

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Longview, WA

We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation **want to respectfully acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People**, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Cowlitz and Chinook People. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths.



St. Stephen's is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love and service to welcome all people just as God created you. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. **We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we!**



Connect with St. Stephen's!

Please leave your name and email/phone number and Fr. Nic will connect with you this week with an invitation to enjoy a cup of coffee on us!

Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

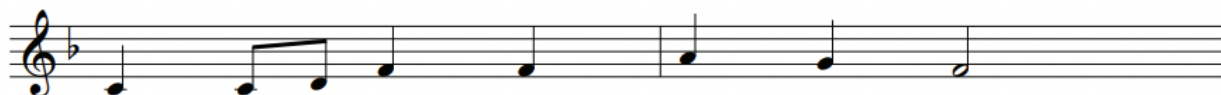
Your Email: _____



As We Gather at Your Table



1. As we gath - er at your ta - ble,
 2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness
 3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon



As we lis - ten to your word,
 In the sac - ra - ment of life;
 Oth - er guests to share that feast



Help us know, O God, your pres - ence;
 Send us forth to love and serve you,
 Where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come



Let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour - ish us with
 Bring - ing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your
 Those who had been last and least. There no more will



sa - cred sto - ry Till we claim it as our own;
 great com - pas - sion To for - give as you for - gave;
 en - vy blind us, Nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



Teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet
 May we still be - hold your im - age
 As we join with saints and an - gels



How to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 In the world you died to save.
 To re - peat the sound - ing joy.

The Liturgy of the Word

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise & Children's Procession

Gretchen is on vacation and Sunday School is on summer hiatus until August 16th.

Worship Leaders July 19, 2026

Presider The Rev. Michael Wright

Musician Riki Davis

Acolyte

Altar Guild Becky Edmiston, Brittany Forbes

Reader Mary Lyons, Mary Hoover

Greeter Cheryl Karr

Chalice Bearer John Edmiston, Bev Finaly

Usher Mike Claxton

Verger John Edmiston

Vestry Presence Mike Claxton, Greg Moore

Coffee Hour



Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es! All our
 Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -



hearts are filled with glad - ness! Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your
 bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa



prais - es! All our hearts are filled with glad - ness!
 ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. **Fine**



Christ the Lord to us said: "I am wine, I am bread, I am
 Je - sus says to us still: "All who do the Lord's will, all who



wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger!"
 do the Lord's will are my sis - ters and my bro - thers." *D.C.*

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture.

A Reading from **Genesis 28:10-19a**

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23

- 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; ***
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places ***
and are acquainted with all my ways.

- 3** Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4** You press upon me behind and before *
And lay your hand upon me.
- 5** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6** Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?
- 7** If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8** If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9** Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10** If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11** Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 22** Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.
- 23** Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

A Reading from **Romans 8:12-25**

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Processional (before reading) & Recessional (after reading)

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.



The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to **Matthew**

13:24-30,36-43

Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The Gospel of our Savior. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily

The Rev. Michael Wright

Nicene Creed *You are invited to stand in body or spirit*

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Celebrant: Almighty God, to know you is joy, to follow your will is true life; hear now our prayers and respond that we might know and follow you more as we pray, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Reader: Inspire your church to be the wellspring of hope for all people; refine and perfect it so that we may be known only for our love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Come and dwell in the hearts of our leaders and those with authority in our lives; lead them to desire justice and peace that we might fully live into our liberty and be a beacon of hope to the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Embolden us to be agents of your love in our local community, that it might be a place of promise and possibility where all people might grow and thrive in the light of your grace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enliven our minds that we might creatively, effectively and sustainably respond to the crises we face, that we might build a way of life that more fully reflects the kingdom of God. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mend what is broken, heal what is sick, comfort what is disturbed in our lives and in the lives of all who suffer, that we might know peace and vitality. Especially we pray for Ron & Harriet Byrnes, D. Rowley, Marge Ofstun, Holly Spieth, Karen Miller, and those you now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Welcome the dying into your love; allow us growth into your kingdom even in death, so that we and all whom we love might one day rise again in your eternal reign. Especially we pray for those you now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: All this we ask through Christ, our example, our advocate, and our Lord who stands over all creation and who abides with you and the Holy Spirit now and always. **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

