

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 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: _____



Love divine, all loves excelling

The Hymnal 1982, #657



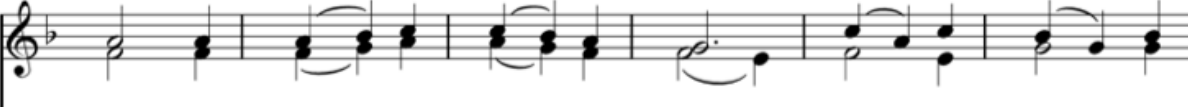
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

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 26, 2026

Presider	The Rev. Nic Mather
Preacher	Liz Kearny
Musician	Riki Davis
Acolyte	
Altar Guild	Becky Edmiston, Lisa Harrington
Reader	Alison Askeland, Katherine Beauregard
Greeter	Karen Miller
Chalice Bearer	Dee Taylor, Garry Beauregard
Usher	Greg Moore
Vergar	Garry Beauregard
Vestry Presence	Katherine Beauregard, Lisa Harrington
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.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture.

A Reading from **Genesis 29:15-28**

Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.**
 - 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.**
 - 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.**
 - 4 Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.**
 - 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,**
 - 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.**
 - 7 He is the LORD our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.**
 - 8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:**
 - 9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Isaac,**
 - 10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,**
 - 11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."**
- 45b Hallelujah!**

A Reading from **Romans 8:26-39**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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**

13:31-33,44-52

Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

Homily

The Rev. Liz Kearny

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: Holy God, be in the midst of us now as we pray for ourselves and the world saying Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the Church, the body of Christ, that you would be in our midst everywhere we are. Strengthen us, reorient us and send us to be your people to the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the health, welfare and legacy of this nation. We pray for the prosperity and needs of our brothers and sisters across our country and around the world. Embolden us to serve the common good and advocate for the needs of all people. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all creatures on earth, and for the earth itself. We pray for an end to pollution and the apathy that destroys the creation that you called Good. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, give us hearts that long for you and hands that serve others in your name. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, suffering, anxious, hopeless, imprisoned, persecuted or alone. We pray for those who are ill and for those who provide them care. 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.**

Be with the dying, comfort the grieving, and hold us in your heart, this day and always. Especially we pray for those you now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Lord, you have promised to be with us whenever we gather in your name, be with us now. Hear and respond to our prayer. Show us the path to be your people more perfectly. All this we ask in Jesus' name. **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.

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

Virtual Offering Plate



We Are Many Parts / Muchos Miembros Hay

Refrain



The musical notation for the Refrain is written on five staves in 4/4 time. The melody is in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes, with Spanish translations in italics. The first staff has a key signature change from G major to E minor (three sharps) for the first line of lyrics. The second staff has a triplet of eighth notes. The fifth staff ends with a fermata and the instruction 'Last time'.

We are man - y parts, we are all one bod - y,
Mu-chos miem-bros hay, en un so - lo cuer-po;

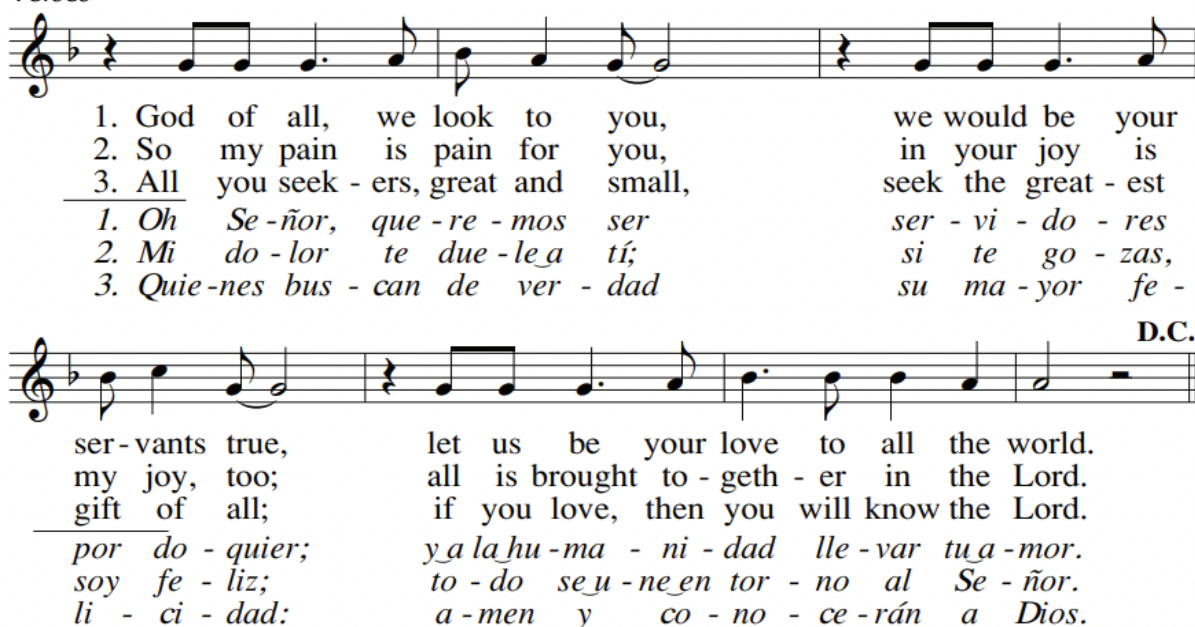
and the gifts we have we are giv-en to share.
nues-tros do - nes son pa - ra dar y ser - vir.

