

## 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.

## Third Sunday in Lent Sunday March 8, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

**Voluntary** "The woman at the well" James Biery

**Hymn 522** "Glorious things of Thee are spoken" *Austria*

### Welcome

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

### Collect

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### First Lesson: Exodus 17: 1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People

### Thanks be to God

**Psalm 95** (*please read responsively*) *Venite exultemus*

1 Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

**let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

- 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
**and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**
- 3 For the Lord is a great God, \*  
**and a great King above all gods.**
- 4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
**and the heights of the hills are his also.**
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
**and his hands have molded the dry land.**
- 6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
**and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**
- 7 For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
**Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**
- 8 Harden not your hearts,  
as your forebears did in the wilderness, \*  
**at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,  
when they tempted me.**
- 9 They put me to the test, \*  
**though they had seen my works.**
- 10 Forty years long I detested that generation and said, \*  
**“This people are wayward in their hearts;  
they do not know my ways.”**
- 11 So I swore in my wrath, \*  
**“They shall not enter into my rest.”**

**The Gospel** John 4: 5-42

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

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given

**THIS WEEK’S PRAYER LIST**

*In our Parish prayers, we pray for: Those on our prayer list, see page 4.*

***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 Christian Center  
Congregation of Knesset Israel  
Temple Anshe Amunim  
The Supreme Court

***In Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:***

Christ Church, Rochdale;  
Cathedral of the Beloved, Pittsfield;  
All retired clergy  
Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN);  
US Disaster Program, Episcopal Relief & Development

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

Sunday: the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East  
Monday Diocese of Toronto (Canada)  
Tuesday Diocese of Trichy-Tanjore (South India)  
Wednesday Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago (West Indies)  
Thursday: Diocese of Truro (Englsnd)  
Friday: Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe (Ireland)  
Saturday: Diocese of Twik East (South Sudan)

**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**

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**The Diocese of Western Massachusetts**

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher  
800-322-8513 www.diocesewma.org

**SUNDAY FUNDAY** – today, gather in the Sears Room at 9:50 a.m.

**LENTEN BOOK CONVERSATION IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM -**

*For Such A Time As This "An Emergency Devotional"* by Hanna Reichel. In person next Sunday, March 15 at 9:00 a.m. with Louise Penney and Rev. Nina. Thursdays in March on Zoom from 7-8 PM. with Rev. Nina & Deacon Margot. March 12, 19 & 26. For Zoom link see the weekly email or contact the office.

**A CELEBRATION FOR BISHOP FISHER!** – Today, March 8, 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Church, Lenox. Rev. Nina will lead the worship service.

**YPF TRIP TO ST. JOHN THE DIVINE CATHEDRAL** New York City Friday, March 27 – Saturday March 28. 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.

Bottles/Cans Toter –John Garinther                      Cardboard-Breakdown– Bill Morey

**MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION**

CELEBRANT	The Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley
PREACHER	Mr. Craig Reynolds
LECTORS	Gwen Davis, Sarah Novak
LAY MINISTERS	Jim Brennan, Paula Morey
ALTAR GUILD	Joan Evans, Sandy Soule
GREETERS	River Lamb, Claudia Curry
VESTRY GREETER	Leah Luczynski
CRUCIFER	Jim Alden
COFFEE HOUR	Joan Evans

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**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

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

*Worship:* Compline: Wednesday March 11, 6:30 p.m. , Zoom Sunday March 15, 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

you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**Sermon**

Mr. Craig Reynolds

**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; the family of The Rev. Stephen Williams; a just peace for Ukraine; those affected by the violence in Minneapolis, the Middle East; Sudan, Venezuela and Iran.*

**Those who have Died:** *The Rev. Stephen Williams*

**Confession**      *(page 5 in the booklet)*

**Peace**      *(page 5 in the booklet)*

*(Collection Plates are located at each Entrance)*

**Offertory Anthem**      "I will arise"      arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

I will arise and go to Jesus,  
He will embrace me in His arms,  
In the arms of my dear Saviour,  
Oh! there are ten thousand charms.

Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above,  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of thy redeeming love.

Come, thou fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace,  
Streams of mercy never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.

*Traditional*

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

**Sanctus**

**Fraction Anthem**

**Communion Anthem** "Jesus makes my heart rejoice"

Robert Powell

Jesus makes my heart rejoice;  
I'm his lamb and know his voice;  
He's my shepherd, gently guiding,  
In his pastures now abiding;  
Constant love to me he shows,  
Yes, my very name he knows.  
Trusting in his path always,  
I go in and out with peace;  
He will feed me with the treasure  
of his grace in richest measure;  
When I thirst, to him I cry,  
Living water he'll supply.  
Shall I sing how blessed I am,  
Led by Jesus as his lamb?  
For when all my days are over,  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
Welcome will be my delight,  
Joy forever in his sight,  
Joy forever in his sight.

Louise von Hayn; F.W. Foster

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

**Blessing**

**Announcements**

**Hymn 699**

"Jesus, Lover of my soul"

*Aberystwyth*

**Voluntary**

"Toccata in E Minor"

Johann Pachelbel

†††

### 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.