

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday August 2, 2026, 10:00 a.m

Voluntary “Rondo Espressivo” from Sonata in B minor CPE Bach

Hymn 522 “Glorious things of thee are spoken” *Austria*

Welcome

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

Collect

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson Genesis 32: 22-31

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.” Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.” The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People

Thanks be to God

Psalm 17: 1-7, 16 *(Please read responsively)* *Exaudi, Domine*

- 1 Hear my plea of innocence, O Lord; give heed to my cry; *
 listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying lips.
- 2 Let my vindication come forth from your presence; *
 let your eyes be fixed on justice.

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

- 3 Weigh my heart, summon me by night, *
melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.
- 4 I give no offense with my mouth as others do; *
I have heeded the words of your lips.
- 5 My footsteps hold fast to the ways of your law; *
in your paths my feet shall not stumble.
- 6 I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; *
incline your ear to me and hear my words.
- 7 Show me your marvelous loving-kindness, *
**O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand
from those who rise up against them.**
- 16 But at my vindication I shall see your face; *
when I awake, I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.

Second Lesson Romans 9: 1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ-- I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit-- I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches
Thanks be to God

The Gospel Matthew 14: 13-21

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

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed

and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

The Rev. Jane Gould

Affirmation of Faith II *(page 16 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; Caleb; Angelo; Linda; 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 “On Wings of Song” . Mendelssohn,
arr. by Mick Leffler

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 19 in booklet)*

Sanctus *(Sung by all)*

Fraction Anthem I *(Sung by all)*

Communion Solo “Hymn To Hope” R. Lovland

Post Communion Prayer II *(page 25 in the booklet)*

Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 432 “O praise ye the Lord!” *Laudate Dominum*

Postlude: “Allegro” from Symphony IV W. Boyce

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 MORNING we welcome our neighbors from Zion along with The Rev. Jane Gould and pianist Deborah Duff. Healing prayers are offered during the eucharist and there will be a labyrinth walk after the service.

NEXT WEEK healing prayers will be offered during the Saturday evening service at 5:00 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Jane Tillman will lead the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, August 9th.

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE has taken the drastic step of removing all the bushes and flowers from the Memorial Garden and the landscaped bed on the front lawn. The reason is to encourage several unhoused people who have been camping in the bushes to find legitimate shelter elsewhere in the city. The committee discovered not only trash, clothing, and bedding, but hypodermic needles and drug vials beneath the plants. We are a compassionate community and will accommodate the unhoused to a reasonable extent; however, the combination of the untidy appearance and the risk of someone overdosing on our property has led to this action. Please see any member on the Property Committee if you have any questions.

KNIT AND SIP will meet in the Guild Room on Tuesday, August 4 at 5 p.m.

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.



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.

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT	The Rev. Jane Gould
LECTORS	Bill Frazier, Jim Alden
LAY MINISTERS	Mary Teti, Chris Plankey
ALTAR GUILD	David Nevin, Jim Alden
GREETERS\	Christine Furcinite Reynolds, and Craig Reynolds
VESTRY GREETER	Bill Morey
CRUCIFER	Melissa Patnode
HEALING PRAYER	David Nevin, Renee Kaley

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Compline: Wednesday August 5, 6:30 p.m. Zoom
Saturday, August 8, 5 p.m., Sunday, August 9, 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; 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

Local Food Programs

Pittsfield City Government

The Governor of Massachusetts

In Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

Trinity Church, Shrewsbury;

Hampden Region & Dean of Clericus

Interfaith Coalition for Homeless. Worcester;

Worcester Interfaith

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Church of the Province of Uganda

Monday: Diocese of Saint Asaph (Wales)

Tuesday: Diocese of (Athabasca (Canada)

Wednesday: Diocese of Atlanta (The Episcopal Church)

Thursday: Diocese of Attooch (South Sudan)

Friday: Diocese of Auckland (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)

Saturday: Diocese of North West Australia

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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
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Joy Mullen, Director of Music
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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.