May the Spir-it of love make us one in - deed;
Que el Es - pí - ri - tu de Dios nos u - na en su a - mor;

one, the love that we share, one, our hope in de -
com-par-tien-do el do - lor, com-ba - tien-do el te -

spair, one, the cross that we bear.
mor, com-pla-cien - do al Se - ñor.

Verses



The musical notation for the Verses is written on two staves in 4/4 time. The melody is in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes, with Spanish translations in italics. The first staff has a key signature change from G major to E minor (three sharps) for the first line of lyrics. The second staff has a fermata and the instruction 'D.C.'.

1. God of all, we look to you, we would be your
 2. So my pain is pain for you, in your joy is
 3. All you seek - ers, great and small, seek the great - est

1. *Oh Se - ñor, que - re - mos ser ser - vi - do - res*
 2. *Mi do - lor te due - le a tí; si te go - zas,*
 3. *Quié - nes bus - can de ver - dad su ma - yor fe -*

ser - vants true, let us be your love to all the world.
 my joy, too; all is brought to - geth - er in the Lord.
 gift of all; if you love, then you will know the Lord.
por do - quier; y a la hu - ma - ni - dad lle - var tu a - mor.
soy fe - liz; to - do se u - ne en tor - no al Se - ñor.
li - ci - dad: a - men y co - no - ce - rán a Dios.

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 written for a voice and piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is in the voice part, and the piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The lyrics are: "Who-ev - er comes to me shall not hun - ger and who-ev - er be - lieves in me shall nev - er thirst."

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)!

Bring Forth the Kingdom

Verses



1. You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple:
2. You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple:
3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo - ple:
4. We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple:



Salt	for	the	King-dom	of	God!	Share	the	fla - vor	of
Light	for	the	Cit - y	of	God!	Shine	so	ho - ly	and
Bring	forth	the	King-dom	of	God!	Seeds	of	mer - cy	and
Bound	for	the	King-dom	of	God!	Love	our	jour - ney	and



life,	O	peo - ple:	Life	in	the	King-dom	of	God!
bright,	O	peo - ple:	Shine	for	the	King-dom	of	God!
seeds	of	jus - tice,	Grow	in	the	King-dom	of	God!
love	our	home - land:	Love	is	the	King-dom	of	God!

Refrain



Bring forth the King-dom of mer - cy, Bring forth the



King-dom of peace; Bring forth the King-dom of jus - tice,



Bring forth the Cit - y of God!

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
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Community Invitations:

SquirrelFest Tabling and Volunteers Needed!

- Join us at SquirrelFest on ***Saturday August 22!***
- Volunteers needed to help staff 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!**

Yesteryear Book Club has concluded.





Columbia River Chamber Music Festival

THROUGH THE AGES

AUG 13th | 7pm

*Gluck, Haydn, Serly
and Fauré*

FROM THE CITY OF LIGHT

AUG 14th | 7pm

*Hotteterre, Sancier,
Ravel and more*

MAJESTIC BAROQUE

AUG 15th | 7pm

*Handel, Bach,
Vivaldi and more*

THE BARD AND THE BUFFOON

AUG 16th | 2pm

*Mendelssohn, Elgar,
Stravinsky and more*

Artists: Maria Sampan, 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