

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**Ascension Sunday**  
**Sunday May 17, 2026, 10:00 a.m.**

**Voluntary**                    “All glory be to God on high”                    J.S. Bach

**Hymn 450**                    “All hail the power of Jesus’ Name!”                    *Coronation*

**Welcome**

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

**Collect**

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen**

**First Lesson:** Acts 1: 6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People

**Thanks be to God**

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

1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \*

**let those who hate him flee before him.**

2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; \*

**as the wax melts at the fire,**

**so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \*

**let them also be merry and joyful.**

4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;

exalt him who rides upon the heavens; \*

**YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!**

5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, \*

**God in his holy habitation!**

6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; \*

**but the rebels shall live in dry places.**

7 O God, when you went forth before your people, \*

**when you marched through the wilderness,**

8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,

at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, \*

**at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; \*

**you refreshed the land when it was weary.**

10 Your people found their home in it; \*

**in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; \*

**sing praises to the Lord.**

34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; \*

**he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.**

35 Ascribe power to God; \*

**his majesty is over Israel;**

**his strength is in the skies.**

36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! \*

**the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!**

**Blessed be God!**

## **The Gospel** John 17: 1-11

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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; Caleb; Aloha; just peace for Ukraine; those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan.*

**Confession** *(page 4 in the booklet)*

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

**Offertory Anthem** “Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester” Malcolm Archer

**The Great Thanksgiving** *(page 5 in booklet)*

**Sanctus** (*Sung*)

**Fraction Anthem** (*Sung*)

**Communion Anthem** “Tomorrow shall be my dancing day”  
arr. Richard Shephard

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day,  
I would my true love did so chance,  
To see the legend of my play,  
To call my true love to my dance;

*Refrain:* Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love,  
This have I done for my true love.

For thirty pence, Judas me sold;  
His covetousness for to advance.  
Mark who I kiss, the same behold:  
The same is he shall lead the dance. (*Refrain*)

Before Pilate the Jews me brought,  
Where Barrabus had deliverance.  
They scourged me and set me at naught,  
Judged me to die, to lead the dance. (*Refrain*)

Then on the cross hanged I was  
When a spear to my heart id glance;  
There issued forth both water and blood,  
To call my true love to my dance. (*Refrain*)

Then from the tomb I took my way,  
For my true love’s deliverance,  
And rose again on the third day,  
Up to my true love and the dance. (*Refrain*)

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

**Blessing**

**Announcements**

**Hymn 460** “Alleluia! sing to Jesus!” *Hyfrydol*

**Voluntary** “Royal Knights: A Ceremonial March” Christopher Tambling

†††

## 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** May 24, gather in the Sears Room at 9:50 a.m.

**DEEPER WELL** - Rev. Nina, Rev. Jenny and Pastor Joel are collaborating to offer an opportunity for quiet, intentional prayer in the middle of our busy lives. Wednesdays at 5 pm in the Common Room at Zion - join us for space to take a deep breath for our souls. All are welcome!!!

**IS THERE A 2026 GRADUATE IN YOUR FAMILY?** - Please let the office know the name of both the graduate and their school so we can honor their achievement.

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS** - A St. Stephen's Parish Survey relating to ongoing efforts to discern how best to steward our resources is available today from members of the *Finding the Gap* group. The survey can also be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/42zd2hp> or use the QR code.



**WE'LL BE CELEBRATING PENTECOST** with a POP Up stand out moment for Jesus values. Using our heart signs, we'll wave and encourage our neighbors, with signs that uphold the values of our faith. May 24th, following the 10am worship service - we hope you'll join us!



**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.

Bottles/Cans Toter –Chris Plankey

Cardboard – Breakdown- Bill Morey

This morning's altar flowers were given by Dennis Carney in loving memory of his son, Alex Carney, and mother, Elizabeth Carney.

## MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
LECTORS	Louise Penney, Bill Frazier
LAY MINISTERS	Chris Plankey, Jim Brennan
ALTAR GUILD	Bill Frazier, Diane Forsyth, Angie Moon
GREETERS	Sue Tourigny, Nancy Lamoureaux
VESTRY GREETER	John Garinther
CRUCIFER	Christine Furcinite-Reynolds

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## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

*Worship:* Compline: Wednesday May 20, 6:30 p.m. , Zoom  
Saturday May 23, 5p.m., Sunday May 24, 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:*

Ken, Keith, Marcus, Drew,  
Robertine, Paul, Glen, Thom, Ted,  
Charley, Bill; Natasha; Sue; Mike;  
Don; Pat; Jason; Heather; Mary;  
Evan; Caleb; Aloha; just peace for  
Ukraine; those affected by the  
violence in the Middle East and  
Sudan.

### *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*

Habitat for Humanity in Pittsfield  
Department of Mental Health  
Government of the United States

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

Trinity Church, Milford;  
Bement-Waterfield Educational  
Grant Committee  
National Episcopal Health Ministries

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

Sunday: Anglican Church of Papua  
New Guinea  
Monday Diocese of Yukon  
(Canada)  
Tuesday Diocese of Zaki-Biam  
(Nigeria)  
Wednesday Missionary Diocese of  
Zambezia  
Thursday: Diocese of Central  
Zambia (Central Africa)  
Friday: Diocese of Eastern Zambia  
(Central Africa)  
Saturday: Diocese of Northern  
Zambia (Central Africa)

## **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

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[ststephenspittsfieldnews@gmail.com](mailto:ststephenspittsfieldnews@gmail.com) (news items)

[www.ststephenspittsfield.org](http://www.ststephenspittsfield.org)



### **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**

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector  
[ninapooley@revnina.org](mailto:ninapooley@revnina.org)

Joy Mullen, Director of Music  
[jmullen@ststephenspittsfield.org](mailto:jmullen@ststephenspittsfield.org)

Sarah Morrison, Parish Administrator  
[smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org](mailto:smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org)

Dan Moon,  
Director of St Stephen's Table  
[dmoon@pittsfield.net](mailto:dmoon@pittsfield.net)

Bert Boos, Office Assistant  
[bboos@ststephensfield.org](mailto:bboos@ststephensfield.org)

Weekday Sextons – Ecuadorian Women's Co-op  
Sunday Sexton Roy Stillman

### **The Diocese of Western Massachusetts**

The Rt. Rev. Miguelina Howell

800-322-8513 [www.diocesewma.org](http://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.