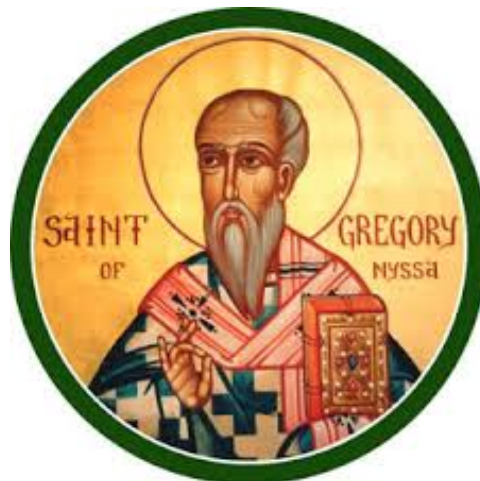


January 9, 2026

Blessings of the Epiphany of Christ!

Tomorrow is the Feast Day of **St. Gregory of Nyssa**, a 4th century theologian and mystic for whom the spiritual life was not a matter of having God figured out, but of being drawn ever deeper into the mystery of the infinite One. Because God cannot be contained, **the life of faith is an endless journey deeper into divine love**. He called this *epektasis* — the soul stretching toward God not out of fear, but out of desire. Salvation, in his imagination, is not a finish line but participation in God's own life, where the image of God in us is gradually restored.



This means **nothing in us is beyond God's reach**. The God who comes close in Christ keeps inviting, healing, and drawing us onward. Our task is simply to follow with openness and wonder. As Gregory wrote,

“Concepts create idols; only wonder comprehends anything.”

Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#470 There a Wideness in God's Mercy.

#121 Christ, When for us You Were Baptized

#594 God of Grace and God of Glory



This Sunday Forum: Still Waters: Community, Contemplation, and Action

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 Still Waters, 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 or 7:00 pm on Zoom. **Contact Elizabeth Clark Stern here** to receive the Zoom link.

January 18, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

Join **John Plimpton, Treasurer, and Rev. Jennifer to discuss the 2026 budget** that will be reviewed for final approval by the Vestry at their January 26 meeting.

We'll learn about the results of the stewardship campaign and how the church can invest in its ministries and service to the community in the coming year.



Rescheduled: January 25 Bishop LaBelle Visitation 10:00 am

On Sunday, January 25, we will welcome **Bishop Phil LaBelle for his visitation** and for the **sacraments** of confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation of faith.

A festive brunch is planned for after church; **Jennifer Gary is looking for helpers to bring food**. Please contact her at jennifer_gary@comcast.net.

Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, February 1, 11:30 am

We'll gather after church to celebrate the last year, to elect new vestry members and delegates to convention, and to give thanks for the lay leadership and ministries of our parish. Please come and take your part in this important event in the life of our parish!



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**.

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)

January 11 10:00 am Forum on Still Waters: Community, Contemplation, and Action (Parish Hall)
January 13 10:00 am Still Waters: Community, Contemplation and Action (Parish Hall)
January 13 7:00 pm Still Waters: Community, Contemplation and Action (contact [Elizabeth Clark-Stern](#) for Zoom link)
January 18 11:30 am Review St. Stephen's 2026 Annual Budget (Parish Hall)
January 25 10:00 am Bishop Phil Labelle Visitation (Nave)
February 1 11:30 am Annual Parish Meeting (Parish Hall)
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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[**RevJennifer@ststephens-seattle.org**](mailto:RevJennifer@ststephens-seattle.org)

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