



# 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 *Be Thou My Vision* - arranged by Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

\* Call to Worship (from enfleshed.com) Barbara Moreland  
Let us prepare our hearts for God's **the way**  
holy work Setting down our egos, taking up  
**Let us ready ourselves for Divine our faith**  
**disruption** **We seek the seeds of**  
As the earth longs to flourish and **transformation**  
the people dream of rest Wisdom is here, alive and among  
**God has promised to show us** us. Let us receive her truth.

\* Opening Hymn UMH 474 - "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

\* Passing of the Peace Barbara Moreland

Welcome Rev. Jeremy Smith

- CENTERING -

Lighting the Community Candle Barbara Moreland

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 *Juba: Ev'rytime I Feel the Spirit!* - arr. Robert L. Morris  
Ibidunni Ojikutu, soloist; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

Prayers of the People Barbara Moreland

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 -**

|                                   |   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Introducing the Scriptures</b> |   | <b>Rev. Jeremy Smith</b> |
| <b>New Testament Reading</b>      | Romans 7:15-25a (NRSVue)                              | <b>Grace Kim</b>         |
| <b>Gospel Reading</b>             | Matthew 15: 22-28 (NRSVue)                            | <b>Deb Anderson</b>      |
|                                   | This is the word of Life.<br><b>Thanks be to God.</b> |                          |
| <b>Sermon</b>                     | “What does Prayer Actually Do?”                       | <b>Rev. Jeremy Smith</b> |

**- RESPONDING -**

|                                   |   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| <b>Invitation to the Offering</b> |   | <b>Barbara Moreland</b> |
| <b>Offertory</b>                  | <i>The Lord’s Prayer - Malotte</i><br>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.

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|--|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Call to Discipleship</b>            |  | <b>Rev. Jeremy Smith</b> |
| <b>Prayer of Confession</b>            |  | <b>Barbara Moreland</b>  |
| <b>The Sacrament of Holy Communion</b> |  | <b>Rev. Jeremy Smith</b> |

**\*\*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**

|                                 |  |                                  |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>* Closing Hymn</b>           | <b>UMH 133 - “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”</b> |                                  |
| <b>* Blessing &amp; Sending</b> |  | <b>Rev. Jeremy Smith</b>         |
| <b>Postlude</b>                 | <i>Postlude Maestoso - Charles Vincent</i>         | <b>Elisabeth Ellis, organist</b> |

*\*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: Barbara Moreland, Lay Worship Leader; Grace Kim, Reader; Deb Anderson, Reader; Grace Kim, Communion Steward; Beth Snyder, Greeter; Laura Celin, Audio-Visual Operator

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**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?"*

**Vintners Porch Potluck Gathering on July 13th** - Reagan Page is hosting the young adult July gathering at her home in Queen Anne! Thursday, July 13th @ 6:30pm. Bring a potluck item to share. Once you register, details and location will be sent to your email. [firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events](http://firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events)

**All Church Picnic on July 16th** - 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 on July 16th for the picnic starting at 12pm! Register online: [firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events](http://firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events)

**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.**

**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. Contact Barbara Moreland for more information or sign up: [firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events](http://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](mailto: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](http://FirstChurchSeattle.org/give)



## ABOUT US

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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](http://FirstChurchSeattle.org) ☎️ 206-622-7278 📱 @firstchurchseattle 🐦 @firstUMCseattle 📷 @firstchurchseattle