



People's Choice: Sermons & Hymns

July 2023

First United Methodist Church of Seattle is a progressive faith community offering a place to grow spiritually and a refuge of inclusive Christianity. We use our voices and energy to advocate for persons on society's margins and for all God's creation.

First Church
First United Methodist Church *of* Seattle

- GATHERING -

Prelude *On Eagle's Wings* - arranged by Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

*** Call to Worship** (from enfleshed.com) **Tom Allen**
We enter this space rooted in our Sacred Worth—
Belovedness blooming in our hearts like wildflowers.
The Living God does not shame us for who we are—
They are abundantly gracious and compassionate.
We enter this space trusting the work of liberation—
Our efforts mingle and swell with the work of others.
The Living God takes delight in us—
Let us worship God!

*** Opening Hymn** UMH 437 "This Is My Song" (tune - *Finlandia*)

*** Passing of the Peace** **Tom Allen**

Welcome **Rev. Jeremy Smith**

- CENTERING -

Lighting the Community Candle **Tom Allen**

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself today,
across the spectrum of human existence of sexuality, identity, ability, or privilege;
in a world full of questions, doubts, and a climate in crisis;
may this community be a place of companionship and healing for you.
Know this: There is nothing that can separate you from God's all-embracing love.
Christ invites you – Christ invites us – to find him today in worship and celebration.

Special Music *Come Down from the Tree* - Ahrens/Flaherty
Ibidunni Ojikutu, soloist; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

Sacrament of Holy Baptism **Reid Matthew Harless**
Graham David Harless

Prayers of the People **Tom Allen**

Prayer Response **TFWS 2025 "As The Deer"**

As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

- PROCLAIMING -

Introducing the Scriptures

Rev. Jeremy Smith

Old Testament Reading

Galatians 3:19-29 (NRSVue)

Nickie Askov

Gospel Reading

Matthew 14:13-21 (NRSVue)

Warren Askov

This is the word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“How do we find joy and love God in difficult times?”

Rev. Jeremy Smith

- RESPONDING -

Invitation to the Offering

Tom Allen

Offertory

Resignation - Florence B. Price

Ibidunni Ojikutu, soloist; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

*** Offering Response *Offering Response UMH 92 “For the Beauty of the Earth”**

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies. Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Call to Discipleship

Rev. Jeremy Smith

Prayer of Confession

Tom Allen

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Jeremy Smith

****The Lord’s Prayer:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer After Communion

*** Closing Hymn**

UMH 77 “How Great Thou Art” (Verses 1,2,4)

*** Blessing & Sending**

Rev. Jeremy Smith

Postlude

Improvisation on “How Firm a Foundation”

Elisabeth Ellis, organist

**All may stand as able.*

***You are invited to use the translation of the Lord’s Prayer with which you are most comfortable.*

Our Thanks to Those Helping in Worship: Tom Allen, Lay Worship Leader; Nickie Askov, Reader; Warren Askov, Reader; Violet Boyer, Communion Steward; Karen McOmber, Greeter; Laura Celin, Audio-Visual Operator

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July Sermon Series - "The People's Choice" Each week, the sermon topic and the pool of hymns were selected from responses to a congregational survey after Easter. See you each Sunday at 10:30am! Check our website for past sermon topics you might have missed!

July 2 - "How do we find joy and love God in difficult times?"

July 9 - "What does Prayer Actually Do?"

July 16 - "What is the role of people of faith in a society?"

July 23 - "Christians and Atheists: Will we shake it off, or are we never, ever getting back together?"

July 30 - "How do you Love People You Just Don't Like?"

Caregivers Support Group Caregiving is a major concern for many persons in our congregation, for many reasons. Aging parents or siblings, friends or neighbors who are facing illness or disability, all have special needs that invite extra sensitive and informed care. Our new Caregivers Support Group meets twice each month. The current schedule is that one Sunday a month we have a hybrid meeting - in person for those who are available, while others join virtually. The second meeting each month is completely online. Contact Barbara Moreland for more information or sign up here: firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events

Save the Date: First Church Women's Retreat Join the amazing women of First Church at our annual Women's Retreat on October 20-22 at Camp Indianola for a time of reflection and worship, crafts and yoga, as well as unstructured time to simply breathe. We'll send out registration details later this summer.

Pax Christi Yoga is Back! Yoga classes welcome both beginner and more advanced students to participate in this communion with God through the moving prayer of yoga. Pax Christi Yoga is now offered in-person and online at 9AM on Saturdays! To join this class, email Sharon at PaxChristiYoga@firstchurchseattle.org

Thank you for your offerings and your Communication Cards! Thank you for your support of First Church missions and ministries! You can drop your offering & communication card in the bowls by the door when you leave the sanctuary. Or you can make a gift online by using the QR code to the right with your smartphone, or at FirstChurchSeattle.org/give



ABOUT US



We're called "First Church" because we are Seattle's first congregation, established in 1853. We cherish our place in Seattle's past, present, and future. First Church is a proud member of the **Reconciling Ministries Network**, a community "*committed to intersectional justice across and beyond the United Methodist connection, working for the full participation of all LGBTQ+ people throughout the life and leadership of the Church.*"

🏠 FirstChurchSeattle.org ☎️ 206-622-7278 📱 @firstchurchseattle 🐦 @firstUMCseattle 📷 @firstchurchseattle