

October 24, 2025

Greetings!

Today is the birthday of **poet Denise Levertov** (1923–1997), who was born in England but lived much of her life in the United States. A convert to Christianity later in life, Levertov wrote of God's presence not as an abstract idea but as a living pulse within the world's beauty and ache. Her poems explore faith and doubt, reverence and resistance -- finding strength and resilience in the routines and encounters of daily life. During times of civic and moral upheaval, **she gave voice to conscience and compassion, insisting that the spiritual life must engage the world's suffering.** In her poem, "Flickering Mind," she speaks with longing to God:



*You are the stream, the fish, the light,
the pulsing shadow,
you the unchanging presence, in whom all
moves and changes.
How can I focus my flickering, perceive
at the fountain's heart
the sapphire I know is there?*

Read the **full poem here**.



Stewardship Season Begins this Sunday!

On Sunday, October 26, St. Stephen's will launch our annual stewardship drive, which culminates on Ingathering Sunday, November 23. Our theme is "**Draw the Circle Wide: Growing in Faith**," a reflection of our parish's mission to love our neighbor, ourselves, and our children, and the desire to deepen our own spiritual lives as

grounding for our witness of justice, mercy, and generosity. More information to come next week!

Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#400 All Creatures of Our God and King

S278 Gloria

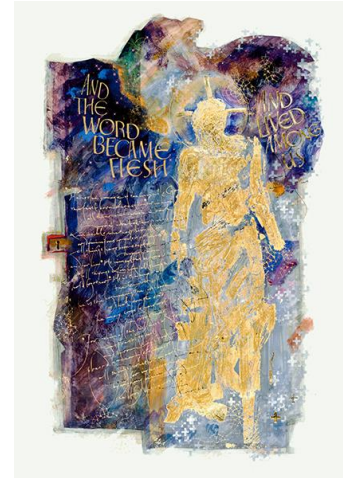
Draw the Circle Wide

S128 Holy, Holy

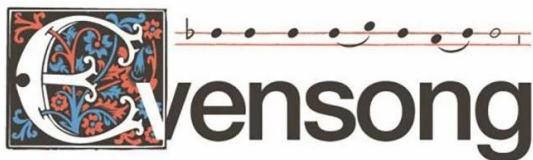
This Sunday: Walking in Faith**Explore Episcopal Identity with Your Community**

October 26, 11:30 am: Episcopal spirituality and values

Deepening our faith is a lifelong journey of study, practice, and reflection with others. This fall, we will gather for **three Sunday forums** to explore our faith, spirituality, and values and **prepare for confirmation, reception and reaffirmation of baptismal vows** on the Feast of St. Stephen (transferred to December 28, when Bishop Phil will make his official visitation to our parish). See the materials from the October 12 forum, "What is faith?" here.



October 26: Episcopal spirituality and values
November 16: Sacramental living



Choral Evensong in the Chapel
Sunday, November 16, 5:00 pm

In the middle of the 16th century, as he was creating our first Book of Common Prayer,

Archbishop Thomas Cranmer came up with an evening service that merged the monastic liturgies of Vespers and Compline. Cranmer called it Evening Prayer. Because the service was usually sung all the way through, it came to be called Evensong. On November 16 at 5 pm, we will **enjoy an Evensong very close to what Cranmer originally intended** — with some allowances for modern language and taste. It is a short service that helps us recall God's love, collect and offer up thanks for the blessings of the day, and pray for a good night and safety for ourselves and the world.

Come join your community as we sing and chant our way to this simple-yet-rich way of honoring the One who gifts us our breath every day.

As the Salmon Run, by Elizabeth Clark-Stern

Friday, November 14, 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall

Suggested donation: \$20

Elizabeth Clark-Stern will be staging her new play at St. Stephen's with all the proceeds going to the church. *As the Salmon Run* takes place in the not-too-distant future. The natural and human environments are in a state of flux. The engineer who built the 15th dam on the Columbia River in Eastern Washington opens her home, the so-called "After House," to people displaced by the warming climate. She is sensitive to criticism that her dam hastened the extinction of species in the river, and wants to provide a stable dwelling for those unhoused in body and soul. Guests arrive whose mere presence challenges the climate refugees to build community, experience love,



and embrace hope in a world reeling from ecological, social, and political change.



Renewal of Ministry with the Welcoming of a New Rector
Wednesday, February 25, 6:30 pm

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 25, when Bishop Phil LaBelle will be present at St. Stephen's as we institute Rev. Jennifer as the next rector of the parish and renew the mutual ministry of all the people in our community. More information to come in the months ahead!

Coming Up at St. Stephen's

Sundays 10:00 am Holy Eucharist and Coffee Hour (Nave and Parish Hall)
Sundays 3:00 pm. Youth Group Food Program (Narthex)
Wednesdays 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study (Duchess Tavern)

October 26 11:30 am Sunday Forum: Episcopal Identity (Parish Hall)
November 14 7:00 pm Where the Salmon Run (Parish Hall)
November 16 11:30 am Sunday Forum: Sacramental Living (Parish Hall)
December 28 10:00 am Bishop Phil Labelle Visitation (Nave)
February 25 6:30 pm Renewal of Ministry with Welcoming of a New Rector (Nave)

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