

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Saturday October 10, 5p.m. Sunday October 11, 2026

Voluntary	“The Ash Grove”	Dale Wood
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Hymn 438	“Tell out my soul”	<i>Woodlands</i>
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Welcome

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

Acknowledgement and Thanksgiving for The Land

Creator God, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied the land upon which we live and worship. We give thanks to the **Mohican**, the first people of this land. We offer our respect to those ancestors who may be interred in this land. We are also thankful for the gifts of the People of the land. Creator, let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced. With thankful and respectful hearts, we pray in Your name, Your Son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. Amen.

Gloria Hymn *(page 1 in the booklet)*

Collect

Creator God, from you every family in heaven and earth takes its name. You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life. **Amen**

First Lesson A Reading of “Nothing is Lost” from *Ladder to the Light*, Steven Charleston

In the days of conquest, when darkness covered the land, the hoop of many nations was broken, the story of many people lost—and lost forever. The number who perished will never be counted, but their graves are still here. Their testimony is written into the earth. The wisdom of the ancestors is a mist over the valley, a cloud passing before the moon. The teachings of the elders can be heard in the rain, the message of the poets seen in the first

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stars that put the sun to bed. Nothing is finally lost. The ancient visions are within us. The old dreams are part of us. The steady rhythm of hope was never silenced. It beats today for all who would hear it. It beats within me. It beats within you. Life is still growing beneath the concrete. The sound of the earth is breathing beneath the glass and steel.

Hear what the Spirit is saying through the Author.

Thanks be to God.

The Four Directions Prayer *(Please read responsively)*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world

A light no darkness can extinguish

We thank you Creator

For the Medicine you send from the Four Sacred Directions

The Medicine you send in your son Jesus Christ

The Medicine you send in the Sacred Drum

The Drum that brings us one heartbeat

One heartbeat into unity with all of Creation

We thank you for the reminder

That we are one with Mother Earth and with all of Creation

We thank you for the Medicine you send

In the Four Sacred Directions of the Wind

Wind that brings us changes of season

Changes in our lives

It allows us to mature, adapt,

Become more compassionate and loving to each other

We thank you creator for the Medicine that you send in the Water

The Water in our bodies and the Water of our Mother Earth

We thank you for the strengthening that you give us

From these Four Sacred Medicines

We ask you to remind us

Always to be humble

To walk gently on the back of Mother Earth

To remember that we are pitiful

Like an infant without its mother, we are pitiful without you

And we need you in every way, in every day

We pray today for the strengthening, the health and the wellbeing
Of the two leggeds, the four leggeds

Those that creep, those that swim, those that fly,
**The male and female of all creation -
Water People, Rock People, Star People**

We ask especially for our awareness and our actions
**Here on the indigenous land of the Mohican people,
people of the waters that are never still.**

Remembering we all need an ecosystem that is healthy
All our Relations.

Second Lesson: by Kaitlin B. Curtice, in *Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God*

Prayer is only a whisper
of what could be,
what is,
the memory
of what was yesterday,
ten minutes ago,
when we last blinked and realized
that what You are
is something we cannot grasp,
but long to know
in the depths of us.
Make room,
for we are simply beginning,
the sprout that will grow
and form the landscape of tomorrow.
Breathe on us, we pray.
Amen.

Hear what the Spirit is saying through the Poet.

Thanks be to God

The Gospel Matthew 22: 1-14

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

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and

my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

The Rev. Thomas H. Damrosch

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, Robertine, Paul, Glen, Ted, Charley, Craig; Natasha; Sue; Mike; Don; Pat; Heather; Caleb; Angelo; Linda; Sharon; Julie; Penny; Jay; Will; 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 Anthem: “Carol of Beauty” Dennis Krause
Praise we the Lord who made all beauty for all our senses to enjoy.
Give we our humble thanks and duty for simple pleasures we employ.

Praise him who makes our life a pleasure, sending us things which glad our eyes.
Thank him who gives us welcome leisure, that in our hearts sweet thoughts may rise.

Praise him who loves to see young lovers, fresh hearts that swell with youthful pride.
Thank him who sends the sun above us, as bridegroom fit to meet his bride.

Praise him who by a simple flower lifts our hearts to things above,
Thank him who gives to each one power to find a friend to know and love.

Stuart Wilson

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 5 in booklet)*

Sanctus *(Sung by all)*

Fraction Anthem *(Sung by all)"*

Communion Anthem "Christ hath a garden" Gerald Near

Christ hath a garden walled around,
A paradise of fruitful ground,
Chosen by love and fenced by grace
From out the world's wide wilderness.

Like trees of spice his servants stand,
There planted by his mighty hand;
By Eden's gracious streams, that flow
To feed their beauty where they grow.

Awake, O wind of heaven, and bear
Their sweetest perfume through the air:
Stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom,
Till the beloved Master come:

That he may come and linger yet
Among the trees that he hath set;
That he may evermore be seen
To walk amid the springing green.

Robert Bridges after Isaac Watts

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

Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 409 "The spacious firmament on high" *Creation*

Voluntary "Let All Creation Dance" Michael Burkhardt

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NOTES ON TODAY'S READINGS

Collect: Episcopal Church: Resources on the Doctrine of Discovery

First Lesson: The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston (b. 1949) is a Native American elder, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation, an author, and a retired bishop in the Episcopal Church. He is widely recognized as a leading

proponent for justice issues and for spiritual renewal in the church in both the United States and Canada. Among other roles, he has served as the national staff officer for Native American ministries, the Bishop of Alaska, and the Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School.

Prayer in place of the psalm: This indigenous prayer comes to us from an Anglican priest of the Cree and Dene people on the western coast of Canada, it is adapted for use in our region. The Rev. Vivian Seegers (Cree/Dene) March 13, 1959 - June 2, 2021, Urban Aboriginal Ministry, cese of New Westminster, no permissions needed, adapted for our region.

Second Lesson: *Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God*; Brazos Press; Illustrated edition (May 5, 2020), page 179 by Kaitlin B. Curtice. Curtice is a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation, a Christian, and a poet who speaks on faith and justice within the church as it relates to Indigenous peoples.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Compline: Wed. October 14, 6:30 p.m. Zoom,
Sunday October 18, 10a.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 5p.m. & 10a.m.	The Rev Thomas H. Damrosch
LECTOR. 5p.m.	Jim Alden
LAY MINISTER 5p.m.	Jim Alden
HEALING PRAYERS 5p.m.	Debbie Stillman, JD Hebert
LECTORS 10a.m.	Gwen Davis, Wendy Coakley
LAY MINISTERS 10a.m.	Brendan Dillon Harmon, David Nevin
ALTAR GUILD	David Nevin, Jim Alden
GREETERS	Gerry Crane, Mary Teti
VESTRY GREETER	Bill Morey
CRUCIFER	Jim Alden
COFFEE HOUR	Caleb Dillon-Harmon

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J. Christopher Perry, Treasurer
James Brennan
Caleb Dillon-Harmon
Leah Luczynski
Anne Williams

David Nevin, Co-Warden
Christopher Plankey, Clerk
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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.