

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**Saturday May 9, 5 p.m. Sunday May 10, 2026, 10:00 a.m.**

**Voluntary**      “Rejoice, the Lord is King!”      arr. Matthew Compton

**Hymn 291**      “We plow the fields and scatter”      *Wir Pflügen*

**Welcome**

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

**Collect**

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 17: 22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on

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which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 66: 7-18**

*(please read responsively)*

*Jubilare Deo*

7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*

**make the voice of his praise to be heard;**

8 Who holds our souls in life, \*

**and will not allow our feet to slip.**

9 For you, O God, have proved us; \*

**you have tried us just as silver is tried.**

10 You brought us into the snare; \*

**you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

11 You let enemies ride over our heads;

we went through fire and water; \*

**but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.**

12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings

and will pay you my vows, \*

**which I promised with my lips**

**and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.**

13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts

with the smoke of rams; \*

**I will give you oxen and goats.**

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*

**and I will tell you what he has done for me.**

15 I called out to him with my mouth, \*

**and his praise was on my tongue.**

16 If I had found evil in my heart, \*

**the Lord would not have heard me;**

17 But in truth God has heard me; \*

**he has attended to the voice of my prayer.**

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*

**nor withheld his love from me.**

**The Gospel** John 14: 15-21

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

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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, Dren, 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** "Peace to you" Robert Pearsall

Peace to you, my peace, be with you.  
As the Father sent me, now I send you.  
Receive the Holy Spirit.  
My peace I give to you forever, Amen.

*John 20: 21-22*

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

**Sanctus** (*Sung*)

**Fraction Anthem** (*Sung*)

**Communion Bells**                    “Simplicity”                    Matthew Compton

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

**Blessing**

**Announcements**

**Hymn 405**                    “All things bright and beautiful”                    *Royal Oak*

**Voluntary**                    “Lift up your heads”                    June Nixon

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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.

**SUNDAY FUNDAY** today, 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 5pm, beginning May 13 in the Common Room at Zion - join us for space to take a deep breath for our souls. All are welcome!!!

**ONCE AGAIN, 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!

**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.

**TABLE SETTINGS: An Update on St. Stephen’s Table** – The average number of meals served per day in April was 164. The total for the year-to-date (1<sup>st</sup> 4 months of 2026) is 4,650. Your generous support of St. Stephen’s Table makes a genuine difference in the lives of dozens and dozens of neighbors every week.



**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 –Brenden Dillon-Harmon	Cardboard – Home-Paula Morey
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**MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION**

- CELEBRANT 5 p.m. The Rev. David DeSmith
- LECTOR 5 p.m. Al Symonds
- LAY MINISTER 5 p.m. Lois Symonds
- CELEBRANT 10 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
- LECTORS 10 a.m. Sarah Novak, Kathryn Jensen
- LAY MINISTERS 10 a.m. David Nevin, Mary Teti
- ALTAR GUILD Joan Evans, Sandy Soule
- GREETERS Claudia Curry, Sandy Soule
- VESTRY GREETER Leah Luczynski
- CRUCIFER Christine Furcinite-Reynolds
- ST STEPHEN’S HANDBELL RINGERS
- COFFEE HOUR Josie Ellis

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**THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE**

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

*Worship:* Compline: Wednesday May 13, 6:30 p.m. , Zoom  
Sunday May17, 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***

Local Food Programs

Pittsfield City Government

The Governor of Massachusetts

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

St. Andrew's, Longmeadow;

Commission Ministry;

Third Order of Franciscans

Faith Allive;

The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS)

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

Sunday: Church of Pakistan

Monday Diocese of Yokohama (Nippon Sel Ko Kai)

Tuesday Diocese of Yola (Nigeria)

Wednesday Diocese of York (England)

Thursday: Diocese of New York (The Episcopal Church)

Friday: Diocese of Western New York (The Episcopal Church)

Saturday: Diocese of Ysabel (Melanesia)

## **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**

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector  
ninapooley@revnina.org

Sarah Morrison, Parish Administrator  
smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org

Bert Boos, Office Assistant  
bboos@ststephensfield.org

Joy Mullen, Director of Music  
jmullen@ststephenspittsfield.org

Dan Moon,  
Director of St Stephen's Table  
dmoon@pittsfield.net

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

## 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.