Saint Stephen's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

August 28, 2026

Greetings!



This Sunday, we'll hear from the Gospel of Matthew as Jesus tells his disciples, "**If any want to become my followers, let them take up their cross and follow me . . .** For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?" These words ask us to reflect on how we understand the cross and what we truly value.

Annibale Carracci's *Domine, Quo Vadis? (1601)* depicts an early Christian legend about St. Peter. While fleeing Rome to escape persecution, he meets a vision of Jesus on the road and asks him, "Domine, quo vadis?" ("Lord, where are you going?"). When Jesus replies that he is returning to Rome to be crucified again, **Peter finds again the peace and courage he needs** and turns back to face what awaits him.

Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#441 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

#675, Take Up Your Cross

#324 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

#444 Blessed Be the God of Israel



Register Now for the Women's Retreat!

Encountering the Divine Feminine

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

Learn about the Women's Retreat on our webpage and register here. Rev. Jennifer and Victoria Scarlett, a scholar and teacher about sacred art, will e**xplore the divine feminine through image and story**. The retreat begins Friday at 5 pm and concludes Sunday at noon. The cost is $300 per person, with scholarships available. Learn more about Victoria Scarlett and her talks **here**. Contact **Kathy Graunke** for more information.

This Sunday: Help Make Lunches for Teen Feed

August 30, 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

This Sunday, 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.**

Sunday Forum: Mutual Ministry Goals

September 27, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

On Sunday, September 27 we'll gather after church for **a conversation led by Senior Warden Chris Dorling** on the mutual ministry goals of the parish and where the spirit is

leading St. Stephen's.





Blessing of Animals on the Feast of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi

October 4, 11:30 am on the Front Lawn

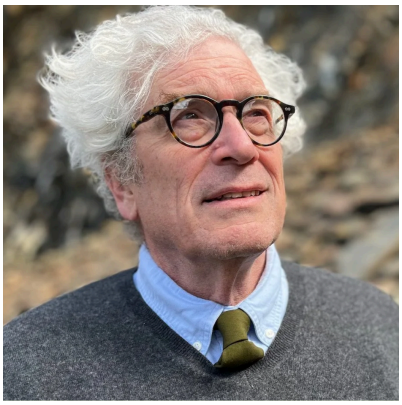
After the service on October 4, we will **gather outside on the parish lawn** on the feast of St. Francis and St. Clare to give thanks for creation and our animal companions. We will **welcome our neighbors and bless all animals** who attend. Invite your friends and bring your beloved pet to this joyful event! If your pet is too shy, feel free to bring a photograph and we will bless them in absentia.

Liturgical Minister Training

October 11, 11:30 am in the Nave

This training prepares volunteers to assist with worship services through theological reflection, role instructions, and practical practice. **Liturgical ministers include anyone who serves on the altar guild, acolytes, eucharistic ministers, lectors, and intercessors.**





Letter from the Palestinian Prison
David Wild, Executive Producer

October 25, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

After church on October 25, we'll welcome Producer David Wild, where **he'll share his 12 minute film *Letter from The Palestinian Prison***, shot in the West Bank in 2025. After the screening, there will be an opportunity to ask questions about the film and learn more about supporting peace in the Land of the Holy One. Learn more about David **here.**

How to Volunteer at Laurelhurst Early Learning

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)
September 27, 11:30 am Sunday Forum: Mutual Ministry Goals (Parish Hall)
October 4, 11:30 am Blessing of Animals on the Feast of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi (Front Lawn)
October 11, 11:30 am Liturgical Minister Training (Nave)
October 25, 11:30 am *Letter from the Palestinian Prison* by David Wild, Executive Producer (Pariah Hall)
October 9-11: 2026 Women's Retreat (Sacred Waters Center for Restoration and Retreat)

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