Please kneel in body or spirit

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

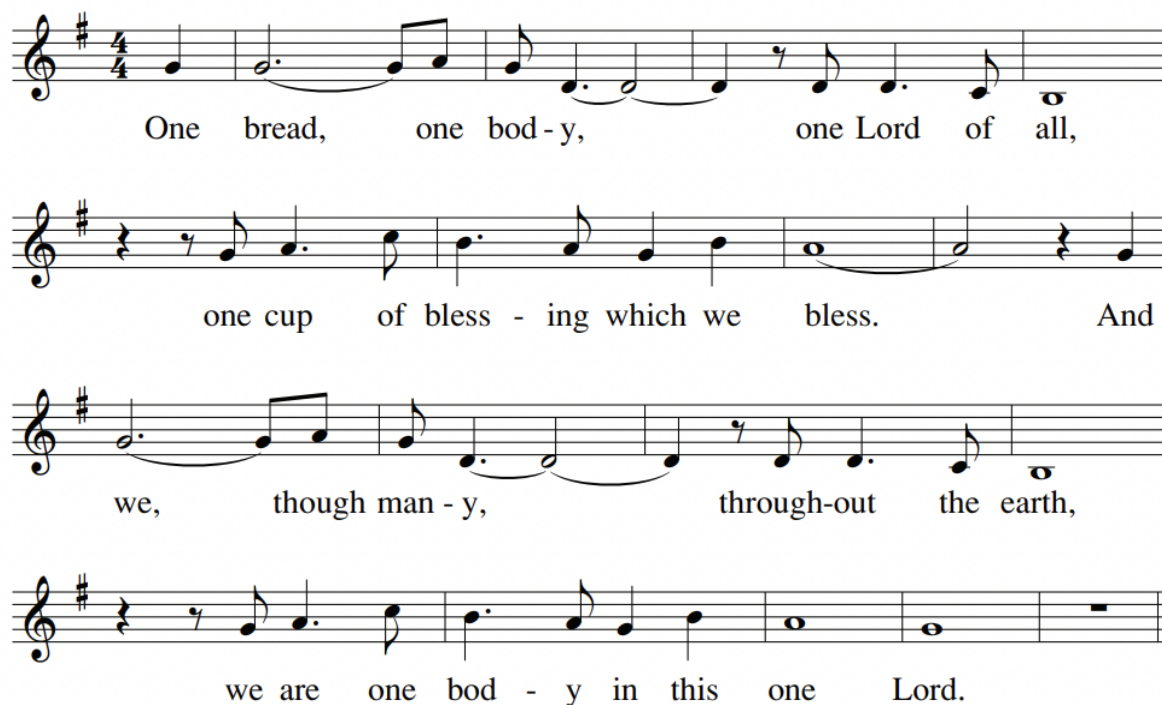
Virtual Offering Plate



Give to the virtual offering plate by scanning or online @ sslv.org

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod - y, one Lord of all,
one cup of bless - ing which we bless. And
we, though man - y, through-out the earth,
we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

Verses



1. Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2. Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3. Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,
wom - an or man no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:16; 17, 12:4, Galatians 3:28; the *Didache* 9; John Foley, SJ, b.1939

Tune: John Foley, SJ, b.1939

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Eucharistic Prayer B

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,___

hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na

in the high - est.____ *Bless - ed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord.____ Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na,

Ho - san - na in the high - est, the high - est.____

*optional text 
Bless - ed is the one

Music: Jonathan Dimmock (b. 1957), from *Missa Appalachia*. Copyright © 1996 Jonathan Dimmock.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Stephen and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: Whoever comes to me

Wonder Love and Praise, #878

The musical score is for a hymn in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a quarter rest, then the melody for 'Who-ev - er comes to me shall not hun - ger and'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand. The second system continues the melody with 'who-ev - er be - lieves in me shall nev - er thirst.' and concludes with a final chord in the piano part.

