

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Creation Season: Advocate**  
**Saturday September 27, 5 p.m. Sunday September 28, 2025, 10 a.m.**

**Voluntary**                      “The Swan”                      Camille Saint-Saëns/Guilmant

**Hymn 379**                      “God is Love, let heaven adore him”                      *Abbot's Leigh*

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

**The Creation Collect of the Day:**

O Creator God, you are known by your loving embrace of the undeserving and those who suffer: Grant us sight of your justice and conviction to love all creatures; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**First Lesson:** a reading from Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

We shall awaken from our dullness and rise vigorously toward justice. If we fall in love with creation deeper and deeper, we will respond to its endangerment with passion.

Glance at the sun. See the moon and the stars. Gaze at the beauty of earth's greenings. Now, think. What delight God gives to humankind with all these things. All nature is at the disposal of humankind. We are to work with it. For without it we cannot survive.

All living creatures are sparks from the radiation of God's brilliance, emerging from God like the rays of the sun.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 91:** 1-6, 14-16                      *(Please read responsively)*                      *Qui habitat*

- 1 They who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, \*  
**abide under the shadow of the Almighty.**
- 2 They shall say to the God,  
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, \*  
**my God in whom I put my trust."**
- 3 For God shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter \*  
**and from the deadly pestilence.**

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

4 God's pinions shall cover you,  
and under God's wings you shall find refuge; \*  
**God's faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.**

5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, \*  
**nor of the arrow that flies by day;**

6 Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, \*  
**nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.**

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

15 You shall call upon me, and I will answer you; \*  
**I am with you in trouble;**  
**I will rescue you and bring you honor.**

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

**Second Lesson:** a reading from *Dangerous Years*

David Orr

Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up as something we do in daily practice, not just something that we wish for or talk about. It is a discipline requiring skill, competence, steadiness, and courage. It is practical. It bonds us to each other, and to real places, animals, trees, waters, and landscapes. The hopeful are patient, not passive. They are creators of the gyres of positive change that could, in time, redeem the human prospect. They are people who will know how to connect us to better possibilities waiting to be born.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel** Luke 16: 19-31

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send

Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers-- that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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

**Sermon**

The Rev. David DeSmith

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

**The Prayers of the People**      *(page 2 in the booklet)*

*We pray for: Ken; Keith; Marcus; Sokpha; Dren; James; A.J; Judy; Robertine; Steph; Paul; Craig; Glen; Thom; Mike; Jay; Linda; Evan; Haley; Eve; Barbara; Ted; Sophia; Sue; Marjorie; Natasha; Philip, Brady; Amy; the family of Harriet Cuyler; a just peace for Ukraine, those affected by the violence in the Middle East; and Sudan.*

*Those who have died, especially: Harriet Cuyler*

**Confession**      *(page 4 in the booklet)*

**Peace**      *(page 5 in booklet)*

**Offertory Anthem**      "Fight the good fight"      Alfred Fedak

Fight the good fight with all thy might!	Cast care aside, lean on thy guide;
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.	His boundless mercy will provide.
Lay hold on life and it shall be	Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
thy joy and crown eternally.	Christ is its life and love.

Run the straight race through God's	Faint not nor fear, his arms are near;
good grace;	He changes not, and thou art dear.
Lift up thine eyes, and seek his face.	Only believe, and thou shalt see
Life with its way before us lies;	that Christ is all in all to thee.
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.	

Fight the good fight with all thy might!  
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right!  
Lay hold on life and it shall be  
thy joy and crown eternally!  
J. Monsell

**The Great Thanksgiving**      *(page 5 in booklet)*

**Fraction Anthem**      *(page 8 in booklet)*

<b>Communion Anthem</b> “Jerusalem, my happy home”    Richard Proulx	
Jerusalem, my happy home,	Our Lady sings Magnificat
When shall I with you be?	With tune surpassing sweet;
When shall my sorrows have an end?	And all the virgins join the song
Your joys when shall I see?	While sitting at her feet.
Your saints are crowned with glory	There Magdalene has left her tears,
great;	And cheerfully does sing
They see God face to face;	With blessed saints, whose harmony
They triumph still, they still rejoice	In every street does ring.
In that most holy place.	
There David stands with harp in hand	Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
As master of the choir:	God grant that I may see
Ten thousand times would we be	Your endless joy, and of the same
blessed	Partaker ever be!
Who might this music hear.	Francis Baker, 16 <sup>th</sup> c

