

Seventh Sunday After The Epiphany

February 23, 2025

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Longview, WA



Worship Leaders February 23, 2025

Presider	The Rev. Nic Mather
Musician	Riki Davis
Acolyte	Juice Quiroz
Altar Guild	Becky Edmiston, Robin Swecker
Reader	David Piper, Christopher Ortiz
Greeter	Mary Lyons
Chalice Bearer	John Edmiston
Usher	Greg Lopic
Verger	John Edmiston
Vestry Presence	Robin Swecker, David Piper
Coffee Hour	Gretchen Moore



*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: _____



Come down, O Love divine

The Hymnal 1982, #516

1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,
2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434?); tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890), alt. Music: *Down Ampney*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

(Please stand as able)

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever.

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).

Canticle 20, Glory to God: *Gloria in excelsis*

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, 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 45:3-11, 15**

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your

children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'"

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

- 1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; *
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.**
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, *
and like the green grass fade away.**
- 3 Put your trust in the LORD and do good; *
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.**
- 4 Take delight in the LORD, *
and he shall give you your heart's desire.**
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.**
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light *
and your just dealing as the noonday.**
- 7 Be still before the LORD *
and wait patiently for him.**
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.**

- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.**
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut off, *
but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.**
- 11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; *
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.**
- 12 But the lowly shall possess the land; *
They will delight in abundance of peace.**
- 41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD; *
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.**
- 42 The LORD will help them and rescue them; *
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because they seek refuge in him.**

A Reading from **1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50**

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

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

(Please stand as able)



The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to **Luke 6:27-38**
Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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

Homily

The Rev. Nic Mather

Nicene Creed *(Please stand as able)*

**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: Sustaining God, you have promised to turn our hearts from stone to flesh; to give us life through the power of your love and hear our hopes and needs. Answer these prayers lifted to you as we say, Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: For the people of God everywhere, that they may be beacons of hope whose light shines forth to dispel fear and hate. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those with authority over our lives, that they might wield their power for the common good and with respect for the dignity of all people. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in our lives who have caused us pain and hurt; lead them to an awareness of their impact and lead us to the path of forgiveness where those hurts have no hold on us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our local communities - our neighbors, our co-workers, and our classmates, help us sow the seeds of your kingdom in our daily interactions. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our beleaguered earth, the garden where you have placed us; grant us wisdom as we discern who to be worthy stewards of this gift and give us strength and courage to persevere in its preservation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who live in pain, in sickness, in fear or dread; sustain them with your grace that they might bear their suffering and grant us an awareness and a willingness to be their companions and caregivers. We pray especially for David Hughey, Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Barb Dunlap, Larry Riley, Todd Healey, and those you now name either silently or aloud. *Pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hold in your care those who have died, especially Christopher Heaney and welcome us into your eternal arms when our time comes, and let us all rise together in your new age. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Almighty God who is the Sower of love, mercy and hope; let us be the seeds of your salvation; growing in love ourselves that through us your hopeful mercy might be known and established everywhere, and hear our prayers, those spoken and those held quietly in our hearts that we might know grace and live into the people we were created to be. All this we ask through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

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 (*Please stand as able*)

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

The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory Music

Hem of Your Robe
By Pepper Choplin
Choir

Eucharistic Prayer B (*Please stand as able*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

