

First Sunday of Advent
Sunday November 30, 2025

Voluntary	“My Lord, what a morning” “The hills are bare at Bethlehem”	Richard Billingham Emma Lou Diemer
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Hymn 57	“Lo, he comes with clouds descending”	<i>Helmsley</i>
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Song of Praise	Stanza 1 <i>(page 1 of booklet)</i>	<i>Woodlands</i>
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Opening Acclamation *(page 1 in the booklet)*

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

First Lesson Isaiah 2: 1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

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

Psalms 122

(Please read responsively)

Laetatus sum

1 I was glad when they said to me, *

“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

2 Now our feet are standing *

within your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city *

that is at unity with itself;

4 To which the tribes go up,

the tribes of the Lord, *

the assembly of Israel,

to praise the Name of the Lord.

5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *

the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *

“May they prosper who love you.

7 Peace be within your walls *

and quietness within your towers.

8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *

I pray for your prosperity.

9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, *

I will seek to do you good.”

The Gospel Matthew 24: 36-44

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the

coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore 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

Craig Reynolds

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

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

We also pray for: Ken, Keith, Marcus, Sokpha, Drew;; Judy, Robertine, Steph, Paul, Craig, Glen, Thom, Mike, Jay, Linda, Evan, Haley, Eve, Ted, Sophia, Marjorie, Natasha, Philip, Brady, Stephen; Scott; Charley; Dong; David; Susan; Jane; Henry; a just peace for Ukraine, and those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan. We give thanks for our bishop-elect Miguelina Howell.

Confession *(page 4 in the booklet)*

Peace *(page 5 in booklet)*

Offertory Anthem “People, look East” *Besançon carol/ Malcolm Archer*

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make you house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Guest is on the way.

Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may
flourish.

People, look East, and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way.

Stars keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Star is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Eleanor Farjeon

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 5 in booklet)*

Fraction Anthem *(page 8 in booklet)*

Communion Anthem “O pray for the peace of Jerusalem”

Moony Albrecht

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
They shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls
And plenteousness be in thy palaces.

Psalms 122: 6-7

Announcements

Post Communion Prayer

Hymn 66 “Come, thou long expected Jesus”

Stuttgart

Voluntary “Bell Symphony”

Henry Purcell/E. Power Biggs

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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 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 – December 14, gather in the Sears Room at 9:45 a.m.

YOUNG PEOPLE’S FELLOWSHIP - Caroling and pizza on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 21.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS are due on Thursday, December 18. You may give online, use one of the envelopes found in the sanctuary or send your check directly to the office. Please include your loved ones’ names.

KNIT & SIP meets on Tuesday, December 2 at 5:00 p.m. in the Guild Room.

KID'S PAINT & SIP AT ST. STEPHEN'S Saturday, December 6 as part of Pittsfield's Festive Frolic. The event runs from 12:30 – 3 PM.



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.

Bottles/Cans Toter- Chris Plankey

Cardboard Breakdown-Dot Lambert

THE NEW ENGLAND RINGERS RETURN DECEMBER 14 AT 3 PM – The acclaimed handbell choir will perform their 2025 holiday concert *The Light of Christmas* at St. Stephen's on Sunday, December 14, 3:00 p.m. Mark your calendar and invite your friends, this is sure to be a wonderful afternoon. Freewill offering

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

PREACHER

Craig Reynolds

LECTORS.

Jim Cawse, Dan Moon

LAY MINISTERS

Susan LeBourdais, Andrea Stasiowski

ALTAR GUILD

Bill Frazier, Diane Forsyth, Angie Moon

GREETERS

Anne Williams, Josie Ellis

VESTRY GREETER

Chris Plankey

CRUCIFER

Stephen Lussier

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Wednesday, December 3, Compline at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom
Sunday, December 7, 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: 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; Steph M.; Robertine M.; Judy; Paul A.; Craig S.; Glen M.; Mike E.; Thom S.; Jay G.; Linda H.; Evan C.; Haley; Eve; Ted K.; Sophia; Sue C.; Marjorie C.; Natasha L.; Philip R.; Brady W.; David J.; Stephen L.; Scott E.; Charley S.; Doug D.; Susan W.; Jane M.; Henry; a just peace for Ukraine, those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan; and all those affected by gun violence.

We pray for 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:
St. Luke's, Worcester
Human to Human
Pittsfield Council of Churches

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:
Sunday the Anglican Church of Australia
Monday: Diocese of Ruaha (Tanzania)
Tuesday Diocese of Rumbek (South Sudan)
Wednesday Diocese of Rumonge (Burundi)
Thursday: Diocese of Rupert's Land (Canada)
Friday: Diocese of Rutana (Burundi)
Saturday: Diocese of Ruvuma (Tanzania)

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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

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector
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Joy Mullen, Director of Music
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Dan Moon,
Director of St Stephen's Table
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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.