

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Sixth Sunday of Creation Season: Honor
Indigenous Peoples' Day
Saturday October 11 & Sunday October 12, 2025

Voluntary “Beautiful Savior” Dale Wood

Hymn 412 “Earth and all stars” David Johnson

Opening Acclamation *(page 1 in the booklet)*

Acknowledgement and Thanksgiving for The Land

Creator God, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied the land upon which we live and worship. We give thanks to the Mohican, the first people of this land. We offer our respect to those ancestors who may be interred in this land. We are also thankful for the gifts of the People of the land. Creator, let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced. With thankful and respectful hearts, we pray in Your name, Your Son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. **Amen.**

The Creation Collect of the Day:

Creator God, from you every family in heaven and earth takes its name. You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life. **Amen**

First Lesson a reading from *Ladder to the Light* by Steven Charleston
Last night they came again, the spirits of earth and sky, of wind and rain, of deep seas and tall mountains. In all shapes and sizes they came, from every tribe and nation: the deer and the elk, the bear and the wolf, broad-winged eagles and crows as black as night. They all came and stood in a solemn circle beneath the one-eyed moon and spoke with a single voice this message from the sacred: “Do not doubt what you see: the world is warming, the waters are rising, and the winds are coming stronger than before. Do not turn away, do not pretend not to see, but speak the truth and set the spirits free to heal the world, before the ice has gone, before the last tiger falls, before only the desert remembers the ones who once walked this land.

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

Thanks be to God.

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

The Four Directions Prayer *(Please read responsively)*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world

A light no darkness can extinguish

We thank you Creator

For the Medicine you send from the Four Sacred Directions

The Medicine you send in your son Jesus Christ

The Medicine you send in the Sacred Drum

The Drum that brings us one heartbeat

One heartbeat into unity with all of Creation

We thank you for the reminder

That we are one with Mother Earth and with all of Creation

We thank you for the Medicine you send

In the Four Sacred Directions of the Wind

Wind that brings us changes of season

Changes in our lives

It allows us to mature, adapt,

Become more compassionate and loving to each other

We thank you creator for the Medicine that you send in the Water

The Water in our bodies and the Water of our Mother Earth

We thank you for the strengthening that you give us

From these Four Sacred Medicines

We ask you to remind us

Always to be humble

To walk gently on the back of Mother Earth

To remember that we are pitiful

Like an infant without its mother, we are pitiful without you

And we need you in every way, in every day

We pray today for the strengthening, the health and the wellbeing

Of the two leggeds, the four leggeds

Those that creep, those that swim, those that fly,

The male and female of all creation -

Water People, Rock People, Star People

We ask especially for our awareness and our actions
**Here on the indigenous land of the Mohican people,
people of the waters that are never still.**

Remembering we all need an ecosystem that is healthy
All our Relations.

Second Lesson : a reading from *Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God*
by Kaitlin B. Curtice

Prayer is only a whisper
of what could be,
what is,
the memory
of what was yesterday,
ten minutes ago,
when we last blinked and realized
that what You are
is something we cannot grasp,
but long to know
in the depths of us.
Make room,
for we are simply beginning,
the sprout that will grow
and form the landscape of tomorrow.
Breathe on us, we pray.
Amen.

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

The Gospel Luke17: 11-19:
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God

except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. William Loutrel

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; a just peace for Ukraine, and those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan.

Confession *(page 4 in the booklet)*

Peace *(page 5 in booklet)*

Offertory Anthem *Laudate Nomen Domini?* Christopher Tye

*Laudate nomen Domini, vos servi Domini,
ab ortu solis usque ad occasum ejus.
Decreta Dei justa sung et cor exhilarant.
Laudate Deum principes et omnes populi.*

O praise the name of God on high, you servants of the Lord;
from morning till the setting sun, be everywhere adored.
The laws of God make glad my heart, he makes his mercies known;
All kings and nations now bow down to kneel before his throne.
from Psalm 112 paraphrased

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 5 in booklet)*

Fraction Anthem *(page 8 in booklet)*

Communion Anthem "O be joyful in the Lord!" Carlton Russell

O be joyful in the Lord! Sing before him, all the earth!
Praise him with a glad accord and with lives of noblest worth.
You of every land, humbly now before him stand!
Raise your voice and rejoice in the bounty of his hand.

Know ye that the Lord is King! All his works his wisdom prove!
 By his might the heavens ring; In his love we live and move.
 By him we are made, So we trust him unafraid.
 Standing fast to the last, by his hand our lives are stayed.

Enter now his holy gate: Let our burdened hearts be still;
 In the sacred silence wait, as we seek to know his will.
 Let our lives express our abundant thankfulness;
 All our days, all our ways, shall our Father's love confess.

For the Lord our God is kind, and his love shall constant be;
 In his will our peace we find; In his service, liberty.
 Yea, his law is sure: In his light we walk secure;
 Evermore, as of yore, shall his changeless truth endure. Amen

Announcements

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

Hymn 493 "O for a thousand tongues to sing" *Azmon*

Voluntary "Angelic Songs" Mark Sedio

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 may be made by sending a donation to the church or through our website. On the website, select "Give," to find the link to the online giving page. Select "St. Stephen's Table from the Fund menu.

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

THANKSGIVING ANGELS ARE BACK!!!– This year St. Stephen's and Zion Lutheran churches are collecting money towards 2500 boxes of Jiffy cornbread mix. The boxes are ordered and each church is responsible for collecting \$625.00. Any questions, please contact Joan Evans 413-822-0889.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP will hold their first event of 2025-26 at Ramblewild on Sunday afternoon, October 26. Please contact Colin Behnke for more information.



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S IS EASY – Scan the QR code to find our giving form, or test “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 –Roy Sutton	Cardboard Home- Joan Evans
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MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT	5p.m. & 10a.m.	The Rev. William Loutrel
LECTOR	5p.m.	Wendy Coakley
LAY MINISTER	5p.m.	David Nevin
LECTORS	10a.m.	Louise Penney, Josie Ellis
LAY MINISTERS	10a.m.	Elizabeth Trapani, Dan Moon
ALTAR GUILD		Marie & Roy Sutton
GREETERS		Jennifer Townsend, Sandy Soule
VESTRY GREETER		John Garinther
CRUCIFER		Anne Williams
COFFEE HOUR		Caleb Harmon

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Office Hours:* Tuesday-Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Worship:* Wednesday, October 15, Compline at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom
Sunday, October 19, 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

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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.