

Third Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Voluntary “Alleluia, song of gladness” Robert Farlee

Hymn 182 “Christ is alive!” *Truro*

Welcome

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

Collect

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People

Thanks be to God

Psalm 116: 1-3, 10-17 *(please read responsively)* *Dilexi, quoniam*

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

New to St. Stephen’s? You will find useful information on the back of this leaflet.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *

"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

10 How shall I repay the Lord *

for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *

and call upon the Name of the Lord.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *

in the presence of all his people

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord *

is the death of his servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant; *

**I am your servant and the child of your handmaid ;
you have freed me from my bonds.**

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *

and call upon the Name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *

in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the Lord's house, *

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Hallelujah!

The Gospel Luke 24: 13-35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when

they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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, Bill; Natasha; Sue; Mike; Don; Pat; Jason; Heather; Mary Evan; the family of George Church III; just peace for Ukraine; those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan.

Those who have died: George Church III

Confession *(page 4 in the booklet)*

Peace *(page 5 in the booklet)*
(Collection Plates are located at each Entrance)

Offertory Solo “Now the green blade riseth” Richard Hudson

The Great Thanksgiving (page 5 in booklet)

Sanctus (*Spoken*)

Fraction Anthem (*Spoken*)

Communio Solo "Thanks be to Thee" G.F. Handel

Post Communion Prayer (page 8 in the booklet)

Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 343 "Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless" *St. Agnes*

Voluntary "Come you faithful, raise the strain" Robert Farlee

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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. *This week's Gifts to the Table are given in loving memory of Stephen, Roy and Caroline by Dorothy Lambert.*

SECURITY TRAINING OFFERED SUNDAY, APRIL 19 - Andrew Hoffman is a Deputy Regional Security Advisor with Secure Community Network, the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. We have been consulting with Andrew for the last few months about parish security after he was referred to us by Knesset Israel. Andrew has offered security training to St. Stephen's Church that is applicable to all faith-based organizations. The following two sessions are being offered in our dining room at 11:30 AM, Sunday, April 19th:

1. Be Aware - An Introduction to Situational Awareness
2. Countering Active Threat Training

Please plan to attend if you are able. It is expected to take about 2 hours; lunch will be served.

SUNDAY FUNDAY – April 26,, gather in the Sears Room at 9:50 a.m.

THE ORDINATION AND CONSECRATION OF THE TENTH BISHOP OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, THE VERY REV.

MIGUELINA HOWELL will be live streamed on Saturday, April 25 at 10:00 a.m. The YouTube link will be available through next week's email, St. Stephen's website and the diocesan website.

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE WORLD LABYRINTH DAY AT ST. STEPHEN'S

– Saturday, May 2 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.. All around the globe people will be walking a labyrinth between 11am-1pm in their local time zone creating a wave of meditation around the world. It is an opportunity to quiet our mind, listen to our breath, and open our hearts as we pray for peace on a global scale and celebrate connection. St. Stephen's is home to a Chartres-style labyrinth located in the auditorium on the second floor. If you have questions or are interested in a labyrinth practice, ask Anne Williams.



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-Mark Miller

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
LECTORS	Angie Moon, Jim Cawse
LAY MINISTERS	Angie Moon, Andrea Stasiowski
ALTAR GUILD	Bill Frazier, Diane Forsyth, Angie Moon
GREETERS	Nancy Lamoureaux, Jennifer Townsend
VESTRY GREETER	Chris Plankey
CRUCIFER	Jim Alden

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Compline: Wednesday April 22, 6:30 p.m. , Zoom
Saturday April 25, 5p.m. and Sunday April 26, 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

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

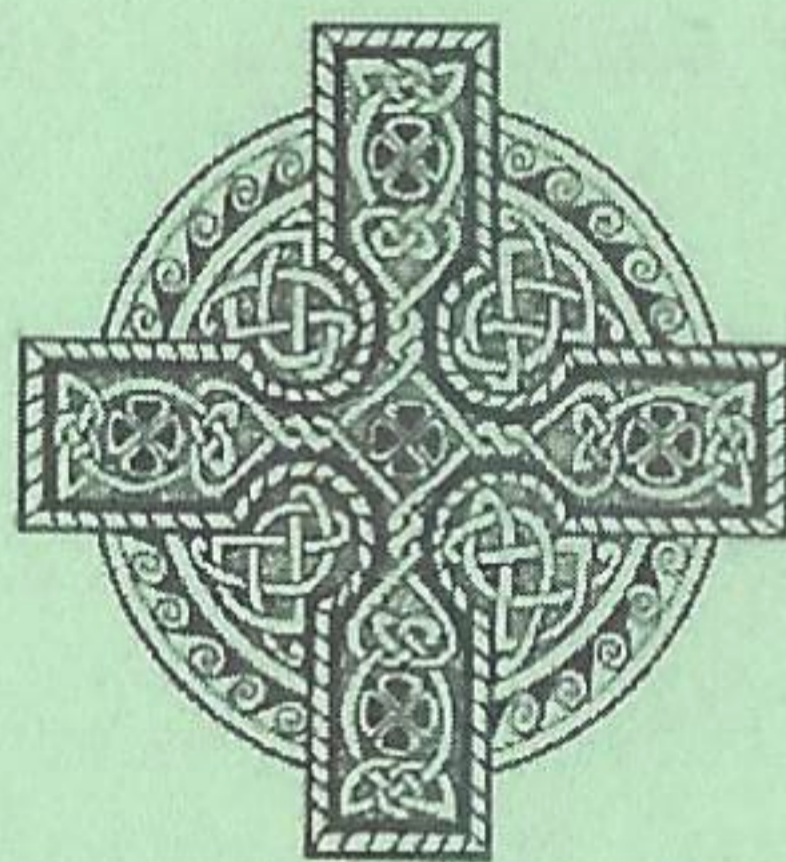
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VESTRY

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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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.