

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday July 25, 5p.m. Sunday July 26, 2026, 10a.m

“Placidamente”

Edward Hopkins

“I sing the almighty power of God”

Forest Green

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

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People

Thanks be to God

Psalms 105: 1-11, 45b

(Please read responsively)

Confitemini Domino

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 7 He is the Lord our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.
- 8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:
- 9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
- 10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
- 11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."

45b Hallelujah!

Second Lesson Romans 8: 26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches

Thanks be to God

The Gospel Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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 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: *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 “Come Holy Spirit” Heinrich Scheidemann

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 19 in booklet)*

Sanctus *(Sung by all)*

Fraction Anthem I *(Sung by all)*

Communion Solo “Blessed are you who live in faith unswerving”
Johannes Brahms

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

Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 488 “Be thou my vision” *Slane*

Voluntary “Praise to the Lord” Hans Micheelsen

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 Roy Lambert and Caroline Bregg by Cathy Carchedi.*

JULY ADULT EDUCATION OFFERING- Final 7 PM Monday evening Zoom book study: *Love Without Limits*, by Jacqueline A. Bussey on July 27. See the website for full details.

SUMMER READING – *Big Queer Nun* by Shane Phelan. Friends of the author, David DeSmith and Jim Alden, will host a Zoom conversation with Shane on September 24 at 7 p.m. Purchase books at Indie Readery and Records, 314 North St., Pittsfield.

NEXT SUNDAY healing prayers will be offered and we welcome our neighbors from Zion along with The Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman.



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S IS EASY – Scan the QR code to find our giving form or text "giviststephens\$youramount" to 73256 (example:giviststephens\$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 John Garinther

Cardboard- Breakdown– Bill Morey

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT 5 p.m.

The Rev. William Loutrel

LECTOR 5 p.m.

Angie Moon

LAY MINISTER 5 p.m.

Angie Moon

CELEBRANT 10 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

LECTORS 10 a.m.

Renee Kaley, Paula Morey

LAY MINISTERS 10 a.m.

Jim Brennan, Angie Moon

ALTAR GUILD

Claudia Curry, Jim Brennan

GREETERS

Jennifer Townsend, Sandy Soule

VESTRY GREETER

Chris Perry

CRUCIFER

Stephen Lussier

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

Susan LeBourdais

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PARISH OFFICE TRANSITION

After eight years of faithful service, Sarah Morrison, our Parish Administrator, plans to retire this fall. The search for our next Parish Administrator has begun. 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. 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. 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 29, 6:30 p.m. Zoom
Sunday, August 2, 10 a.m with Zion

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 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 Christian Center
Congregation of Knesset Israel
Temple Anshe Amunim
The Supreme Court

In Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

Trinity Church, Shelburne Falls;
Franklin-Hampshire Region & Dean of Clericus
Episcopal Relief & Development;
Ministries to persons in Assisted Living & Skilled Nursing Care

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Anglican Church of Tanzania
Monday: Diocese of Armagh (Ireland)
Tuesday: Diocese of Armidale (Australia)
Wednesday: Diocese of Arochukwu/Ohafia (Nigeria)
Thursday: Diocese of Aru (Province de l'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo)
Friday: Diocese of Asaba (Nigeria)
Saturday: Diocese of Asante-Mampong (West Africa)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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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
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Bert Boos, Office Assistant
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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.