

December 5, 2025

---



## Advent Blessings!

As is our custom at St. Stephen's, we have **changed the Sunday liturgy to mark a new church season** -- we are using Eucharistic Prayer A from the Book of Common Prayer, a spare, traditional form that invites us to stillness and listening.

You may have noticed that the "mass settings" (the sung prayers of the Eucharist) have changed as well -- they are **original compositions by our Minister of Music John Terauds!**

John explains, *"I was gratified by some compliments I received last Sunday for the new music we are using in worship during the Advent season. It has felt like a special gift to me to be able to write new music for the St Stephen's community. As I have mentioned before, I didn't think I'd work as a church musician again after my shift to pastoral ministry, so the swell of inspiration I have felt in recent months to compose music for worship has been a happy surprise for me. I'm blaming you, sweet folk of St Stephen's, for the inspiration and gratification I feel. My prayer for all of us is that the inspiration and gratification flow the other way, also, as we become a community that proclaims that Good News into anxious times in praise and prayer. **May all the music we sing together bless us and our neighbors this Advent!**"*



## Walking in Faith: Sacramental Living December 7, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

At our final forum on Exploring Episcopal Identity, we will consider **sacramental living** -- how our practice of noticing the holy in daily life makes all we do sacred. We will reflect on the sacramental rites of the church in **preparation for confirmation, reception and reaffirmation of baptismal vows** on the Feast of St. Stephen (transferred to December 28, when Bishop Phil will visit our parish). See the materials from previous forums on **Faith and Episcopal Spirituality and Ethics [here](#)**.

---

## Sunday Hymns Preview

*Click on the title to listen*

#56 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#76 On Jordan's Bank

#67 Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People

#59 Hark, a Thrilling Voice!

## Outreach at St. Stephen's

Thank you to all who contributed to the **Thanksgiving Feast** at Sand Point Housing! It was a great event for 85 people.



This Sunday is the last day to **bring new men's athletic socks to church to support Operation Nightwatch**. Socks are critical to the comfort and well-being of homeless people and can open the door to hopefulness.



Please help **Teen Feed** support youth in our community beyond just meals but with **blankets**. The temperature will continue to drop as the dark weeks continue and many of the youth served by Teen Feed are experiencing housing insecurity.

Please **bring new or gently used blankets to church** for delivery to Teen Feed, and contact [nfo@teenfeed.org](mailto:nfo@teenfeed.org) if you have any questions about the Teen Feed program.

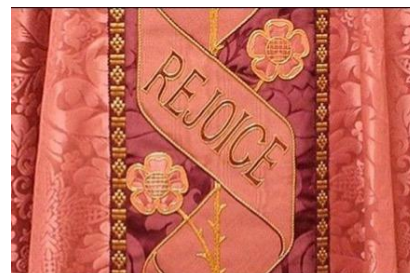
## Contemplative Prayer in the Chapel Wednesdays, December 10 and 17 at 5:30

As part of our Advent preparation for Christmas, come join a small group on three Wednesdays 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.



## Gaudete Sunday -- Soup Lunch December 14 at 11:30 in the Parish Hall

On the third Sunday of Advent, we anticipate the birth of Jesus with Joy. Jennifer Gary is organizing a **Soup Lunch** for the parish after church. Please contact her **here** if you'd like to contribute.





### Christmas Greens and Flowers

Keep the tradition alive -- support 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.



### Greening of the Church

Come be part of the annual greening of the church for Christmas **after coffee hour on Sunday, December 21!** It should take about an hour.

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 the birth of Christ as we sing our favorite Christmas carols

#### 5:00 pm Celebration of the Nativity and Holy Eucharist

Rejoice that Christ is born and share in Holy Communion

### As the Salmon Run, by Elizabeth Clark-Stern

Watch the recording of the play!

There was great turn-out in November for Elizabeth Clark-Stern's staging of her new play at St. Stephen's. If

you'd like to [watch a video recording](#) of "As the Salmon Run," [click here](#).



---

## December 28: Feast of St. Stephen with Bishop's Visitation

On Sunday, December 28, we welcome **Bishop Phil LaBelle** for his official visitation, which happens once every three years. We will honor our **patron saint's** feast day (December 26) and Bishop Phil will offer the **sacraments** of confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation of faith. Learn more at this Sunday's forum, when we reflect on **Sacramental Living!**

---

## 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

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 7 11:30 Forum on Sacramental Living (Parish Hall)  
December 10 5:30 Contemplative Prayer (Chapel)  
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)

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

---

The Rev. Jennifer King Daugherty, Rector  
(206) 331-2364  
**[RevJennifer@ststephens-seattle.org](mailto:RevJennifer@ststephens-seattle.org)**

---

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church | 4805 NE 45th Street | Seattle, WA 98105 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!