

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 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: _____



Take up your cross, the Savior said

The Hymnal 1982, #675



1 Take up your cross, the Sa - vior said, if
 2 Take up your cross, let not its weight fill
 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and
 4 Take up your cross, then, in his strength, and
 5 Take up your cross, and fol - low Christ, nor

1 you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
 2 your weak spi - rit with a - larm; his strength shall bear your
 3 let your fool - ish heart be still; the Lord for you ac -
 4 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -
 5 think till death to lay it down; for on - ly those who

1 will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
 2 spi - rit up, and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
 3 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
 4 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.
 5 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt. Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859); harm. John Leon Hooker (b. 1944).

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

Children are invited to follow the procession of the cross from the Church to the Parish Hall for Sunday School. While the program is geared for children 10 & under, ALL children are welcome to attend. Parents are also welcome to attend. Children will return to the church in time for Eucharist (typically returning after the passing of the peace).

Worship Leaders August 30 2026

Presider The Rev. Michael Wright

Musician Riki Davis

Acolyte

Altar Guild Robin Swecker, Heather Niemi

Reader Alison Askeland, Katherine Beauregard

Greeter Cheryl Karr

Chalice Bearer Lisa Sudar, Lucy Claxton

Usher Mike Claxton

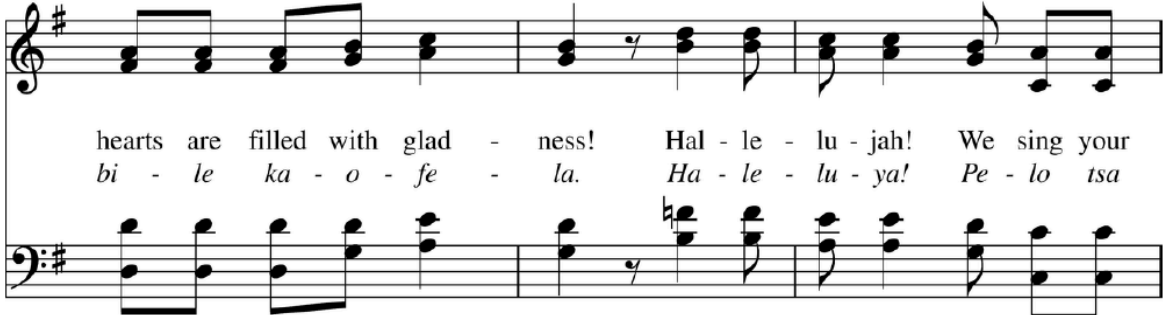
Verger Garry Beauregard

Vestry Presence Mike Claxton, Bill Reade

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.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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 Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

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

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

- 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.**
- 23 Israel came into Egypt, *
and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.**
- 24 The LORD made his people exceedingly fruitful; *
he made them stronger than their enemies;**
- 25 Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, *
and dealt unjustly with his servants.**
- 26 He sent Moses his servant, *
and Aaron whom he had chosen.**
- 45 Hallelujah!**

A Reading from **Romans 12:9-21**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 16:21-28**
Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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, you looked upon your people and heard their cries, hear us again and answer us as we pray, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Reader: Awaken your church that it might boldly proclaim Christ's good news and continue Christ's mission and ministry throughout the world, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide our nation and those in authority that ours might be a land, not just of promise, but of fulfillment, dignity, and peace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open our eyes to all the opportunities to be your voice and your hands in our local communities so that no needs go unmet. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant us strength, commitment, and perseverance to meet the challenges of our day and to build a sustainable society rooted in our vision of the kingdom. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing to all who suffer and mend what is broken or wounded in our lives and in the lives of those we love and care for. Especially we pray for Ron & Harriet Byrnes, D. Rowley, Marge Ofstun, Jesse Lucas, Shirley Sonnenberg, Lois Larson, Anna Rangel, Lucy Spencer, and those you now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Embrace the dead in your loving arms, grant peace to all who mourn or grieve, and fulfill your promise to us that we might rise again in your new age. Especially we pray for those you now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: We cannot know your full glory, and yet you have shown us again and again, inviting us into ever-deepening relationship as your people. Continue to lead us and to answer our prayer as may be best for us and always to your glory. Through Christ our Lord who with you and the Holy Spirit stands supreme throughout creation and beyond, 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.

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

Virtual Offering Plate



Fish Needs

St. Stephen's FISH program would like to hand out new toothbrushes and toothpaste at our next distribution. We would love the help of our parishioners. If you could please donate new toothbrushes and/or full sized tubes of toothpaste by September 14th. Thank you!

