Saint Stephen's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

August 21, 2026

Blessings on these last weeks of summer!



The Summer Day, by Mary Oliver

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#525, The Church's One Foundation
#524 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord
#341 For the Bread Which You Have Broken
#518 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Register Now for the Women's Retreat!



October 9-11, 2026 at Sacred Waters Center for Restoration and Retreat

Learn about the Women's Retreat on our webpage and register here. The retreat is set for October 9-11, 2026 at The Sacred Waters Center (formally St. Andrew's House) on Hood Canal. The retreat begins Friday at 5 pm and concludes Sunday at noon. The cost is $300 per person, with scholarships available. Contact **Kathy Graunke** for more information.

This Sunday: Help Make Lunches for Teen Feed



August 23, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall Kitchen

Volunteers will prepare 25 PB&J sandwiches for Teen Feed lunches every Sunday or Monday through August. Many thanks to Melissa, Joan, Carolyn, and Dennis for their help these past few weeks! Your support will benefit teens experiencing homelessness in the U District. Please contact **Beth Cogan** for supplies, and **Kathy Graunke** or **Dennis Roarke** for questions.

Sunset Serenade [Pop Cappella in a beer and wine garden]

August 30, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm at The Botanicale



Our own Isaiah Ragland will be performing with Outpour, presenting 18 pop-a cappella arrangements in a beer garden at a local micro tasting room. **Join Rev. Jennifer and other members of our community** in supporting Isaiah and the performance. **Click here** for a sample of their sound!

What: Sunset Serenade [Pop Cappella in a beer and wine garden]
When: Sunday August 30th 4-6pm
Where: The Botanicale: 465 N 36th St, Ste C, Seattle, WA 98103
Tickets: **Square Ticket Link $20**

Email Rev. Jennifer if you plan to attend so we can get a table together. We'll see you there!



Homecoming Sunday: Welcome the Choir's Return and Stay for a Festive Brunch

September 13, 10:00 am in the Nave & Parish Hall

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 13, where we'll kick off fall with a festive brunch! The congregation will also gather in the pews while choir returns to the alter platform after their summer hiatus. All parishioners are invited to contribute to the brunch!

Sunday Forum: Contemplative Spirituality 101

September 20, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall



Contemplative Spirituality is gaining popularity among people who identify with mainline Christianity. **John Terauds will guide us in a primer about what Contemplative Spirituality is and how it fits into how we see and understand God, Scripture, liturgy, worship and our personal faith anchors.**

How to Volunteer at Laurelhurst Early Learning

Laurelhurst Early Learning
at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

LEL is looking for volunteers to help in the preschool! Volunteers must complete a number of trainings and tests in order to join teachers in the classroom. If you're interested in completing these requirements, take a look at the **volunteer checklist.** You can also use this **Volunteer Resource** document for steps on how to make a MERIT account, applying for a STARS ID, and suggestions on where to get your certifications and trainings. Contact **Claudia**, **Lisa Henderson**, or **Maddie Rivera** with any questions.

Community Bulletin Board

Laurelhurst Early Learning is always looking for new toys, activities and supplies. If you would like to purchase items that the school needs, please check out their **Amazon Wishlist**. Used items are also welcome. Thank you for your continued support!

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)
Tuesdays 11:00 am Still Waters: Community, Contemplation, and Action (Parish Hall)
Wednesdays 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study (Duchess Tavern)
Wednesdays 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (Vestry Room)

August 30 4:00 pm-6:00 pm Sunset Serenade (The Botanicale)
September 13 10:00 am: Homecoming Sunday with Festive Brunch (Nave, Parish Hall)
September 20, 11:30 am: Sunday Forum: Contemplative Spirituality 101 (Parish Hall)
October 9-11: 2026 Women's Retreat (Sacred Waters Center for Restoration and Retreat)

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