

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday July 19, 2026, 10a.m

Voluntary “Arioso" from Clavier Concerto in F Minor J.S. Bach

Hymn 657 “Love Divine, all loves excelling” *Hyfrydol*

Welcome

The Opening Acclamation *(page 14 in the booklet)*

Collect

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson Genesis 28: 10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

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.

Psalms 139: 1-11, 22-23

(Please read responsively)

Domine, probasti

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
**you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you;
**the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.**
- 22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.
- 23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

Second Lesson Romans 8: 12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our

spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches

Thanks be to God

The Gospel Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his

kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

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, Dren, Robertine, Paul, Glen, Ted, Charley, Craig; Bill; Natasha; Sue; Mike; Don; Pat; Heather; Mary; Caleb; Angelo; Linda; Sharon: the families of Jane Morrison, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo and Joan Sebastian Guerrero; a just peace for Ukraine; those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan.

Those who have Died: *Jane Morrison; Lorenzo Salgado Araujo; Joan Sabastian Guerrero*

Confession *(page 18 in the booklet)*

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

Offertory Solo “Papillon” R. Lovland

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 19 in booklet)*

Sanctus *(Sung by all)*

Fraction Anthem I *(Sung by all)*

Communion Solo “The Sound of Angel Wings” M. Leffler

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

Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 529 “In Christ there is no East or West”” McKee

Voluntary “Postludium” Trio from Overture in F JS Bach

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. *This week's Gifts to the Table are given in loving memory of Joan Morow by Diane Forsyth.*

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. Continues on July 20 and 27. See the website for full details.



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
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MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

LECTORS

Susan LeBourdais, Don Phipps

LAY MINISTERS

Jim Cawse, Dan Moon

ALTAR GUILD

Bill Frazier, Diane Forsyth, Angie Moon

GREETERS

Gerry Crane, Mary Teti

VESTRY GREETER

Christine Furchinite Reynolds

CRUCIFER

Jim Brennan

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PARISH OFFICE TRANSITION

After eight years of faithful service, Sarah Morrison, our Parish Administrator, plans to retire this fall. We are deeply grateful for all she has given St. Stephen's, and plans are underway to celebrate her properly — details to come. The search for our next Parish Administrator has begun, led by a hiring team of Josie Ellis, Leah Luczynski, and Craig Reynolds. The job description is on the church website; applications may be sent to ststephenshires@gmail.com.

Please help us spread the word. The best candidates often come through personal connections rather than job boards. If you know someone who might flourish in this work, please pass the posting along. Parishioners are welcome

to apply, and will be considered on the same footing as every other candidate. Everyone applies the same way - by email to ststephenshires@gmail.com - so that every application reaches the full hiring team and receives the same careful reading; please point interested people to that address rather than passing résumés along informally. Applications are held in confidence by the hiring team.

Questions? Ask any member of the hiring team.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Compline: Wednesday July 22, 6:30 p.m. Zoom

Saturday July 25, 5p.m. , Sunday, July 26, 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; Sharon: the families of Jane
Morrison; Joan Salbastian Guerrero,
and Lorenzo Salgado Araujo; 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

The Elizabeth Freeman Center
Pittsfield Area Council of
Congregations
Members of Congress

In Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

Christ Trinity Church, Sheffield;
Archdeacon, The Van. Jane
Griesbach
United Thank Offering (UTO)
National Network of Episcopal
Church Employees

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Province of the Episcopal
Church of South Suda.
Monday Diocese of Arctic (Canada)
Tuesday Diocese of Argentina (South
America)
Wednesday Diocese of Northern
Argentina (South America)
Thursday: Diocese of Argyll and The
Isles (Scotland)
Friday: Diocese of Arizona (The
Episcopal Church)
Saturday: Diocese of Arkansas (The
Episcopal Church)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

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mail@ststephenspittsfield.org (e-mail)

ststephenspittsfieldnews@gmail.com (news items)

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

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

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

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.