

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Voluntary	“Placidamente”	Edward Hopkins
Hymn 556	“Rejoice, ye pure in heart!”	Marion
Opening Acclamation	(page 1 in the booklet)	
The Gloria	(page 2 in the booklet)	

The Collect

God of the prophets you shame the strong through the weakness of love and turn upside down the wisdom of the world: may your blessing dwell with the poor and hungry, the grieving and abused; may your peaceful revolution be our joy and our reward; through Jesus Christ, the power of God. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Psalm 15 *(Please read responsively)* *Domine, quis habitabit?*

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord.

5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

The Gospel Matthew 5: 1-12

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
 for they will be filled.
“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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, Drew, Robertine, Paul, Glen, Thom, Ted, Sophia, Scott, Charley, Henry, Shirley, Bill; a just peace for Ukraine; those affected by the violence in Minneapolis, the Middle East; Sudan, Venezuela and Iran.

Confession *(page 5 in the booklet)*

Peace *(page 5 in booklet)*

Offertory Anthem “Prayer of St. Francis” Allen Pote

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, thy pardon, Lord.

Where there is doubt, let there by faith.

Oh, Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.

Where there’s despair let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, let there be light.

Where there is sadness, let there by joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console.

To be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

Oh, Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

and it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi

The Great Thanksgiving (*page 6 in booklet*)

Fraction Anthem (*page 8 in booklet*)

Communion Anthem “Remember your servants, Lord” *Beatitudes*

Announcements

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 593 “Lord, make us servants of your peace” *Dickinson College*

Voluntary “Hymn to Joy” *May Schwarz*

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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 – February 8, gather in the Sears Room at 9:50 a.m..

**THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 8, 2026, DURING THE 10:00 AM SERVICE.**
(Snow Date: February 15)

ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS have been emailed through Realm. Paper statements are in the mail to those who have not given the office an email address. If you have questions or need your statement mailed, please contact the office.



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S IS EASY – Scan the QR code to find our giving form, or test “giveststephens\$youramount” to 7325 (example: giveststephens\$25 will donate \$25.) Google Pay accepted. 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

Carboard – Home Chris Plankey

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Compline: Wednesday, February 4, 6:30 p.m., Zoom
Sunday, February 8, 10 a.m. Service & Annual Meeting.

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

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

LECTORS

Louise Penney, Wendy Coakley

LAY MINISTERS

Mary Teti, Dan Moon

ALTAR GUILD

Marie & Roy Sutton

GREETERS

Christine & Craig Reynolds

VESTRY GREETER

John Garinther

CRUCIFER

Jim Brennan

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THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

In our Parish prayers, we pray for: Ken, Keith, Marcus, Drew, Robertine, Paul, Glen, Thom, Ted, Sophia, Scott, Charley, Henry, Shirley, Bill; a just peace for Ukraine; those affected by the violence in Minneapolis, the Middle East; Sudan, Venezuela and Iran.

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:

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts;
Daughters of the King, Evangelism Initiatives, Racial
Reconciliation and Creation Care

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Church of England
Monday: Te Pihopatanga o Tairawhiti (Aoteara, New Zealand and Polynesia)
Tuesday Diocese of Taita-Taveta (Kenya)
Wednesday Diocese of Taiwan (The Episcopal Church)
Thursday: Diocese of Tamale (West Africa)
Friday: Diocese of Tanga (Tanzania)
Saturday: Diocese of Central Tanganyika (Tanzania)

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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

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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.