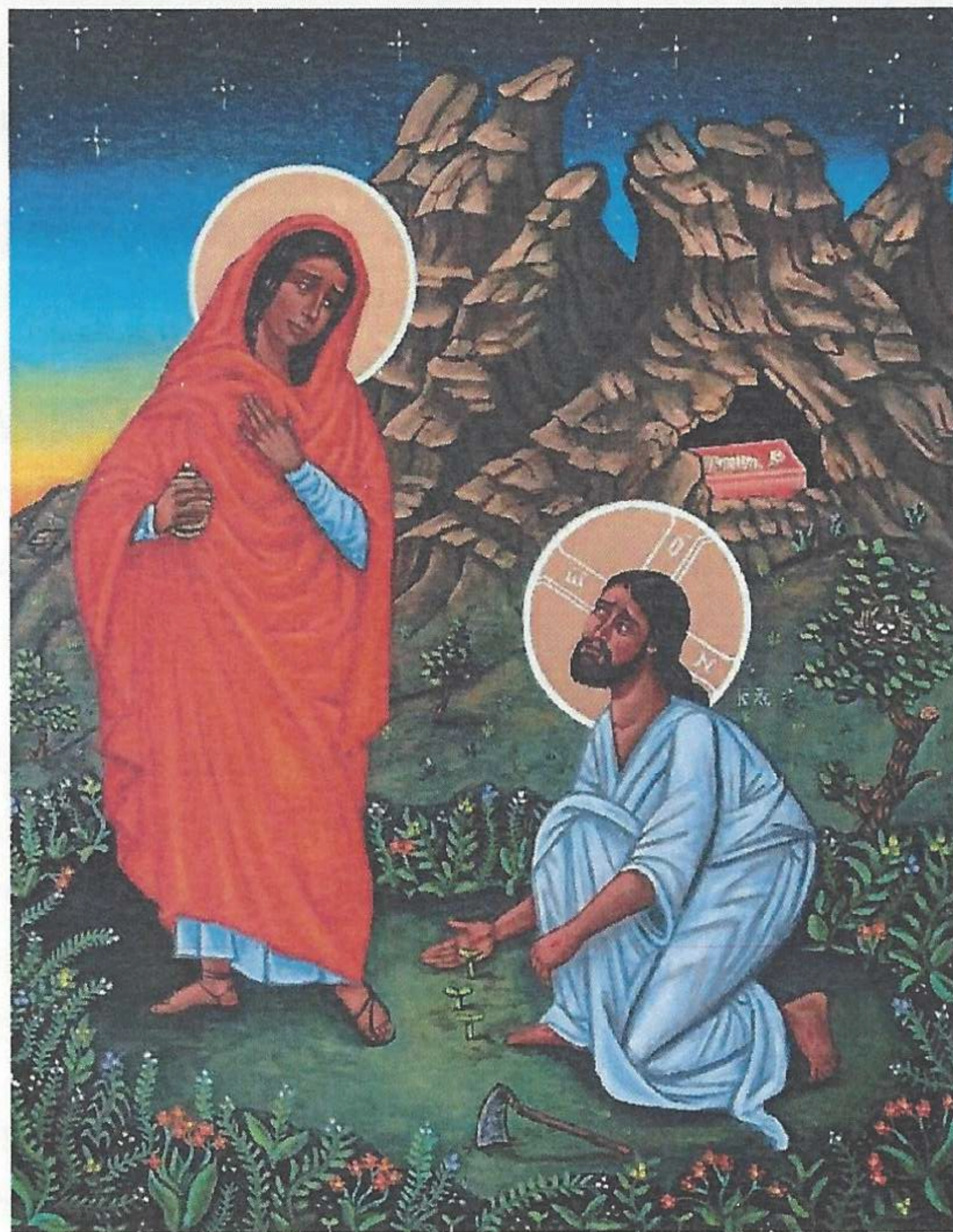


SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

A Jubilee Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Easter Sunday April 5, 2026



Our Mission
is to be the heart and hands of Christ:
nourishing people, transforming lives.