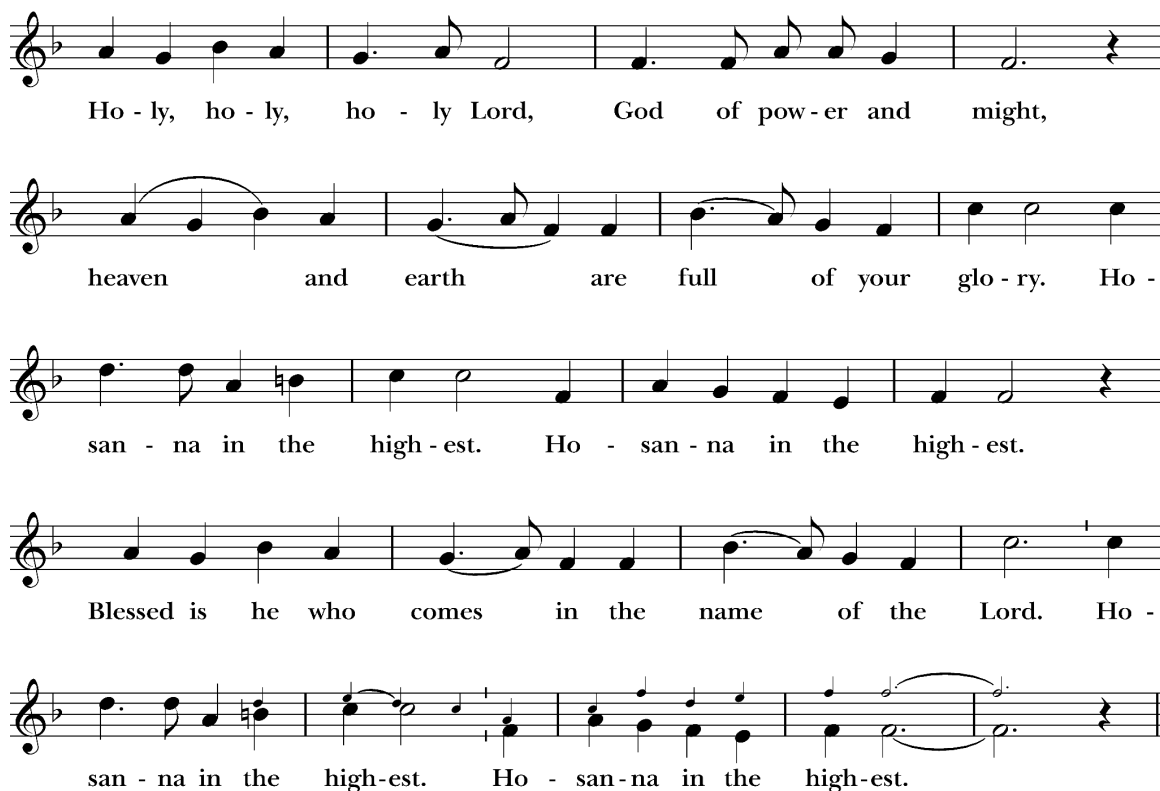
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Celebrant continues

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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 Lord 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 he 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,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.

Cantor first time, Congregation second time and as antiphon response

Cantor or Choir

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the }
The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

1. Congregation 2. Cantor or Choir

break - ing of the bread. Be bread. The
The dis -

Cantor

The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

Ant.

Cantor

One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread. **Ant.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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 eucharistic minister will intinct the bread and place it on your tongue. Gluten free communion is available and a non-alcoholic option in place of the wine is also available upon request.

For those joining via Live-Stream: A Prayer for a Person Unable to Take the Eucharist

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Prayer for Eucharistic Visitor

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.**

They'll Know We Are Christians



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from



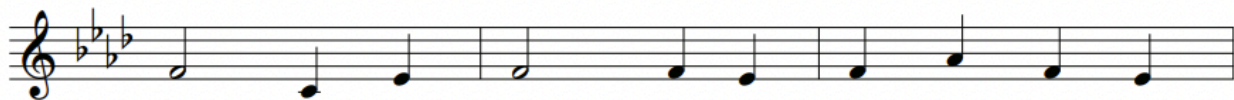
one in the Lord, We are one in the
 walk hand in hand, We will walk with each
 work side by side, We will work with each
 whom all things come, And all praise to Christ



Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, And we
 oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to -
 oth - er, we will work side by side, And we'll
 Je - sus, his on - ly Son, And all



pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re -
 geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our
 guard hu - man's dig - ni - ty and save hu - man's
 praise to the Spir - it, who makes us



stored:
 land:
 pride: And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our
 one:



love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are



Chris - tians by our love.

Postcommunion Prayer *(Please kneel as able)*

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal *(Please stand as able.)*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Saints that have come before and the Spirit that is with us now. **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 on the table at the front doors!

I've Got Peace Like a river.

I've got peace like a river (2x)

I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got peace like a river (2x)

I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got love like the ocean (2x)

I've got love like the ocean in my soul.

I've got love like the ocean (2x)

I've got love like the ocean in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain (2x)

I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain (2x)

I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

I've got peace like a river.

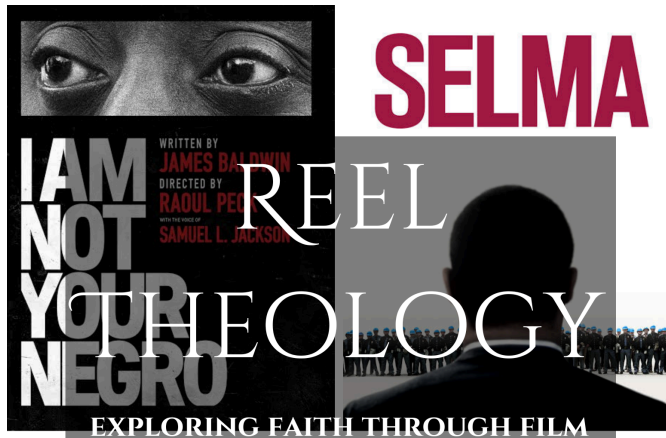
I've got love like the ocean.

