

me?” Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People
Thanks be to God

Psalm 119: 105-112 (Please read responsively) *Lucerna pedibus meis*

105 Your word is a lantern to my feet *
and a light upon my path.

106 I have sworn and am determined *
to keep your righteous judgments.

107 I am deeply troubled; *
preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.

108 Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips, *
and teach me your judgments.

109 My life is always in my hand, *
yet I do not forget your law.

110 The wicked have set a trap for me, *
but I have not strayed from your commandments.

111 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; *
truly, they are the joy of my heart.

112 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes *
for ever and to the end.

Second Lesson Romans 8: 1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches

Thanks be to God

The Gospel Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

Mr. Craig Reynolds

Affirmation of Faith *(page 15 in the booklet)*

The Prayers of the People *(page 16 in the booklet)*

We also pray for: Ken, Keith, Marcus, Drew, Robertine, Paul, Glen, Ted, Charley, Craig; Bill; Natasha; Sue; Mike; Don; Pat; Heather; Mary; Caleb; Angelo; Linda; Jane; Sharon: a just peace for Ukraine; those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan.

Confession *(page 18 in the booklet)*

Peace *(page 18 in the booklet)*
(Collection Plates are located at each Entrance)

Offertory Solo “Glorious things of Thee are spoken” Charles Dancla

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 19 in booklet)*

Sanctus *(Sung by all)*

Fraction Anthem I *(Sung by all)*

Communion Solo “Allemande” from *Partita #2 in D Major* J.S. Bach

Post Communion Prayer *(page 24/25 in the booklet)*

Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 493 “O for a thousand tongues to sing” *Azmon*

Voluntary “Gigue” from *Sonata X* Arcangelo Corelli

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.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS: WHAT THE MAY SURVEY TOLD US -.
Worship is at the heart of St. Stephen’s. St. Stephen’s Table, along with other outreach efforts, remain important to members as does community both within the congregation and with Pittsfield. For detailed results, see the website.

TABLE SETTINGS – An Update on St. Stephen’s Table. Halfway through 2026, a total of 7,030 meals has been served. The monthly average over the past 6 months is 135 meals per evening. Your generous support makes a true difference in the lives of dozens and dozens of our neighbors every week.

JULY ADULT EDUCATION OFFERING in conjunction with Christ the King Epiphany Church, Wilbraham. 7 PM Monday evenings Zoom book study: *Love Without Limits*, Jacqueline A. Bussey. Next meeting July 15. See the website for full details.

ADULT SUMMER READING – *Big Queer Nun: A Memoir* is our summer read. The author, Shane Phelan, will join his friends and your hosts Jim Alden and David DeSmith for a Zoom discussion on Thursday, September 24 at 7 PM.



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN’S IS EASY – Scan the QR code to find our giving form or text “giveststephens\$youramount” to 73256 (example:giveststephens\$25 will donate \$25.) Google Pay accepted. Message and data rates apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

Bottles/Cans Toter -Chris Plankey

Cardboard- Breakdown– Dot Lambert

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT 5 p.m.	The Rev. Tom Damrosch
LECTOR 5 p.m.	Jim Cawse
LAY MINISTER 5 p.m.	Jim Cawse
HEALING PRAYERS 5 p.m.	Debbie Stillman, JD Hebert
CELEBRANT 10 a.m.	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
PREACHER	Mr. Craig Reynolds
LECTORS 10 a.m.	Diane Forsyth, Louise Penney
LAY MINISTERS	Mary Teti, Paula Morey
ALTAR GUILD	Joan Evans, Sandy Soule
GREETERS	Claudia Curry, Josie Ellis
VESTRY GREETER	David Nevin
VIOLINIST	Bethany Joy Turriff
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN	Joan Evans
CRUCIFER	James Alden

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Compline: Wednesday July 15, 6:30 p.m. Zoom
Sunday, July 19, 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, Ted, Charley, Craig; Bill; Natasha; Sue; Mike; Don; Pat; Heather; Mary; Caleb; Angelo; Linda; Jane; Sharon: a 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:
St. Paul's, Gardner;
Worcester South Region & Dean of Clericus;
Big Blue Drop- in Center, Christ Church Cathedral
Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:
Sunday: Province of the Episcopal Church of South Suda.
Monday Diocese of South Ankole (Uganda)
Tuesday Diocese of West Ankole (Uganda)
Wednesday Diocese of Antananarivo (Indian Ocean))
Thursday: Diocese of Antsiranana (Indian Ocean)
Friday: Te Pihopatanga q Aotearoa (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)
Saturday: Diocese of Araucania (Chile)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

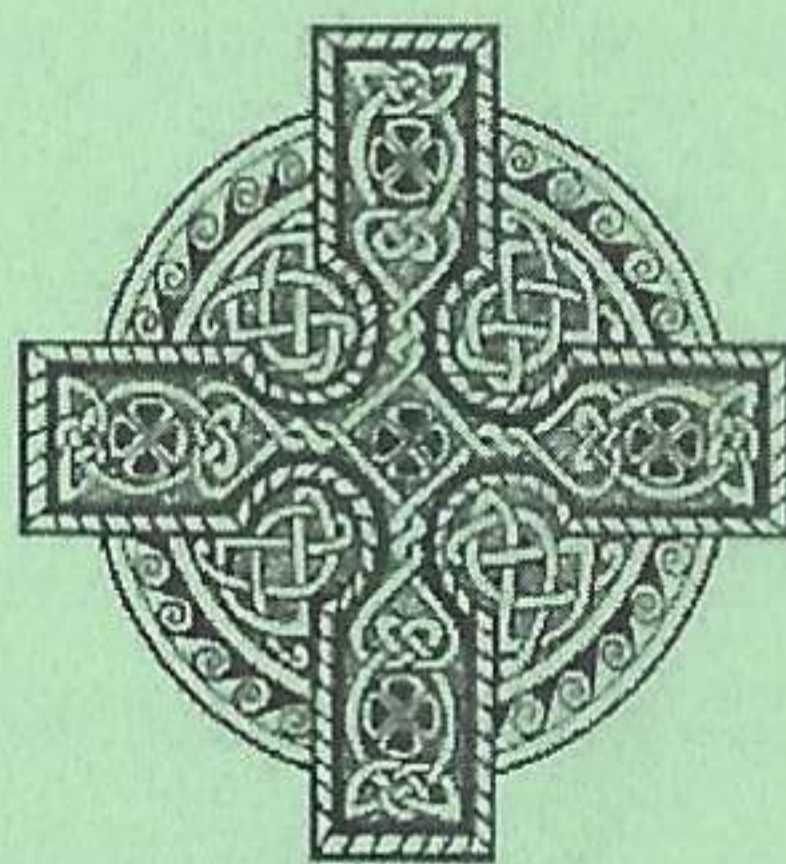
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VESTRY

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

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Joy Mullen, Director of Music
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Dan Moon,
Director of St Stephen's Table
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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.