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Voluntary "Toccata in D Minor" J.S. Bach

Processional Hymn 207 "Jesus Christ is risen today" *Easter Hymn*

Welcome

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

***The People Shout:* The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

***All:* And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:1-6

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Thus says the Lord:

The people who survived the sword

found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

the Lord appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Again I will build you, and you shall be built,

O virgin Israel!

Again you shall take your tambourines,

and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

Again you shall plant vineyards

on the mountains of Samaria;

the planters shall plant,

and shall enjoy the fruit.

For there shall be a day when sentinels will call

in the hill country of Ephraim:

"Come, let us go up to Zion,

to the Lord our God."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 (sung by all)

Confitemini Domino

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is **good**; *
his mercy endures for **ever**.

2 Let Israel now **proclaim**, *
"His mercy endures for **ever**."

14 The Lord is my strength and my **song**, *
and he has become my **salvation**.

15 There is a sound of exultation and **victory** *
in the tents of the **righteous**:

16 "The right hand of the Lord has **triumphed!** *
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has **triumphed!**"

17 I shall not die, but **live**, *
and declare the works of the **Lord**.

18 The Lord has punished me **sorely**, *
but he did not hand me over to **death**.

19 Open for me the gates of **righteousness**; *
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the **Lord**.

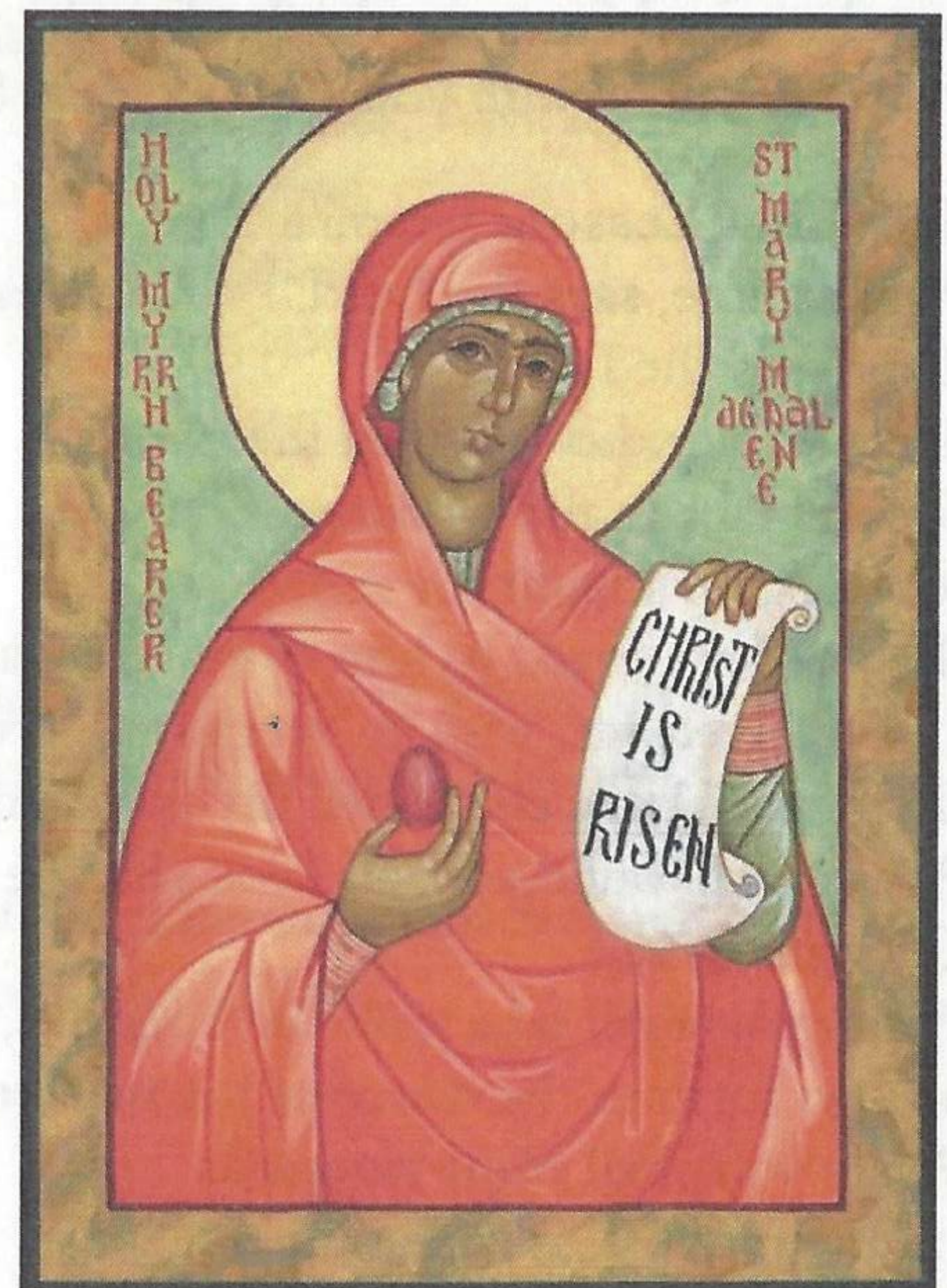
20 "This is the gate of the **Lord**; *
he who is righteous may **enter**."