I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

I've got peace like a river.

I've got love like the ocean.

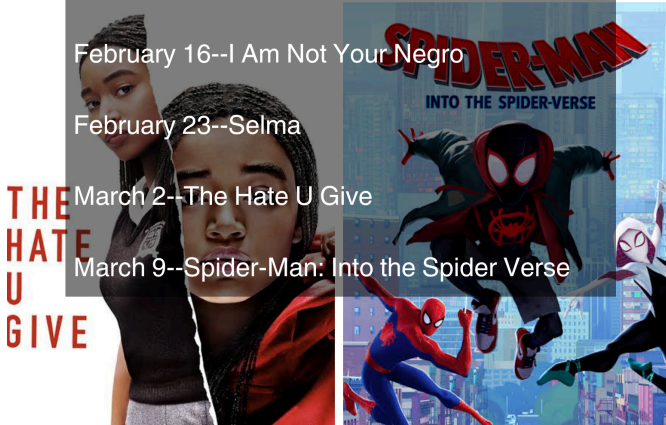
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.



Join us for Reel Theology today, February 23 @ 6pm. Popcorn provided!

This year we are watching and discussing films that explore the lived experience of African Americans in our nation.

Tonight we are watching the film Selma about the Selma-Montgomery Voting Rights march of 1965.



February 16--I Am Not Your Negro

February 23--Selma

March 2--The Hate U Give

March 9--Spider-Man: Into the Spider Verse

Join us next Sunday, March 2nd for our Mardi Gras Potluck at Coffee Hour!

Please bring a decadent dish to celebrate Mardi Gras and the impending fast of Lent according to the following:

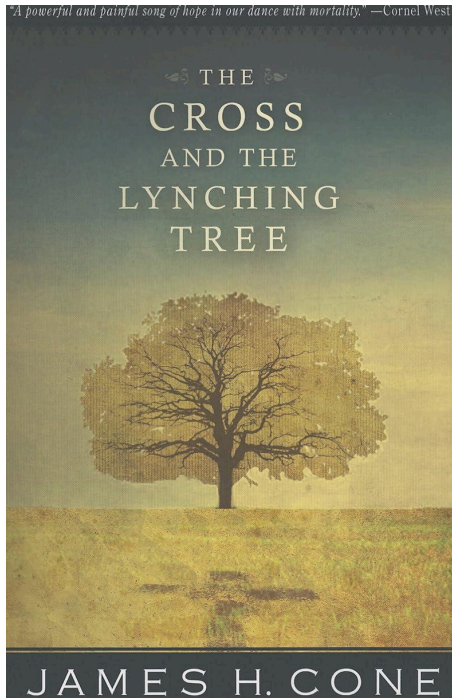
Last Name A-H: Dessert

Last Name I-O: Main Dish

Last Name P-W: Side Dish



All are welcome to attend, dishes are not required for joining in if it is not possible for you to contribute this time.



**Join us for our Lent Book Club meeting
Wednesdays @ 7pm from March 12-April 9 at
Hop-n-Grape.**

This Lent we will be reading James Cone's seminal work, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, and discussing how this book shapes our understanding of not just our society but our understanding of the death of Christ on the cross and what that holds for us.

This is a powerful book and well worth the read, so I hope you will join us!

Please pre-order the book before March 12 so that you can read the opening introduction and first chapter before the first meeting.

Please RSVP to me so that I know you will be participating! No rsvp is required to attend but it does help for planning purposes.

You can also reach out to me if you need assistance in pre-ordering the book. I will make pre-orders up to February 28.

Ash Wednesday, March 5: Worship Offerings

9am: Imposition of Ashes (All Saints Chapel)

–9:30am: Ash Wednesday Quiet Day Reflection (All Saints Chapel)

12pm: Imposition of Ashes with Holy Eucharist (Church)

–2pm--Quite Day Closing Prayer (All Saints Chapel)

3:30pm-4:30pm--Ashes To Go (Available in the Alley Parking Lot)

Ash Wednesday also marks the second quiet day of our church year. You are invited to a day of intentional silence to reflect on the themes of Ash Wednesday. The Quiet Day begins with Imposition of Ashes at 9am, with an Ash Wednesday reflection following, and concludes after a period of intentional silence with the Closing Prayer at 2pm.