



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 *It Is Well With My Soul* - arr. Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

* Call to Worship (from enfleshed.com) Erin Elaine Gail
Generously. Lavishly. Abundantly. **the labors of liberation.**
God spreads seeds of holy That love may blossom.
possibility far and wide. **That justice may be a bountiful crop.**
Who will nurture their potential? That courage may grow unencumbered.
Who will tend to their growth?

Let not the gifts of God be wasted but the
The Spirit of Life cries out for co- harvest be plenty.
operation. **Let Divine Life flourish among us**
May all who long for God join in

* Opening Hymn TFWS 2173 - "Shine Jesus Shine"

* Passing of the Peace Erin Elaine Gail

Welcome Rev. Jeremy Smith

- CENTERING -

Lighting the Community Candle Erin Elaine Gail

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 *Io Son L'umile Ancella* - Cilea
Ibidunni Ojikutu, soloist; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

Prayers of the People Erin Elaine Gail

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		Jackie Celin
New Testament Reading	Isaiah 55:10-13 (NRSVue)	Greg Wallace
Gospel Reading	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NRSVue)	Claire Gebben
	This is the word of Life. Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	"What is the role of people of faith in a society?"	Jackie Celin

- RESPONDING -

Invitation to the Offering		Erin Elaine Gail
Offertory	<i>Make Me a Channel of Your Peace</i> - arr. Mark Hayes Cary Lee, 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		Erin Elaine Gail
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 593 - "Here I Am, Lord"	
* Blessing & Sending		Jackie Celin
Postlude	<i>Improvisation on "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"</i>	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: Erin Elaine Gail, Lay Worship Leader; Greg Wallace, Reader; Claire Gebben, Reader; Deb Anderson, Communion Steward; Shawn Smith, 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?"*

All Church Picnic TODAY - Summer is here, and we've been getting ready for the all church picnic. We are looking forward to enjoying some sun, fun, and conversation with the congregation and friends after church outside on our "patio". Please stick around after service for the picnic starting at 12pm!

New Class on Music and Spirituality: The Role of Music in Christian Liturgy and Worship. How does music affect you in church? What types of music connect you to God? What types push you away? In this interactive four-part series, you'll explore music and spirituality from early music to the great composers to John and Charles Wesley to contemporary Christian music. **Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. starting July 16.**

"Connect with First Church" on July 30th - Join us for a Lunch and Learn on July 30th to learn about our new "Connecting our Communities" team. Come find out how we'll be working to support our congregation's wonderful communities and small groups, and plug new folks into them. Stick around after the service on the 30th, and join us downstairs at noon for lunch in the fellowship hall and learn how you can get involved. Sign up online: 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 offering plate during the Offertory. 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."

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