21 I will give thanks to you, for you **answered me** *
and have become my **salvation**.

22 The same stone which the builders **rejected** *
has become the chief **cornerstone**.

23 This is the Lord's **doing**, *
and it is marvelous in our **eyes**.

24 On this day the Lord has **acted**; *
we will rejoice and be **glad in it**.



Iconographer: Michael Kapeluck

The Gospel: John 20:1-18

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Choral Anthem

Glory to the Righteous One"

Evelyn Larter

They raise their voices, they shout for joy;
from the west they acclaim the Lord's majesty!
Therefore, in the east give glory to the Lord,
Exalt the name of the Lord,
the God of Israel in the coastlands of the sea.
From the ends of the earth we hear singing,
singing Glory to the Righteous One!

Isaiah 24: 14-16

The Baptismal Covenant

Dear friends, through the paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life. Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let us renew the promises we made in baptism.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Will you cherish the wondrous works of God,
and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for our baptism into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The priest sprinkles the people with water from the font as a reminder that it was through our baptism that we entered in Christ's fellowship, the Church.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Offertory

Jesus said to his disciples, "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you."

Offertory baskets passed for pledge offerings and donations to support the life and mission of St. Stephen's.

Offertory Hymn 296

“We know that Christ is raised”
Stanzas 1 & 2 – Choir and Congregation
Stanza 3 – Choir only
Stanza 4 – Choir and Congregation

Engleberg/Hal Hopson

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Scottish Episcopal Church, adapted

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to our God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being. Your power sustains us, your love restores our broken world. Creating God, you are unceasingly at work, bringing order from chaos and filling emptiness with life. Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope. Jesus lives in us that we may walk in light

Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love. As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by Christ who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

The Sanctus S 128 (sung by all)

William Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is the one
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Gracious God, for by the Cross, eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb and changed the

women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery dawned the one whom they loved was not lost to them. Jesus is with us now in every place for ever.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, at supper with his disciples Jesus took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you." After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

Celebrant: So, as we do what he told us,
People: **we open our hearts to him;
we remember how he died
and rose again to live now in us.**

Celebrant: Together with him we offer you these gifts:
People: **in them we give you ourselves.**

Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that they may be the Body and Blood of your Son. Kindle the fire of your love in us, and renew us for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body, to live and work to your praise and glory; that we may grow together in unity and love and at the last, in your new creation, may we join the company of apostles, prophets, and all our brothers and sisters living and departed. All this we ask through our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Fraction Anthem

“Alleluia”

George Nesbit

The Invitation

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Anthem

“At the still point of the universe”

Alfred Fedak

At the still point of the universe,
all that is not silence is song,
and all creation, hearing it, dances for joy.
The song of the universe is the song of life,
its rhythms defined by the cadence of time,
its beauty in its holy harmony.
The song is sung best when sung by the heart.

