

December 12, 2025 (Correction: Greening of Church on Dec. 22)



Advent Greetings!

The third Sunday of Advent is **Gaudete Sunday**, when our liturgical tone shifts from one of somber waiting to joyful anticipation -- not because the waiting is over, but because God is trustworthy. We are reminded that **joy is not a denial of the world's pain but a witness that God is at work within it.** The light grows: we light three candles in the Advent wreath, one rose-colored, marking the increasing illumination as Christ draws near.

Join your community at **11:30 for a Soup Lunch** in the Parish Hall! Many thanks to Jennifer Gary for organizing this wonderful gathering and to the cooks who are providing a variety of soups! **All are invited to bring a salad, bread, or crackers** to round out the meal.

Flooding Across Western Washington

Please hold in prayer the many people and parishes who are impacted by the **catastrophic flooding in Western Washington**. Bishop LaBelle is working with Episcopal Relief and Development to identify the needs of impacted communities in our diocese and begin to meet those needs. If you would like to **assist in that good work**, you can **contribute here**. Specify "flood relief" in the donation designation box.



Gracious God, we pray for all impacted by the recent flooding. Grant them encouragement, strength, and patience as they struggle with their many losses — material, emotional, and personal — and begin to create a new future for themselves and their community. Be a beacon of hope and confidence that there will be a better day. Surround them with your love and the compassion of others that they might be sustained in this time of difficulty. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#56 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#75 There's a voice in the wilderness

#643 My God, how wonderful thou art

#72 Hark, the glad sound!

Outreach at St. Stephen's

Blankets for Teen Feed: Please help Teen Feed support youth in our community beyond just meals but with blankets for the many teens who experience housing insecurity. Please **bring new or gently used blankets to church** for delivery to Teen Feed; contact **Beth Cogan** with questions.



Gift Cards for Solid Ground: Join the parish effort to help our neighbors at Magnusson Park celebrate the holidays by providing **Amazon and Target gift cards in \$25 denominations**. Students living at Solid Ground Magnusson attend Sandpoint Elementary, Eckstein Middle School and Roosevelt High Schools. **Please bring the gift cards to church;** Beth Cogan and Jack Irby will deliver them on December 15th and 22nd.



Contemplative Prayer in the Chapel Wednesday, December 17 at 5:30

As part of our Advent preparation for Christmas, come join a small group for a **30-minute service of Contemplative Prayer**. The centerpiece will be a 20-minute session of silent Centering Prayer, led by John Terauds. Centering Prayer is increasingly recognized and practiced across Church denominations as an effective means to learn to still our own inner voices so that we may better hear God's voice and know the Spirit's movement in and around us.



Christmas Greens and Flowers
Keep the tradition alive -- support



Greening of the Church
Come be part of the annual greening

the **Flower Fund** during Advent in memory of loved ones and/or in thanksgiving for the blessings of our lives.

To contribute, you can **fill out this online form** or **turn in this paper form** no later than **Sunday, December 21st**. You can **pay online here** and choose "Give to Flower Donations," or write a check to St. Stephen's with "Christmas Greens" in the memo line.

of the church for Christmas **on Monday, December 22 from 9 am to noon.**

Volunteers welcome! Several groups will be doing tasks and more hands are welcome. Bring gloves. Questions? Call Debby Kearnes at 206-612-3857.



Christmas Eve Services

4:30 pm Carol Sing

Welcome Christmas as we sing our favorite carols

5:00 pm Celebration of the Nativity and Holy Eucharist

Rejoice that Christ is born and share in Holy Communion

Sunday Forum: Community, Contemplation, and Action (CCA)

January 11, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

Weekly Contemplative Prayer and Community

Tuesdays, 10:00 am in the Parish Hall and 7:00 pm on Zoom



Join your community and Elizabeth Clark-Stern to **learn about a new weekly group** designed to **deepen our connection** to each other and to God, and **create a confidential space** for sharing our challenges, joys, and ideas about our calling. Inspired by the program innovated by Richard Rohr, this Forum will offer a sampling of the weekly practices of CCA, including some gentle Thai Chi and a 10 minute Centering Prayer. Beginning January 13, **the group will meet each Tuesday** at 10:00 in the Parish Hall and 7:00 pm on Zoom.



Renewal of Ministry with the Welcoming of a New Rector

Wednesday, February 25, 6:30 pm, in the Nave

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 25 -- **a very special evening of celebration and blessing!** Bishop Phil LaBelle will be present at St. Stephen's as we renew the mutual ministry of all the people in our community and institute Rev. Jennifer as the next rector of the parish. The bishop will also **bless our new preschool**, Laurelhurst Early Learning and give **thanks for the leadership and generosity of Cloud 9.**

Community Bulletin Board

Wednesday, January 14: Our own **Elizabeth Clark-Stern** will read from her **new novel**, *The House in the Ebony Tree* at Third Place Books in Lake Forest Park. Inspired by events in her own life, the story follows the life-long friendship of a Black girl and a white girl who meet in Mississippi in 1955. More details **here**.

As the Salmon Run: Watch a recording of Elizabeth Clark-Stern's new play **here**.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Greenlake is looking for **help in their nursery** on Sunday mornings. Learn more about the job **here**.

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 (Parish Hall)

December 14 11:30 *Gaudete* Sunday Soup Lunch (Parish Hall)

December 17 5:30 Contemplative Prayer (Chapel)

December 24 4:30 pm Carol Sing (Nave)

December 24 5:00 pm Feast of the Nativity -- Holy Eucharist (Nave)

December 28 10:00 am Bishop Phil Labelle Visitation (Nave)

January 11 10:00 am Forum on Community, Contemplation, and Action (Parish Hall)

January 13 10:00 am Community, Contemplation and Action (Parish Hall)

January 13 7:00 pm Community, Contemplation and Action (Zoom link to come)

February 25 6:30 pm Renewal of Ministry with Welcoming of a New Rector (Nave)

The Rev. Jennifer King Daugherty, Rector

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