

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sunday August 17, 2025, 10:00 a.m.**

**Voluntary**

“Beach Spring”

Aaron David Miller

**Hymn 410**

“Praise, my soul, the King of heaven” *Lauda anima*

**Welcome**

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

**The Collect**

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; 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 Lesson** Hebrews 11: 29-12: 2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets-- who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented-- of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run

*New to St. Stephen's? You will find helpful information on the back of this leaflet.*



with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-18**

*(Please read responsively)*

*Qui regis Israel*

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
**shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
**stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- 8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; \*  
**you cast out the nations and planted it.**
- 9 You prepared the ground for it; \*  
**it took root and filled the land.**
- 10 The mountains were covered by its shadow \*  
**and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**
- 11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea \*  
**and its branches to the River.**
- 12 Why have you broken down its wall, \*  
**so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**
- 13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, \*  
**and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.**
- 14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;  
behold and tend this vine; \*  
**preserve what your right hand has planted.**
- 15 They burn it with fire like rubbish; \*  
**at the rebuke of your countenance let them perish.**
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
**the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
**give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \*  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**



## **The Gospel Luke 12: 49-56**

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son  
and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

**Affirmation of Faith**      *(page 2 in the booklet)*

**The Prayers of the People**      *(page 3 in the booklet)*

*We pray for: Ken; Keith; Marcus; Sokpha; Drew; James; A.J; Judy; Robertine; Steph; Paul; Craig; Glen; Thom; Mike; Jay; Linda; Evan; Haley; Eve; Barbara; the family of Susan Rock; a just peace for Ukraine, those affected by the violence in the Middle East; and Sudan.*

*Those who have died: Susan Rock*

**Confession**      *(page 5 in the booklet)*

**Peace**      *(page 5 in booklet)*

**Offertory Solo**      "Open mine eyes"

Charles Scott



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

**Fraction Anthem** Form II, (page 10 in booklet)

1. Cantor
2. Congregation

**Communion Solo** “God so loved the world” John Stainer

**Post Communion Prayer** (page 11/12 in the booklet)

**LEVAS Hymn 151** “One bread, one body” John Foley  
(the red hymnal)

**Voluntary** “Minuet Finale” from the *Firework Suite* George F. Handel

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## 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.

**SUMMER BOOK CLUB** – Tuesday, August 19 at 6 PM the August Adult Ed Book Club reading selection from the diocesan Social Justice Commission, The Land of the Living, will be led by Rev. Nina and feature author The Rev. Timothy Crellin. See the church website to register for this Zoom discussion. Please contact the office with questions.

**BISHOP FISHER WILL HOLD HIS VISITATION AT ST. STEPHEN'S ON SEPTEMBER 21ST.** Given our recent sermon series, we have confirmation materials ready to go!! Anyone interested in confirmation or reaffirmation should contact the office no later than August 20. (Please forgive the quick turnaround, we are accommodating a change in the Bishop’s schedule.)



**JOIN OUR CHORUS OF GENEROSITY!** - We are orchestrating something special because our spectacular Steinway is in desperate need of TLC...to the "tune" of a \$15,000 overhaul. Imagine our piano, each key representing a vital contribution to our goal.

Can you sponsor one of our piano's keys? If 88 of us chip in \$170 (or whatever you are able to give), we will be able to avoid paying for this very necessary maintenance out of our endowment.

As a token of appreciation, those who are able to contribute will receive a handcrafted bookmark "noting" your donation.

Let's create a harmony of giving to reach this \$15,000 crescendo!

- **To give online:** Look for Piano TLC in the Funds dropdown.
- **To give by check:** Please make a notation for "Piano TLC".

**THE TEXT OF THE SUNDAY SERMONS** can be found on the church website: look under the Worship heading for Sermons.



**GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN’S IS EASY** – Scan the QR code to find our giving form, or test “giveststephens\$youramount” to 73256 (example: giveststephens\$25 will donate \$25.) Message and data reates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

Paper Toter –Roy Sutton	Cardboard Home- Jeff Pringle
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**MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION**

CELEBRANT	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
LECTORS .	Don Phipps, Paula Morey
LAY MINISTERS	Paula Morey, Angie Moon
ALTAR GUILD	David Nevin
GREETERS	Nancy Lamoureaux, Claudia Austin Curry
VESTRY GREETER	David Nevin
SOLOIST	Gwen Davis

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## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

*Worship:* Wednesday, August 20, Compline at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom  
Saturday August 23, 5p.m.& Sunday, August 24 10 a.m.

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

*Meetings:* AA: Noon meeting suspended until week of Aug. 18; Friday at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday at 10:00 a.m. NA: 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 E.; Keith C.; Marcus; Sokpha; Drew; James; AJ R.; Steph M.; Robertine M.; Judy; Paul A.; Craig S.; Glen M.; Mike E; Thom S.; Jay G; Linda H; Evan C.; Haley; Eve; Barbara; the family of Susan Rock; a just peace for Ukraine, those affected by the violence in the Middle East; and Sudan.*

***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 Elizabeth Freeman Center  
Pittsfield Area Council of Congregations  
Members of Congress

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

Holy Trinity, Southbridge;  
Bishop's Chaplains to Retired Clergy  
Western Mass Food Bank

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

Sunday the Scottish Episcopal Church  
Monday: Diocese of Southern Nyanza (Kenya)  
Tuesday Diocese of Nzara (South Sudan)  
Wednesday Diocese of Del Occidental (La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico)  
Thursday: Diocese of Offa (Nigeria)  
Friday: Diocese of Ogbaru (Nigeria)  
Saturday: Diocese of Ogbia (Nigeria)



## **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**

John Garinther, Co-Warden  
J. Christopher Perry, Treasurer  
James Alden  
James Brennan  
Leah Luczynski

David Nevin, Co-Warden  
Christopher Plankey, Clerk  
Caleb Dillon Harmon  
William Morey  
Christine Furcinite-Reynolds

### **Our Staff**

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

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

Bert Boos, Office Assistant  
[bboos@ststephensfield.org](mailto:bboos@ststephensfield.org)

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

Dan Moon,  
Director of St Stephen's Table  
[dmoon@pittsfield.net](mailto:dmoon@pittsfield.net)

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.

**Collection Plates** are located at each entrance. All gifts gratefully accepted.

**Restrooms are located in our Parish House:** Exit the sanctuary via the doors on either side of the altar, follow the signs.