

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.

First Sunday in Lent

Sunday February 22, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Voluntary "Allegretto" from *Symphony No. 3* Johannes Brahms

Hymn 150 "Forty days and forty nights" *Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*

Welcome

The Opening Acclamation (page 1 in the booklet)

Collect

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

Psalm 32*(please read responsively)*

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble*;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The Gospel Matthew 4: 1-11

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

*Beati quorum***St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

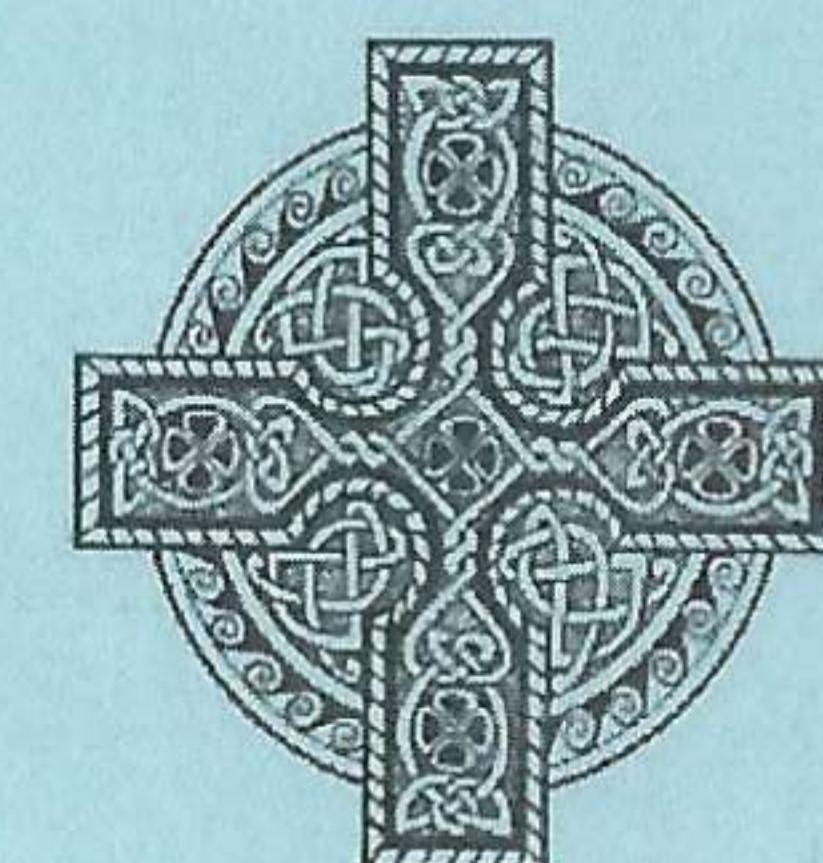
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**VESTRY**

John Garinther, Co-Warden

J. Christopher Perry, Treasurer

James Brennan

Caleb Dillon-Harmon

Leah Luczynski

Anne Williams

David Nevin, Co-Warden

Christopher Plankey, Clerk

Al Symonds, Asst. Treasurer

Christine Furciniti-Reynolds

William Morey

Our StaffThe Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector
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dmoon@pittsfield.netWeekday 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

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

In our Parish prayers, we pray for: Ken, Keith, Marcus, Drew, Robertine, Paul, Glen, Thom, Ted, Scott, Charley, Henry, Shirley, Bill; Natasha; Sue; Mike; Don; the family of Philip Rich; 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

Habitat for Humanity in Pittsfield
Department of Mental Health
Government of the United States

In Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

St. Philip's, Easthampton;
Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross
Episcopal Conference of the Deaf

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Church of Ireland
Monday Diocese of Texas (The Episcopal Church)
Tuesday Diocese of Northwest Texas (The Episcopal Church)
Wednesday Diocese of West Texas (The Episcopal Church)
Thursday: Diocese of Thiks (Kenya)
Friday: Diocese of Thoothukudi-Nazareth (South India)
Saturday: Diocese of Nippon Sei ko Kai

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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, Scott, Charley, Henry, Shirley, Bill; Natasha; Sue; Mike; Don; the family of Philip Rich; a just peace for Ukraine; those affected by the violence in Minneapolis, the Middle East; Sudan, Venezuela and Iran.

Those who have died: Philip Rich

Confession *(page 5 in the booklet)*

Peace *(page 5 in the booklet)*

Offertory Solo "The Agincourt Hymn" John Dunstable/David Johnson

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 6 in booklet)*

Sanctus spoken by all

Fraction Anthem spoken responsively

Communion Solo “Largo”
“Sarabande”

from *Clavier Concerto* J.S. Bach
from *Suite in A Minor* J.S. Bach

Post Communion Prayer (page 9 in the booklet)

Blessing

Announcements

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

Voluntary “Pieds- En L’Air” from *Capriol Suite*. Peter Warlock

†††

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

BASIC BRUNCH TODAY IN THE DINING ROOM after the 10 AM worship service. Please stay and enjoy a meal in fellowship with your St. Stephen’s friends.

DIOCESAN LENTEN BOOK CONVERSATION *For Such A Time As This “An Emergency Devotional”* by Hanna Reichel, Thursdays in March on Zoom from 7-8 PM. Rev. Nina & Deacon Margot will facilitate. March 5, 12, 19 & 26. The Zoom link may be found in the weekly email or contact the office. Books may be purchased online. Please contact the office if you need help acquiring the book.

WELCOME DEBORAH DUFF, GUEST PIANIST..

YOU ARE INVITED TO A CELEBRATION FOR BISHOP FISHER!

Sunday afternoon, March 8, 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Church, Lenox. Gifts in thanksgiving should be made to the Building Bridges Veterans Initiative.



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.) Google Pay accepted. 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

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley

LECTORS

Jim Cawse, Wendy Coakley

LAY MINISTERS

Jim Brennan, Jim Cawse

ALTAR GUILD

Claudia Curry, Jim Brennan

GREETERS

Anne Williams, Jennifer Townsend

VESTRY GREETER

Jim Alden

CRUCIFER

Christine Furcinite Reynolds

PIANO

Deborah Duff

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THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Compline: Wednesday February 25, 6:30 p.m. , Zoom Sunday March 1,10 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