Communion Hymn 178

“Alleluia, alleluia!”

Alleluia No. 1

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

Risen Lord, be present with us in all that we do; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of the bread. Now, send us forth into the world to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

My friends, life is short
and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us,
so be quick to love and make haste to be kind.
And rest assured that God is infinitely more concerned
with the promise of our future
than the mistakes of our past.
And the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and always. **Amen.**

Announcements

Hymn 208

“The strife is o’er, the battle done”

Victory

Dismissal

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the Risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Voluntary

“Fugue in D Minor”

J.S. Bach



MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

CRUCIFER

Christine Furcinite-Reynolds

LECTOR

Diane Forsyth

LAY MINISTERS

David Nevin, Craig Reynolds

ALTAR GUILD

William Frazier, Diane Forsyth

GREETERS

Paula Morey, Suzanne Tourigny

VESTRY GREETER

Anne Williams

HANDBELLS

Cathy Carchedi, Susan Coles

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Cover image by artist Kelly Lattimore, a contemporary iconographer.

PARISH NOTICES

ST. STEPHEN’S TABLE - Gifts in thanksgiving or in memory can be made by sending a donation to the church with the name of the person to be honored or remembered. You can also make a donation online! Just go to our website, select “Support Our Ministries,” and follow the prompts to the list of gift opportunities. Select “St. Stephen’s Table” and follow the directions. *This week’s Gifts to the Table are given in loving memory of her parents, Jack & Elsie Browne, and brother, Jack Browne, by Nancy Browne Ambrosi and in loving memory of husband John (Jack) Crane by Geraldine Crane*

EASTER PORTRAITS! - Ken Pooley will have his professional photography equipment set up in the Sanctuary after the 10 AM Easter service to snap complimentary photos. Have your photograph delivered via email or get an 8" x 10" print to be picked up at church. Happy Easter!

LIVING GREEN

Bottles/Cans Toter John Garinther

Cardboard-Breakdown Don Phipps

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

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Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Choral Anthem

Glory to the Righteous One"

Evelyn Larter

They raise their voices, they shout for joy;
from the west they acclaim the Lord's majesty!
Therefore, in the east give glory to the Lord,
Exalt the name of the Lord,
the God of Israel in the coastlands of the sea.
From the ends of the earth we hear singing,
singing Glory to the Righteous One!

Isaiah 24: 14-16

EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Andersen & Black Families

Robert Bascom
Barbara & C. Douglas Blanchard
Lauralyn Blanchard
Bill Boos
Gene & Gloria Brady
Barbara K. Rawson Brouker
John F. Brouker

Layton (Bud) & Marjorie Cahill
Beth E. Carew
Cawse & Rapetti Families
The Rev'd. Canon Earl L. Conner
Jack Crane
Judy J. Culver-Brouker

John Forsyth
Maria & Tony Furcinite
Patricia Fynan

Peter Glover
Bill & Doris Guzzo

Gladys and Alden King
Herbert A. Krause
Marian W. Krause

Frank LaBombard
Althea Kraus Leyon
John R. Leyon
Heidi Lockman

Flora & Henry Maxwell
David Morrison
Susan Morrison
Janet & Fred Morrison
Anne & William Morrow
Joan Morrow

Richard & Agnes Nightingale

Harold & Marjorie Olds

Ray & Marge Pulver

Tracey & Harriet Rawling
Roy Rawson

Charles L. & Naoma R. Sammons
The Rev'd. Holley B. Slauson II
Bernard & Rita Stanley
John & Edith Sutton

