Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday November 8, 2026

Voluntary "Tranquility" Matthew Compton

Hymn 690 "Guide me, O though great Jehovah" *Cwm Rhondda*

Welcome

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

Collect
O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

First Lesson Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.
"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."
Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our

ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."
But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78: 1-7 (*sung by all)) Attendite, populе*

1 Hear my teaching, O my **people;** *
incline your ears to the words of my **mouth.**

2 I will open my mouth in a **parable; ***
I will declare the mysteries of ancient **times**.

3 That which we have heard and **known,**
and what our forefathers have told **us,** *
we will not hide from their **children.**

4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the **Lord,** *
and the wonderful works he has **done.**

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for **Israel,** *
which he commanded them to teach their **children;**

6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet un**born**; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their **children;**

7 So that they might put their trust in **God,** *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his **commandments**;

The Gospel Matthew 25: 1-13
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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, Robertine, Paul, Glen, Ted, Charley, Craig; Natasha; Sue; Mike; Don; Pat; Heather; Caleb; Angelo; Linda; Sharon: Julie; Penny; Jay; Will; Susan; Leona; Pat; 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 "Keep your lamps trimmed and burning"
Spiritual/Pasch

Wake! Awake! Keep your lamps trimmed!
Dark night will soon be gone.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning
for this work is almost done.

Children, don't grow weary.
Children, don't grow weary.
Children don't grow weary,
for this work is almost done.

Darker midnight lies before us,
darker midnight lies before us,
darker midnight lies before us,
for this work is almost done.

Lo, the morning soon is breaking.
Lo, the morning soon is breaking.
Lo, the morning soon is breaking
for this work is almost done.
Keep awake!

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 6 in booklet)*

Sanctus *(Sung by all)*

Fraction Anthem *(Sung by all)*

Communion Anthem "Saranam" arr. Sondra Tucker

Post Communion Prayer *(page 10 in the booklet)*

Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 655 "O Jesus, I have promised" *Nyland*

Voluntary "Finale in F major" Dom Moore

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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. *Gifts for the table this week are given by Bill Frazier, in memory of Howard & Dorothy Pacschal Frazier, and Jason Frazier; by Dot Lambert in memory of Son Stephen's birthday November 14.*

SHARING OUR PLENTY! What does it mean to give freely and with joy? To whom do we give and why? As we ponder these questions as stewards of God's abundance, how might giving express itself? We are grateful to Cathy Carchedi for exploring these questions with us in her remarks today.
In addition to thinking about your pledge, you are invited to donate warm winter clothing to congregants at the Cathedral of the Beloved. As a reminder, collection bins and baskets for donations to the Cathedral of the Beloved, as well as to The First and St. Stephen's Table can be found in the narthex and in the back hallway next to the office. For more information, please refer to the Sharing Our Plenty brochure included in your bulletin.

SEND-OFF FOR SARAH - Let's celebrate the 8 years Sarah Morrison served as St. Stephen's Parish Administrator. We're planning a potluck lunch in our dining room after the service on Sunday, Nov 22. More details to come.

NEXT WEEK- The Rev Dr. Nina Pooley is back!

SUNDAY FUNDAY – today November 8, Children in Kindergarten through 4th grade gather before the 10:00 a.m. service in the Sears Room.

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.

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.

Paper Toter – Roy Sutton	Cardboard-Home - Jeff Pringle

This morning's altar flowers were given by Amanda Watroba in loving memory of her father, Don Fillio.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Compline: Wed. November 11, 6:30 p.m. Zoom,
Saturday November 14 5p.m. and Sunday November 15, 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. William Loutrel
LECTORS	Kathryn Jensen, Don Phipps
LAY MINISTERS	Susan LeBourdais, Andrea Stasiowski
ALTAR GUILD	David Nevin, Jim Alden
GREETERS	Claudia Curry, Sandy Soule
VESTRY GREETER	Christine Furcinite- Reynolds
CRUCIFER	Chris Plankey
ST. STEPHEN'S HANDBELL RINGERS	
COFFEE HOUR	Susan LeBourdais

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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; Natasha; Sue; Mike; Don; Pat; Heather; Mary; Caleb; Angelo; Linda; Sharon; Julie; Penny; Jay; Will; Susan; Leona; Pat; 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.
Episcopal Booksellers Assn; Inc.

We pray for our community:
The Ellizabeth Freeman Center
Pittsfield Area Council of Congregations
Members of Congress

*In Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for***:**
Christ the King-Epiphany, Wilbraham;
Secretary of Convention, Wende Wheeler
North Berkshire Community Action;
Pioneer Valley Project

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:
Sunday: Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo
Monday: Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory (Ireland)
Tuesday Diocese of Chandigarh (North India)
Wednesday: Diocese of Chelmsford (England)
Thursday: Diocese of Chester (England)
Friday: Diocese of Chhattisgarh (North India)
Saturday: Diocese of Chicago (The Episcopal Church)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

67 East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-448-8276
mail@ststephenspittsfield.org (e-mail)
ststephenspittsfieldnews@gmail.com (news items) www.ststephenspittsfield.org



VESTRY

John Garinther, Co-Warden
J. Christopher Perry, Treasurer
James Brennan
Caleb Dillon-Harmon
Leah Luczynski
David Nevin, Co-Warden
Christopher Plankey, Clerk
Al Symonds, Asst. Treasurer
Christine Furcinite-Reynolds
William Morey
Anne Williams

Our Staff

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector
ninapooley@revnina.org

Joy Mullen, Director of Music
jmullen@ststephenspittsfield.org

Sarah Morrison, Parish Administrator
smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org

Dan Moon,
Director of St Stephen's Table
dmoon@pittsfield.net

Bert Boos, Office Assistant
bboos@ststephensfield.org

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.