Announcements

**Post Communion Prayer**      *(page 9 in the booklet)*

**Hymn 690**      “Guide me, O thou great Jehovah”      Cwm Rhondda

**Voluntary**      “Postlude”      Orlando Gibbons

**Notes on Today’s Readings**

**First Lesson:** Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) 12<sup>th</sup> century German Benedictine abbess.

**The Psalm:** During Creation Season, texts are taken from the St. Helena Psalter

**Second Lesson:** David Orr, (b. 1944) *Dangerous Years: Climate Change, the Long Emergency, and the Way Forward* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016), 115.

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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 "Give" and follow the prompts to the list of gift opportunities where you will find "St. Stephen's Table."

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

**FALL BOOK CLUB** – The Serviceberry by Robin Wall Kimmerer, will be discussed after church on Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>. Facilitators: Jim Cawse and Marietta Rapetti Cawse.

**KNIT & SIP MEETS ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 5 PM, GUILD ROOM.**

**BAPTISM IS BEING OFFERED ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 19.** Please contact the office for more information.

**COVID, FLU AND COLD SEASON** are back. Masks are always acceptable at St. Stephen's. (And used tissues should not be left in the pews.)



**GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S IS EASY** – Scan the QR code to find our giving form, or text "giviststephens\$youramount" to 73256 (example: giviststephens\$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.

Paper Toter –Brendan Dillon Harmon

Cardboard Home- Jeff Pringle

## MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT 5p.m. & 10a.m

The Rev. David DeSmith

LECTOR 5p.m.

Al Symonds

LAY MINISTER 5p.m.

Lois Symonds

LECTORS 10 a.m.

Angie Moon, Wendy Coakley

LAY MINISTERS 10 a.m.

Andrea Stasowski, Susan LeBourdais

ALTAR GUILD

Claudia Austin curry, Jim Brennan

GREETERS

Diane Forsyth, Nancy Lamoureaux

VESTRY GREETER

Jim Brennan

CRUCIFER

Anne Williams

COFFEE HOUR

Kathryn Jensen

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## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

*Worship:* Wednesday, October 1, Compline at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom  
Sunday, October 5, 10 a.m.

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

*ESL Classes:* Monday & Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

*Meetings:* AA: 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; Dren; 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; Ted K.; Sophia; Sue C.; Marjorie C.; Natasha L.; Philip R.; Brady W.; Amy; the family of Harriet Cuyler.; a just peace for Ukraine, those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan; and all those affected by gun violence.*

***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***

Local Food Programs

Pittsfield City Government

The Governor of Massachusetts

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

Trinity Church, Ware;

Global Missions Team;

Administrative Assistant, Lydia Rosado

Greater Springfield Council of Churches;

For the mission of the Church

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

Sunday the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

Monday: Diocese of Otukpo (Nigeria)

Tuesday Diocese of Owerri (Nigeria)

Wednesday Diocese of Owo (Nigeria)

Thursday: Diocese of Oxford (England)

Friday: Diocese of Oyo (Nigeria)

Saturday: Diocese of Pacong (South Sudan)

## **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

67 East Street + Park Square

Pittsfield, MA 01201

413-448-8276

mail@ststephenspittsfield.org (e-mail)

ststephenspittsfieldnews@gmail.com (news items)

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

Sarah Morrison, Parish Administrator  
smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org

Bert Boos, Office Assistant  
bboos@ststephensfield.org

Joy Mullen, Director of Music  
jmullen@ststephenspittsfield.org

Dan Moon,  
Director of St Stephen's Table  
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

## **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.