Guy Tassone

Christopher VanderWolk

Evelyn D. Watson
Bud & Beryl Wells

Departed members of the Loutrel, Sinclair,
Fynan and Brennan Families

Our mothers, Margaret and Jennie

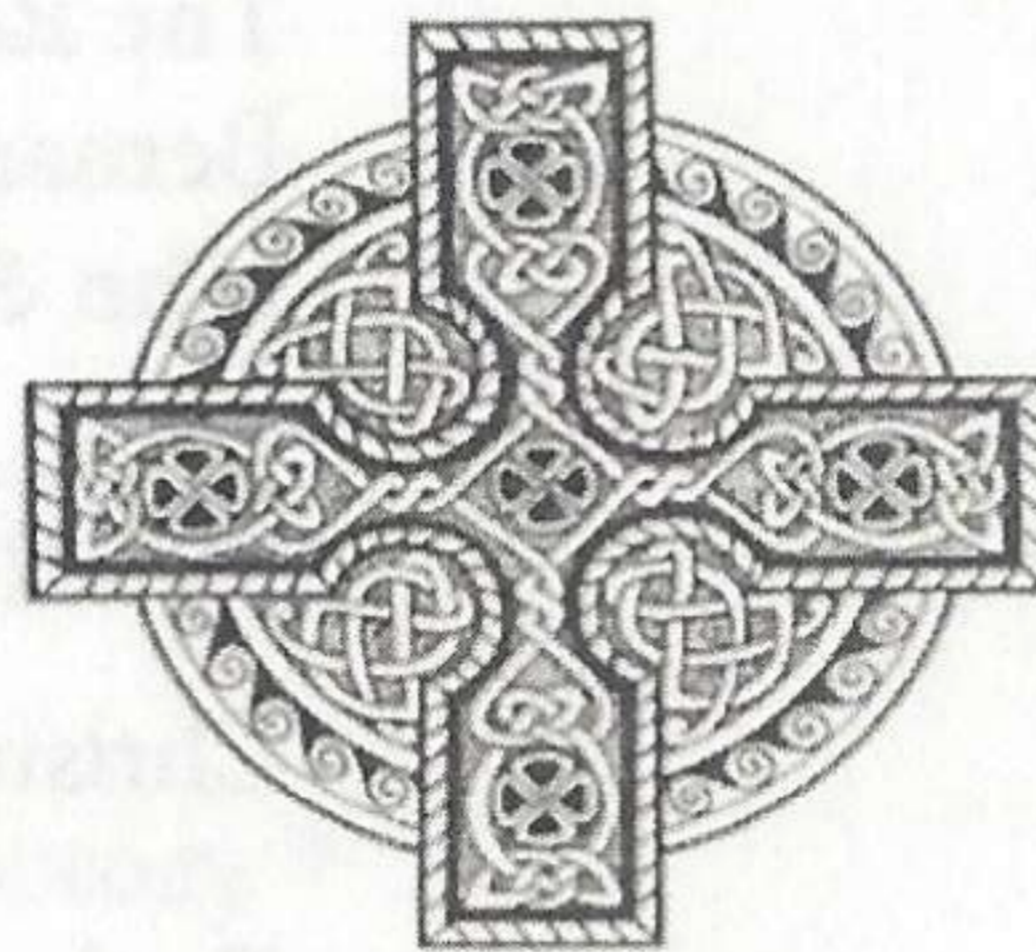
The parents of James Alden and David DeSmith

To the Glory of God



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VESTRY

John Garinther, Co. Warden
J. Christopher Perry, Treasurer
Christopher Plankey, Clerk
Caleb Dillon Harmon
William Morey
Christine Furcinite-Reynolds

David Nevin, Co. Warden
Alfred Symonds, Asst. Treasurer
Anne Williams
James Brennan
Leah Luczynski

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Bert Boos, Office Assistant
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Weekday Sextons – Ecuadorian Women's Co-Operative
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 tables toward the back of the sanctuary for those who would like to color. There are child-friendly books in a bookshelf near the coloring station on the right side. 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, in the Sears Room. Please ask an usher (or anyone wearing a name tag!) to show you the way. More information about Sunday School is available on the tables near the main entrance.

Restrooms are located in our Parish House

Exit the sanctuary via the doors on either side of the altar and follow the signs.