What wondrous love is this

The Hymnal 1982, #439

Unison



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll



caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

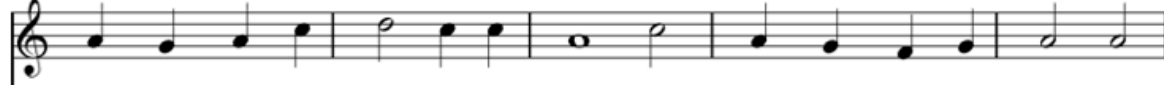


soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Harmony (the melody is in the tenor)



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll



Eucharistic Prayer B

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

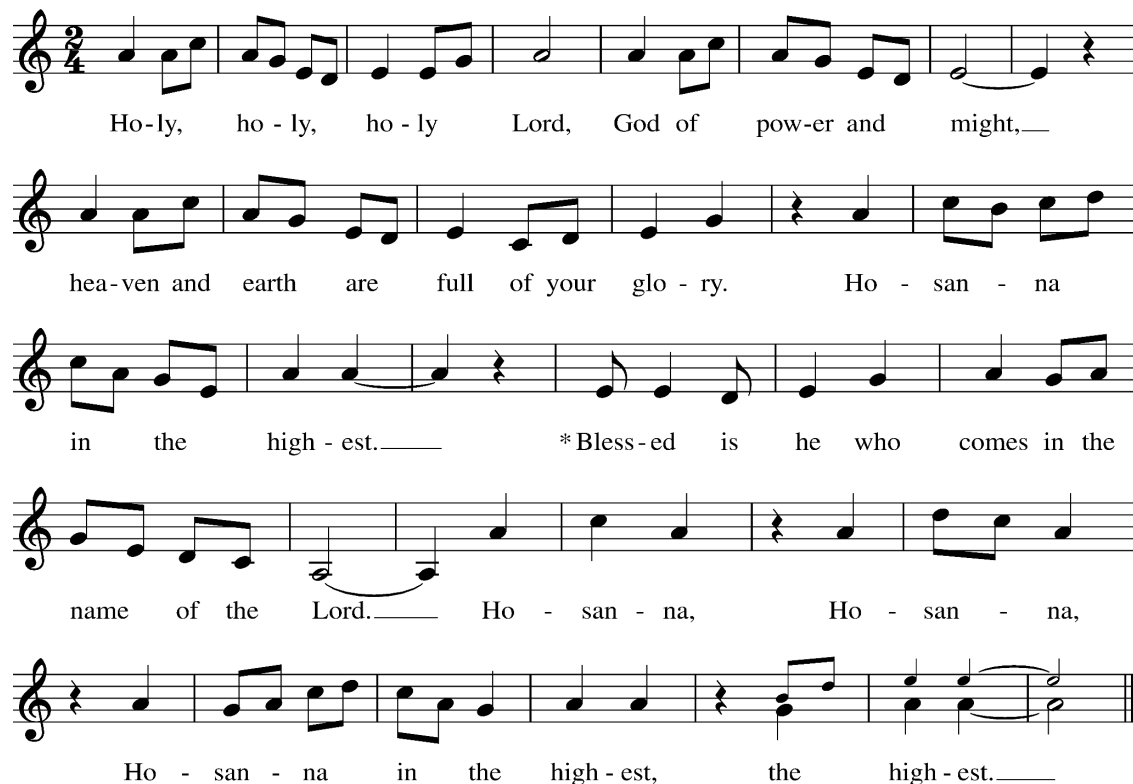
Lift up your hearts.

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 features a vocal melody and piano accompaniment. 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." The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence at the end of the second line.

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)!

God is Love, let heaven adore him

The Hymnal 1982, #379



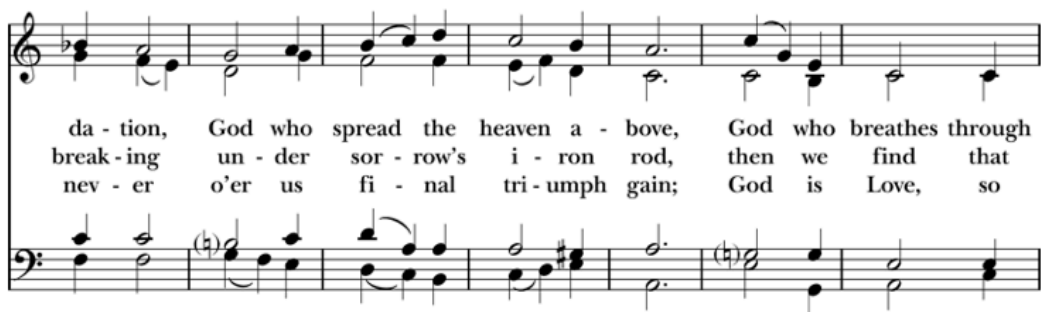
1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all



earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
one em - brace; with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness



and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -
ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall



da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so



all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Community Invitations:

The Feast of the Creation in Christ

Sunday September 6 @ 10:30am

Join us for a special worship service honoring the Feast of the Creation in Christ

Welcome Back Sunday

Sunday September 13 @ 10:30am

Join us for Welcome Back Sunday* on Sunday September 13!

*Welcome Back Sunday is a special Sunday where ALL are invited, whether first time attending or long-time member, to come back to church together to worship in celebration for the start of a new school year (complete with the Blessing of the Bags!), a new church program year (when we offer formation classes), and our Annual St. Stephen's Pie Bake-Off!

Welcome Back Sunday Pie Bake-Off!

Coffee Hour on September 13

Join us and contribute a pie for our annual Pie Bake-Off

- Awards for Best Fruit Pie, Best Cream Pie, Best Savory Pie, and Best Overall
- If you want to contribute but NOT bring a pie, you may also bring a potluck dish to share
- You do not HAVE to contribute to participate in eating all of the goodies!

Sunday Morning Bible Study: A Deep Dive Into Romans

- Sundays Beginning September 20 @ 9am
- ***Purchase "Into the Heart of Romans" by NT Wright***
- Read Chapter 1 for September 20
- RSVP to Fr. Nic