



here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

**Psalm 23**      *(please read responsively)*

*Dominus regit me*

1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*

**I shall not be in want.**

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

**and leads me beside still waters.**

3 He revives my soul \*

**and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; \*

**for you are with me;**

**your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*

**you have anointed my head with oil,**

**and my cup is running over.**

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*

**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

**The Gospel**    John 9: 1-41

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, Lord Christ**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.”

Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him,

and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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; the family of Howard Frazier; the family of Rev. Stephen Williams; 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; Howard Frazier; (Brother of Bill Frazier)*

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

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

*(Collection Plates are located at each Entrance)*

**Offertory Anthem**    Savior, like a shepherd Lead Us”      Charles Dupree

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need thy tender care;  
in thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use thy folds prepare.

Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

Early let us seek thy favor, early let us learn thy will;  
do thou Lord, our savior, with our love thy bosom fill.

Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

att. Dorothy Ann Thrupp

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

**Sanctus**

**Fraction Anthem**

**Communion Anthem**

“Wondrous Love”

Carson Cooman

What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse, for my soul, for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down;  
when I was sinking down, sinking down;  
when I was sinking down, beneath God’s righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul.

To God and to the lamb, I will sing, I will sing.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.

To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing!

att. William Means

**Announcements**

**Post Communion Prayer**

*(page 9 in the booklet)*

**Blessing**

**Announcements**

**Hymn 7**

“Christ, whose glory fills the skies”

*Ratisbon*

**Voluntary**

“Fugue in D Minor”

Felix Mendelssohn



**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 22, 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 Sunday, March 15 at 9:00 a.m. with Louise Penney and Rev. Nina. Thursdays, March 19 & 26 on Zoom from 7-8 PM. with Rev. Nina & Deacon Margot. For Zoom link see the weekly email or contact the office.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY FOR 2026 NOW AVAILABLE** at the church or contact the office for a pdf version.



**GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S IS EASY** – Scan the QR code to find our giving form, or text “giviststephens\$youramount” to 7325(example: giviststephens\$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 –Brendan Dillon-Harmon

Cardboard-Home– Chris Plankey

### **MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION**

CELEBRANT	5 p.m. & 10 a.m.	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
LECTOR	5p.m.	Susan LeBourdais
LAY MINISTER	5p.m.	Susan LeBourdais
LECTORS		Diane Forsyth, Louise Penney
LAY MINISTERS		Jim Alden, David Nevin
ALTAR GUILD		Bill Frazier, Diane Forsyth, Angie Moon
GREETERS		Theresa Latini, Susan Cahill
VESTRY GREETER		Bill Morey
CRUCIFER		Jim Brennan

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### **THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

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

*Worship:* Compline: Wednesday March 18, 6:30 p.m. , Zoom  
Sunday March 22, 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: 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***

Local Food Programs  
Pittsfield City Government  
The Governor of Massachusetts

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

St. Luke's, Worcester;  
Chancellor of our Diocese, Donald Allison; CREDO; Covenant Relationship With the RC Diocese of Springfield & Worcester

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

Sunday: The Anglican Church of Kenya  
Monday Diocese of Udi (Nigeria)  
Tuesday Diocese of Northern Uganda (Uganda)  
Wednesday Diocese of Ughelli (Nigeria)  
Thursday: Diocese of Ukwa (Nigeria)  
Friday: Diocese of Umuahia (Nigeria)  
Saturday: Te Pihopatanga o Te Upoko o Tel ka (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)

### 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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Roy Stillman, Weekend Sexton

#### 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.