

## 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.

## Second Sunday in Lent

Saturday February 28, 5:00 p.m. & Sunday March 1, 2026 10:00 a.m.

**Voluntary** "I call on Thee, Lord Christ" J.S. Bach

**Hymn 637** "How firm a foundation" Lyons

### Welcome

**The Opening Acclamation** (page 1 in the booklet)

### Collect

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**First Lesson:** Genesis 12: 1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 121** (please read responsively)

*Levavi oculos*

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*

**from where is my help to come?**

2 My help comes from the Lord, \*

**the maker of heaven and earth.**

3 He will not let your foot be moved \*

**and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.**

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*

**shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

5 The Lord himself watches over you; \*  
**the Lord is your shade at your right hand,**

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
**nor the moon by night.**

7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
**it is he who shall keep you safe.**

8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*  
**from this time forth for evermore.**

**The Gospel** John 3: 1-17

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

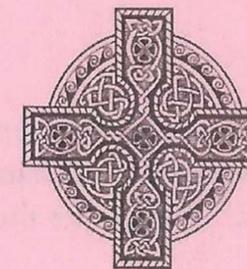
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**VESTRY**

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 Furcinite-Reynolds  
William Morey

**Our Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector  
ninapooley@revnina.org

Joy Mullen, Director of Music  
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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

**Communion Anthem** “I will lift up my eyes”

Malcolm Archer

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,  
From whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh even from the Lord,  
Who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved  
And he that keepeth thee will not sleep.  
Behold, he that keepeth Israel  
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself is thy keeper,  
The Lord is thy defense upon thy right hand.  
So that the sun shall not burn thee by day,  
Neither the moon by night.  
The Lord himself is thy keeper,  
The Lord is thy defense upon thy right hand.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil.  
Yea, it is he, even he that shall keep thy soul.

*Psalm 121*

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

**Blessing**

**Announcements**

**Hymn 641**

“Lord Jesus think on me”

*Southwell*

**Voluntary**

“My faith looks up to Thee”

Karl Osterland

†††

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

**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.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A CELEBRATION FOR BISHOP FISHER!**

Sunday afternoon, March 8, 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Church, Lenox. Worship and fellowship including a musical surprise. Gifts in thanksgiving should be made to the Building Bridges Veterans Initiative.

**TRIP TO ST. JOHN THE DIVINE CATHEDRAL** – YPF will be traveling to New York City on Friday, March 27 for an overnight at St. John the Divine. Youth and their families are encouraged to visit the Cathedral website to learn more about the Nightwatch program. This amazing experience is open to friends as well as youth members of St. Stephen’s.



**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.

Paper Toter –Roy Sutton

Cardboard-Home– Jeff Pringle

**MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION**

CELEBRANT 5p.m.

The Rev. Tom Damrosch

LECTOR 5p.m.

Al Symonds

LAY MINISTER 5p.m.

Lois Symonds

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley

LECTORS

Dan Moon. Paula Morey

LAY MINISTERS

Chris Plankey, Nichole Plankey

ALTAR GUILD

Marie & Roy Sutton

GREETERS

Diane Forsyth, Laura Kelly

VESTRY GREETER

Chris Plankey

CRUCIFER

Anne Williams

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## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

*Worship:* Compline: Wednesday March 4, 6:30 p.m. , Zoom  
Saturday February 28, 5p.m. 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

## 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; Pat; 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:***

Christ Church Fitchburg;  
Reconciliation House, Inc. Webster;  
Education for Ministry  
Episcopal Camps & Conference Centers, Inc.  
Episcopal News Service

***In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:***

Sunday: the Nippon Sei Ko Kai  
Monday Diocese of Toamasina (Indian Ocean)  
Tuesday Diocese of Tohoku (Nippon Sei Kai)  
Wednesday Diocese of Tokyo (Nippon Sei Ko Kai)  
Thursday: Diocese of Toliara (Indian Ocean)  
Friday: Diocese of Tonj (South Sudan)  
Saturday: Diocese of Torit (South Sudan)

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through 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; Pat; 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 the booklet)

(Collection plates are located at each entrance)

**Offertory Anthem** “Give to the winds your fears” Robert Powell

Give to the winds your fears, have hope, be not dismayed.  
God hears your sighs and counts your tears,  
God shall lift up your head.

Through waves and clouds and storms,  
God gently clears the way; wait his own time;  
so shall this night soon end in joyous day.

On God the Lord rely, and safe shall you go on;  
on God's work fix your steadfast eye;  
so shall your work be done.

Paul Gerhardt, tr: John Wesley

**The Great Thanksgiving** (page 6 in booklet)

**Sanctus**

**Fraction Anthem**