

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The First Sunday of Creation Season: Pray
Sunday September 6, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Voluntary “All glory be to God on high” J.S. Bach

Hymn 390 Praise to the Lord!” *Lobe den Herren*

Welcome

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

Gloria Hymn 408 “Sing praise to God who reigns above” *Mit Freuden wart*
(stanza 1)

Creation Collect of the Day

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts;
for, as you always resist the powerful who oppress and
dominate Creation, so you never forsake your creatures
who live in harmony with nature’s order; through Jesus
Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: A Reading from Orthodoxy and Animals, the Metropolitan
Kallistos of Diokleia

We humans are bound to God and to one another in
a cosmic covenant that also includes all the other living
creatures on the face of the earth: ‘I will make for you
a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the
birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground.’ We
humans are not saved from the world but with the world;
and that means, with the animals. Moreover, this cosmic
covenant is not something that we humans have devised,
but it has its source in the divine realm. It is conferred
upon us as a gift by God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People

Thanks be to God

Psalm 8 *(to be read responsively)* *Domine, Dominus noster*

1 O GOD our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

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

- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children *
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What are we that you should be mindful of us? *
mere mortals that you should seek us out?
- 6 You have made us but little lower than the angels; *
you adorn us with glory and honor;
- 7 You give us mastery over the works of your hands; *
you put all things under our feet:
- 8 All sheep and oxen, *
even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O GOD our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

Second Lesson: A Reading from *To Live Is to Love*, Ernesto Cardenal

All animals who lift their voices at dawn sing to God. The volcanoes and the clouds and the trees cry to us about God. The whole creation cries to us penetratingly with a great joy about the existence and the beauty and the love of God. The music roars it into our ears, the landscape calls it into our eyes. In all of nature we find God's initials, and all God's creatures are God's love letters to us. All of nature burns with love created through love to light love in us. Nature is like a shadow of God, a reflection of God's beauty. The still, blue lake is a reflection of God. In every atom lives an image of the trinity, a figure of the trinitarian God. And also my own body is created to love God. Each of my cells is a hymn about the Creator and an ongoing declaration of love.

Hear what the Spirit is saying through the author
Thanks be to God

The Gospel Matthew 18: 15-20

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

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you,

you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon The Rev. William Loutrel

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, Drew, Robertine, Paul, Glen, Ted, Charley, Craig; Natasha; Sue; Mike; Don; Pat; Heather; Caleb; Angelo; Linda; Sharon; Julie; Penny; Jay; a just peace for Ukraine; those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan.

Confession *(page 5 in the booklet)*

Peace *(page 5 in the booklet)*
(Collection Plates are located at each Entrance)

Offertory Hymn 383 “Fairest Lord Jesus” *St. Elizabeth*

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 5 in booklet)*

Sanctus *(Sung by all)*

Fraction Anthem I *(Sung by all)*

Communion Solo “Waterlife” David Christiansen

Post Communion Prayer *(page 9 in the booklet)*

Blessing

Announcements

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

Voluntary “Trumpet Tune in D Major” David Johnson



Notes on Today's Readings

First Lesson: As included in Season of Creation... metropolitan Kallistos Ware of Diokleia, "Orthodoxy and Animals", in A. Linzey and C. Linzey, (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Religion and Animal Ethics* (Oxford: Routledge Handbooks in Religion, 2018).

Kallistos Ware (1934-2022) was an English bishop and theologian of the Eastern Orthodox Church. He was one of the best-known modern Eastern Orthodox hierarchs and theologians. From 1966 to 2001, he was Spalding Lecturer of Eastern Orthodox Studies at the University of Oxford.

Psalm: During Creation Season texts will be taken from the St. Helena Psalter.

Second Lesson: As included in An Episcopal Guide to Creation, Ernesto Cardenal (Catholic priest and liberation theologian), *To Live is to Love* (Herder and Herder, 1970.)

The Rev. Ernesto Cardenal Martínez (1925-2020) was a Nicaraguan Catholic priest, poet, and politician. He was a liberation theologian and the founder of the primitivist art community in the Solentiname Islands, where he lived for more than ten years.



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.

NEXT WEEK- The Rev. Dr. Jane G. Tillman will lead the 10 a.m. service.

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.

THIS MORNING Healing Prayers are offered during the eucharist and a labyrinth walk after the service in the Auditorium.



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.

Bottlers/Cans Toter – Chris Plankey

Cardboard-Breakdown - Mark Miller

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Compline: Wed. September 9, 6:30 p.m. Zoom,
Saturday September 12, 5p.m. & Sunday September 13, 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 DR

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT

The Rev. William Loutrel

LECTORS

Tom Dillon, Diane Forsyth

LAY MINISTERS

Angie Moon, Andrea Stasiowski

ALTAR GUILD

Claudia A. Curry, Jim Brennan

GREETERS

Nancy Lamoureux, Sandy Soule

VESTRY GREETER

John Garinther

CRUCIFER

Jim Brennan

HEALING PRAYERS

Suzanne White, Jim Brennan

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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; Julie; Penny; Jay; 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, Peter's, Springfield;
Human Resources & Compliance Specialist, Susan Olbon
Natl, Episcopal Historians & Archivists

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria
Monday: Diocese of Bermuda (Extra Provincial)
Tuesday: Diocese of Bethlehem (The Episcopal Church)
Wednesday: Diocese of Bhopal (North India)
Thursday: Diocese of Bida (Nigeria)
Friday: Diocese of Biharamulo (Tanzania)
Saturday: Diocese of Birmingham (England)

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
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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.