

First Church

First United Methodist Church of Seattle

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.

August 20, 2023 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

### - GATHERING -

Prelude Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth arranged by Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

\* Call to Worship (from enfleshed.com) