

Sunday, January 4, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
The Epiphany



"Epiphany" by Janet McKenzie

Voluntary "How brightly shines the Morning Star" Dietrich Buxtehude

Hymn 128 "We three Kings of Orient are" *The Kings of Orient*

Opening Acclamation *(page 1 in the booklet)*

The Collect

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
 they all gather together, they come to you;
 your sons shall come from far away,
 and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
 Then you shall see and be radiant;
 your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
 because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
 the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
 A multitude of camels shall cover you,
 the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
 all those from Sheba shall come.
 They shall bring gold and frankincense,
 and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

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

Psalms 72:1-7,10-14 (Please read responsively)

Deus, iudicium

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

The Gospel Matthew 2: 1-12

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
 who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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 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, Stephen; Scott; Charley; David; Susan; Jane; Henry; Shirley; Todd; a just peace for Ukraine, those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan.

Confession *(page 5 in the booklet)*

Peace *(page 5 in booklet)*

Offertory Anthem “Sing we now of Christmas” *Traditional French/
Mark Schweitzer*

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.

Lift our grateful praises to the child so dear.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!

Angels called to shepherds, “Leave your flocks at rest;

Journey forth to Bethlehem, find the baby blest.”

“Glory to God,” the angel voices tell.

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!

In the stall they found him: Joseph and Mary mild,

Seated ‘round the manger, watching the holy child.

Sent from the Father now with us to dwell,

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!

From the eastern county came the kings afar,

Bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star.

Costliest treasure for Emmanuel,

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 6 in booklet)*

Fraction Anthem *(page 8 in booklet)*

Communion Anthem “Shepherds loud their praises singing”

Alec Rowley

Shepherds loud their praises singing,

Fill the skies with anthems ringing:

Hence all fears and sadness flinging:

Born today is Christs our King.

Gentle Child, so still Thou sleepeth,

Tender watch His mother keepeth,

O, what pains Thy love it reapeth,

Born today is Christ our King.

Kings to meet Him forth are faring,

Gold, frankincense and myrrh preparing:

Straight to the manger bearing;

Born today is Christ our King.

Lo! the star o’er Bethlehem stayeth:

Heaven's own light the Child arrayeth:
Peace on earth, goodwill bewrayeth"
Born today is Christ our King.

Son of God, the earth adorning,
Angels sing this joyful morning
Peace on earth, all sadness scorning.
Born today is Christ our King.

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 117 "Brightest and best are the stars of the morning" *Morning Star*

Voluntary

"He is born"

Richard Hudson

†††

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.

SNOW/INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY - Services at St. Stephen's will be held as long as a celebrant or worship leader can get to the church safely. If a service is canceled, notification will be posted on the church website.

KNIT & SIP WILL MEET TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 AT 5 PM

SUNDAY FUNDAY - gather in the Sears Room 9:50 a.m., January 11th.

SING A-LONG WITH THE BERKSHIRE OPERA FESTIVAL

Saturday, January 10, 2 PM in the sanctuary. Open to anyone age 13+, please register in advance: sprouty@berkshireoperafestival.org



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S IS EASY – Scan the QR code to find our giving form, or text "giveststephens\$youramount" to 7325(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.

Paper Toter- Roy Sutton

Cardboard Home-Paula Morey

**THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 8, 2025, DURING THE 10:00 AM SERVICE.**

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE TUESDAY, JANUARY 29 – email to
smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org,

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

LECTORS

William Frazier, Gwen Davis

LAY MINISTERS

Christine Furcinite-Reynolds, Josie Ellis

ALTAR GUILD

William Frazier, Diane Forsyth, Angie Moon

GREETERS

Diane Forsyth, Nancy Lamoureux

VESTRY GREETER

Chris Plankey

CRUCIFER

James Alden

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Compline: Wednesday, January 7, 6:30 p.m., Zoom

Eucharist: Saturday, January 10, 5 p.m., Sunday, January 11, 10 a.m.

St. Stephen's Table: Thursday & Friday, Grab and Go, 4:30 p.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.;
David J; Stephen L; Scott E; Charley
S.; Susan W.; Jane M.; Henry; Shirley;
Todd G.; a just peace for Ukraine,
those affected by the violence in the
Middle East and Sudan.

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

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

In Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

St. David's, Agawam
The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher and the
Rev. Betsy Fisher
The Presiding Bishop

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday Church of the Province of
Central Africa
Monday: Diocese of Upper Shire
(Central Africa)
Tuesday Diocese of Shyira (Eglise
Anglicane du Rwanda)
Wednesday Diocese of Shyogwe
(Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda)
Thursday: Diocese of Sialkot (Pakistan)
Friday: Diocese of Singapore (South
East Asia)
Saturday: Diocese of Sittwe (the church
of the Province of Myanmar (Burma))

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
Christine Furcinite-Reynolds

David Nevin, Co-Warden
Christopher Plankey, Clerk
Al Symonds, Asst. Treasurer
Caleb Dillon Harmon
William Morey

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.