloha; Jeanne; AJ R.; a just peace for Ukraine, and those affected by the violence in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon.

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:

St. Paul's Gardner;
Cathedral of the Beloved, Pittsfield;
All retired clergy
Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN);
US Disaster Program, Episcopal Relief & Development

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday Anglican Church of Canada
Monday: Diocese of Malakal (South Sudan)
Tuesday: Diocese of Lake Malawi (Central Africa)
Wednesday: Diocese of Northern Malawi (Central Africa)
Thursday: Diocese of Southern Malawi (Central Africa)
Friday: Diocese of West Malaysia (South East Asia)
Saturday; Diocese of Malek (South Sudan)

please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,' and

'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley

The Prayers of the People,

We pray for: Ken; Keith; Marcus; Sokpha; Mike; Will; Judy; Marty; Ann; Marc; Chris; Pat; Becky; Susan; Drew; James; Ted; Aloha; Jeanne; A. J.; a just peace for Ukraine, those affected by the violence in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon

Peace

(page 6 in booklet)

Offertory Anthem "Lord, grant thou me a quiet mind" Arlen Clarke

Lord grant Thou me a quiet mind,
in depths of Thee and thought inclined.

O gaze upon this wounded heart,
and with Thy sweet and piercing Dart
Prick this soul with Love's embrace.

And heal these wounds with saving grace.

Lord grant Thou me a quiet mind,
in depths of Thee and thought inclined.

O gaze upon this wounded heart,
and with Thy sweet and piercing Dart

Within my soul and heart reside
and drown me in Thy healing tide. Amen.

from the poem, *A Request*

The Great Thanksgiving (page 6 in booklet)

Communion Anthem “Now let us all with one accord” Arlen Clarke

Now let us all with one accord,
in company with ages past,
keep vigil with our heavenly Lord
in his temptation and his fast.

Your love, O Christ, our sinful race
has not returned, but falsified;
author of mercy, turn your face
and grant repentance for our pride.

Remember, Christ, though frail we be,
in your own image were we made;
help us, lest in anxiety,
we cause your Name to be betrayed.

Therefore, we pray you, Christ, forgive;
so when our wanderings here shall cease,
we may with you forever live,
in love and unity and peace.

att. Pope Gregory the Great

Hymn 810 “You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord” *Eagles Wings*
(WLP *The Green Hymnal*)

Voluntary “A mighty fortress is our God” Johann Pachelbel

†††

PARISH NOTICES

WHO ARE WE? St. Stephen’s Parish is a community of people who together seek to serve our community, drawing strength and joy from worshipping together. We don’t all believe the same, act the same, vote the same, or dress the same – but we strive to love the same, as Christ loved and served all people.

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 “Support Our Ministries,” and follow the prompts to the list of gift opportunities. Select “St. Stephen’s Table” and follow the directions.

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

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.

SAVE THE DATE, MARCH 23RD, FOR YPF’S PASTA DINNER FUNDRAISER – YPF is raising funds for their Foster Care Backpack project. Dinner will be \$15 for adults and \$8 for 10 and under. From 5 – 7 PM you’ll have the option to eat in the dining room or take your dinner home.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FROM THE WILLIAMSTOWN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – The Supporting Democracy Leadership Award is open to student ages 16-21. For more information email berkshireleadershipaward@gmail.com. Sample application posted on the church bulletin board, deadline March 28.



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.

Bottles/Cans Toter- John Garinther Cardboard- Breakdown -Bill Morey

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT 10 a.m.	The Rev. Dr. Nina R Pooley
CELEBRANT 5 p.m.	David DeSmith
LECTORS 10 a.m.	Nancy Travis, Paula Morey
LECTOR 5 p.m.	Al Symonds
LAY MINISTERS 10 a.m.	David Nevin, Elizabeth Trapani
LAY MINISTER 5 p.m.	Lois Symonds
ALTAR GUILD	Susan Smith (Chair), Claudia Curry
GREETERS	Paula Morey, Diane Forsyth
VESTRY GREETER	Leah Luczynski
COFFEE HOUR	Joan Evans

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