Music: Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Fraction Anthems, Canticles, and Chants*. Copyright © 1997 Carl Haywood.

The Invitation to the Table

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*You are invited to come forward and receive Eucharist at this time. We will be sharing wine from a common chalice, so if you would prefer intinction please leave the bread in your hands and the chalice bearer will intinct for you. Gluten free communion is available and a non-alcoholic option in place of the wine is also available upon request. You may also place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. **Know that ALL who God calls to the table are welcome here this day.***

Prayer for Eucharistic Visitor

We offer a prayer from our community to those who are unable to join us as we send the sacrament to them carried by a minister of the church

As you go to the sick and homebound, take with you not only the sacrament that we have celebrated, but also the Word of God which we have heard, as well as the affection of this parish community. Ask for the prayers of those whom you visit in return. Go, now, with God's peace and blessing. AMEN.

Postcommunion Prayer (*please stand in body or spirit*)

**Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth a people,
forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

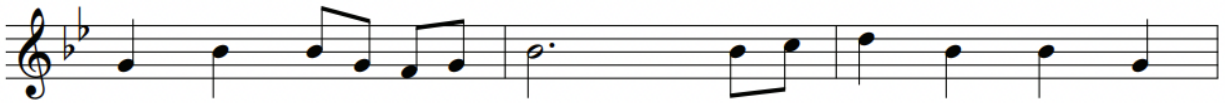
Closing Hymn

Following the closing hymn you are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour! If you are new today, please take a welcome packet and coffee mug (found at the front door)!

The Reign of God



1. The reign of God, like farm - er's field, Bears
 2. The reign of God can - not be found In
 3. The reign of God is like a pearl On
 4. Though hid - den now, the reign of God May,
 5. Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God From
 6. The reign of God is come in Christ; The



weeds a - long with wheat; The good and bad are
 far - off, for - eign land Till in fa - mil - iar
 bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
 yet un - no - ticed, grow; From deep with - in it
 ti - ny seed will spread, Till birds of ev - 'ry
 reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined Till har - vest is com - plete.
 face and place We find it close at hand.
 pre - cious pearl, Go out and buy that field.
 ris - es up, Like yeast in swell - ing dough.
 feath - er come To nest, and there be fed.
 kin - dling hearts, The reign of God is here!

Text: Matthew 13:24-33, 44-49, Mark 4:26-34; Delores Dufner, OSB, b.1939, © 1995, 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: McKEE, CM; African American; adapt. by Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

Community Invitations:

SquirrelFest Tabling and Volunteers Needed!

- Join us at SquirrelFest on ***Saturday August 22!***
- Volunteers needed to help man our table from 9am-5pm! Multiple shifts available!
- Come and help us spread the Good News of St. Stephen's in our Community!
- **See Katherine Beauregard for details!**





Columbia River Chamber Music Festival

THROUGH THE AGES AUG 13th 7pm <i>Gluck, Haydn, Serly and Fartenc</i>	FROM THE CITY OF LIGHT AUG 14th 7pm <i>Hotteterre, Sencan, Ravel and more</i>	MAJESTIC BAROQUE AUG 15th 7pm <i>Handel, Bach, Vivaldi and more</i>	THE BARD AND THE BUFFOON AUG 16th 2pm <i>Mendelssohn, Elgar, Stravinsky and more</i>
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Artists: Maria Sampen, Grant Mack, Clark Potter, Don Kirkpatrick, Austin Bennett, Sarah Viens, Rob Davis, Franziska Brech, Steve Meharg, Selina Greso, Tom Walworth and CRCM Chamber Orchestra

www.columbiarivermusic.org

Concerts at St Stephens Episcopal Church