

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Saturday August 9, 5p.m. & Sunday August 10, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Voluntary “Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness” Johannes Brahms

Hymn 482 “Lord of all hopefulness” *Slane*

Welcome

Opening Acclamation *(page 1 in the booklet)*

The Collect

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.

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

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 50: 1-8, 23-24

(Please read responsively)

Deus deorum

1 The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; *

he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *

God reveals himself in glory.

3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *

**before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.**

4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above *

to witness the judgment of his people.

5 “Gather before me my loyal followers, *

**those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice.”**

6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *

for God himself is judge.

7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak:

“O Israel, I will bear witness against you; *

for I am God, your God.

8 I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; *

your offerings are always before me.

23 Consider this well, you who forget God, *

lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.

24 Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me; *

but to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God.”

The Gospel Luke 12: 32-40

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing

treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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; Sokpba; Dren; 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 “I come with joy” David Cherwein

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 6 in booklet)*

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

Communion Solo “Give me Jesus” Robert Billingham

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

LEVAS Hymn 38
(The Red Hymnal)

“On a hill far away”

The Old Rugged Cross

Voluntary

“Trumpet Tune in B-flat major”

Mark Sheppard

† † †

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. *This week's Gifts to the Table are given by Diane Forsyth in thanksgiving for family, friends & St. Stephen's Church.*

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".

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.)

SUMMER BOOK CLUB – The August Adult Ed Book Club reading selection from the diocesan Social Justice Commission is The Land of the Living by The Rev. Timothy Crellin. See church website for information about purchasing the book, and for link to register for a talk and online with the author on August 19th. Please contact the office with questions.

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 text “giveststephens\$youramount” 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.

Bottes/Cans Toter –Chris Plankey Cardboard Breakdown-Susan Wojtasik

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT 5 p.m.	The Rev. Bill Loutrel
LECTOR 5 p.m.	Josie Ellis
LAY MINISTER 5 p.m.	Josie Ellis
CELEBRANT 10 a.m.	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
LECTORS 10 a.m.	Wendy Coakley, Susan LeBourdais
LAY MINISTERS 10 a.m.	Susan LeBourdais, Elizabeth Trapani
ALTAR GUILD	Marie & Roy Sutton
GREETERS	Laura Kelly, Paula Morey
VESTRY GREETER	John Garinther
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN	Josie Ellis

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Wednesday, August 13, Compline at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom
Sunday, August 17, 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; Sokpba; 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

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

In Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

All Saints', South Hadley;
Berkshires Region & Dean of Clericus
Episcopal Young Adults & Campus Ministry;
Anglican Society

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday Episcopal Church in the Philippines
Monday: Diocese of Niger West (Nigeria)
Tuesday Diocese of Nike (Nigeria)
Wednesday Diocese of Nimule (South Sudan)
Thursday: Diocese of Nnewi (Nigeria)
Friday: Diocese of Northern Izon (Nigeria)
Saturday: Diocese of Northern Territory (Australia)

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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

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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.

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.