

Second Sunday of Easter
Saturday April 11, 5p.m. and April 12, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Voluntary “We walk by faith and not by sight” James Biery

Hymn 210 “The day of resurrection” *Ellacombe*

Welcome

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

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’
This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People

Thanks be to God

Psalm 16

(please read responsively)

Conserve me, Domine

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *

**I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."**

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.

3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.

4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.

6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.

8 I have set the Lord always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.

10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.

11 You will show me the path of life; *
**in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

The Gospel John 20: 19-31

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, Lord Christ

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

The Rev. David DeSmith

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, Shirley, Bill; Natasha; Sue; Mike; Don; Pat; Jason; Heather; 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 Anthem “O praise ye the Lord” Hubert Parry/Tucker

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 5 in booklet)*

Sanctus *(Spoken by all)*

Fraction Anthem *(Spoken)*

Communion Anthem “Appassionata” Michael Joy

Post Communion Prayer *(page 8 in the booklet)*

Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 205 “Appassionata” Michael Joy

Voluntary “Christ the Lord is risen today” Robert Powell

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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.

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.

RSVP is required so we can get a head count. Please sign up at the church or email Sarah in the office at smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

In our Parish prayers, we pray for: Ken, Keith, Marcus, Drew, Robertine, Paul, Glen, Thom, Ted, Scott, Charley, Shirley, Bill; Natasha; Sue; Mike; Don; Pat; Jason; Heather; 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

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, Lanesboro

Latino/Hispanic Ministries

Ecumenical & Interreligious Dialogue

Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF)

Forward Movement Publications

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola

Monday Diocese of Wandi (South Sudan)

Tuesday Diocese of Wangaratta (Australia)

Wednesday Diocese of Wanglei (South Sudan)

Thursday: Diocese of Wanyok (South Sudan)

Friday: Diocese of Warri (Nigeria)

Saturday: Diocese of Washington (The Episcopal Church)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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James Brennan
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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.