

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday October 18, 2026

Voluntary Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness” J.S Bach

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

Welcome

The Opening Acclamation *(page1 in the booklet)*

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson Exodus 33: 12-23

Moses said to the Lord, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.”

The Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The Lord’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” And the Lord continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

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.

Psalm 99

(sung by all)

Dominus regnavit



1 The Lord is King;
let the people **tremble**; *
he is enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth **shake**.

2 The Lord is great in **Zion**; *
he is high above all **peoples**.

3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and **awesome**; *
he is the **Holy One**.

4 "O mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established **equity**; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in **Jacob**."

5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and fall down before his **footstool**; *
he is the **Holy One**.

6 Moses and Aaron among his priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon his **Name**; *
they called upon the Lord, and he **answered them**.

7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of **cloud**; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he **gave them**.

8 O Lord our God, you answered them **indeed**; *
you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil **deeds**.

9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and worship him upon his holy **hill**; *
for the Lord our God is the **Holy One**.

The Gospel Matthew 22: 15-22

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

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and

show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

The Rev. Libby Wade

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; the family of Emma Morison; a just peace for Ukraine; those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan.

Those who have died: *Emma Morison (Parishioner at St. John's, Aberdeen)*

Confession *(page 4 in the booklet)*

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

Offertory Anthem: "Jesus makes my heart rejoice" Robert Powell

Jesus makes my heart rejoice; I'm his lamb and know his voice;
He's my shepherd, gently guiding, in his pastures now abiding;
Constant love to me he shows, yes, my very name he knows.

Trusting in his path always, I go in and out with peace;
He will feed me with the treasure of his grace in richest measure;
When I thirst to him I cry, living water he'll supply.

Shall I sing how blessed I am, led by Jesus as his lamb?
For when all my days are over, in the arms of my dear Savior,
Welcome will be my delight, joy forever in his sight.

H. Louise von Hayn, F. W. Foster

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 5 in booklet)*

Sanctus *(Sung by all)*

(page 6 in the booklet)

Fraction Anthem

(Sung by all)" (page 8 in the booklet)

Communion Anthem "The legacy of Christ"

Robert Powell

The legacy of Christ is Faith that reaches past despair
and finds the strength to grow and praise,
with Christ our burdens share.

The legacy of Christ is Hope, for all the heart can dream.
It lifts us to our better self to where Christ's glories stream.

The legacy of Christ is Love, that shines for all to see.
Within true hearts, Christ spirit dwells, Love spent eternally.

The legacy of Christ is yours when you invite Him in,
to be your soul's most honored guest, and live in grace with Him.
Faith, Hope and Love are ours, but the greatest of these is Love.

Post Communion Prayer

(page 9 in the booklet)

Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 692

"I heard the voice of Jesus say"

The Third Tune

Voluntary

"Toccata in C major"

Johann Pachelbel

†††

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.

STEWARDSHIP - Pledge season kicks off this Sunday, October 18, and will culminate with a pledge card in-gathering on November 22. This year, in addition to your pledge, we will ask you to consider special one-time donations that will help us to truly "be the heart and hands of Christ, nourishing people

and transforming lives.” Pledge packets with more information will be available at the back of the church this Sunday, and on Sunday, October 25.

NEXT WEEK- The Rev William Loutrel will return to lead the 10 a.m. service.

SUNDAY FUNDAY –October 25 Children in Kindergarten through 4th grade gather before the 10:00 a.m. service in the Sears Room.

THE NO BOOK BOOK GROUP — Sunday, October 18, following the 10:00 AM service (about 11:15 AM) in the Guild Room. No assigned reading — bring whatever you’re reading, watching, or listening to and tell us about it for a few minutes. You’re welcome to come just to listen. It will last about an hour. Light refreshments. All are welcome. Conveners: Jim Brennan and Craig Reynolds.

THANKSGIVING ANGELS – Once again we’re collecting funds for our neighbors in need so they may have a healthy home cooked Thanksgiving meal. You may donate directly, Thanksgiving Angels has a website with donation information, or through St. Stephen’s. Be sure to include a note with your donation so the office knows to direct it to Thanksgiving Angels.

PLEASE WELCOME SUKEIGH SUKIENNIK - Sukeigh(He/They), the new Parish Administrator, is currently working with Sarah and Bert in preparation for Sarah’s departure on October 29. They are a recent graduate of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts with a degree in business, a concentration in accounting, and a minor in economics. He worked his way through college with a variety of short-term secretarial jobs and his long-term job in the MassMoCA Box Office, where he still works on weekends.



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 – John Garinther	Cardboard-Breakdown Jennifer Townsend
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Compline: Wed. October 21, 6:30 p.m. Zoom,
Saturday October 24, 5p.m. & Sunday October 25, 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	The Rev. Libby Wade
LECTORS	Josie Ellis, Paula Morey
LAY MINISTERS	Nicole Plankey, Chris Plankey
ALTAR GUILD	Marie & Roy Sutton
GREETERS	Nancy Lamoureux, Diane Forsyth
VESTRY GREETER	John Garinther
CRUCIFER	Jim Brennan

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THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

In our Parish prayers, we pray for: Ken, Keith, Marcus, Robertine, Paul, Glen, Ted, Charley, Craig; Bill; Sue; Natasha; Mike; Don; Pat; Mary; Heather; Caleb; Angelo; Linda; Jay Sharon; Julie; Penny; Will; the family of Emma Morison; 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:

St. Stephen's, Westborough;
The Episcopal Chaplaincy at Western
Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center
Daily Bread Food Pantry, Milford
Gideon's Garden, Great Barrington

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Anglican Church of Canada
Monday: Diocese of Calcutta (North India)
Tuesday: Diocese of Caledonia (Canada)
Wednesday: Diocese of Calgary (Canada)
Thursday: Diocese of California (The Episcopal Church)
Friday: Diocese of Northern California (The Episcopal Church)
Saturday: Diocese of Cameroon (West Africa)

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
ninapooley@revnina.org

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Bert Boos, Office Assistant
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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.