First Sunday of Advent
Saturday November 28, 5p.m. Sunday November 29, 2026, 10a.m.

Voluntary	"My Lord, what a morning"	Richard Billingham
	"The hills are bare at Bethlehem"	Emma Lou Diemer
Hymn 57	"Lo, he comes with clouds descending"	*Helmsley*

Welcome

The Opening Acclamation *(page1 in the booklet)*

Collect
Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

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

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalm 80 : 1-7, 16-18 *(Please read responsively)* *Qui regis Israel*

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Gospel Mark 13: 24-37
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

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; Heather; Caleb; Angelo; Linda; Sharon; Julie; Penny; Jay; Will; Tammy; Leona; Pat; Susan; Jane; the family of Patricia Carlson, the family of Dr. Michael Feiler; a just peace for Ukraine; those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan.

Those who have Died : Patricia Carlson (Mother of Sara Garinther), Dr. Michael Feiler (Brother of Edie Mingalone)

Confession *(page 4 in the booklet)*

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

Offertory Anthem "People, look East *"Besancon carol"*/Malcolm Archer

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make you house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Guest is on the way.

Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way.

Stars keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Star is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Eleanor Farjeon

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 5 in booklet)*

Sanctus *(Sung by all)* *(page 6 in the booklet)*

The Fraction *(Sung by all)"* *(page 8 in the booklet)*

Communion Anthem "Never weather-beaten sail" Charles Wood

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,
never tired pilgrim limbs affected slumber more,
Than my weary spirit now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest!

Ever blooming are the joys of heaven's high Paradise,
Old age deafs not there our ears nor vapor dims our eyes:
Glory there the sun outshines; whose beams the Blessed only see:
O come quickly, come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my soul to Thee!

Thomas Campion

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

Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 66 "Come, thou long expected Jesus" *Stuttgart*

Voluntary *Fughetta* on "People look East" Richard Shephard

†††

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

A HUGE THANK YOU! - Your generosity is unmatched, and the Stewardship team would like to sincerely thank you for your many gifts of comfort care items for our neighbors at The First; for the warm winter clothing for our friends at The Cathedral of the Beloved, and for your special donations for St. Stephen's Table. Each one of these gifts will make the day a little easier for the person who receives them. And, if you have not yet returned your pledge card, there is still time! For budget planning purposes, it's helpful to have them by mid-December. Thank you for prayerfully considering your gift to support St. Stephen's.

HYMNAL BOOKMARKS - In each pew there are bookmarks to save your spot in the Hymnals. To have enough bookmarks for all, please do not take them home with you. If you don't have a bookmark near you, please ask your neighbor to share

LABYRINTH-After Service December 6th from 11:15 to 12:30.

NO BOOK BOOK GROUP – The No Book Book Club will be meeting after service in the Guild Room.

THANK YOU FROM SARAH-Thank you for the luncheon, gifts, kind words, limericks and tiara. My husband is wondering how I manage to sleep while wearing it. -Sarah Morrison

KNIT AND SIP- Our prayer shawl ministry will be meeting Tuesday 12/1 from 5 to 6:30pm

SUNDAY FUNDAY –December 13, Children in Kindergarten through 4th grade gather before the 10:00 a.m. Service in the Sears Room.

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 – Chris Plankey Cardboard-Breakdown – Dot Lambert

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 9 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Worship: Compline: Wed. December 2, 6:30 p.m. Zoom,
Sunday December 6, 2026 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.	Dr. Nina R. Pooley
LECTOR 5p.m.	Susan LeBourdais
LAY MINISTER 5p.m	.Susan LeBourdais
LECTORS 10a.m	Angie Moon, Jim Cawse
LAY MINISTERS 10a.m.	Paula Morey, Mary Teti
ALTAR GUILD	Joan Evans, Sandy Soule
GREETERS	Diane Forsyth, Paula Morey
VESTRY GREETER	Chris Perry
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; Tammy: Leona; Susan; Jane; the family of Patricia Carlson, the family of Dr. Michael Feiler; 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 Unitrd States

Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:
Grace Church, Great Barrington;
Human to Human
Pittsfield Council of Churches

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:
Sunday: Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hul
Monday: Diocese of Colorado (The Episcopal Church)
Tuesday Diocese of Congo Brazzaville(Province de L'Eglise Anglicane DuCongo)
Wednesday: Diocese of Connecticut (The Episcopal Church)
Thursday: Diocese of Connor (Ireland)
Friday: Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross (Ireland)
Saturday: Diocese of Costa Rica (IgIesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America)

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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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Bert Boos, Office Assistant
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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.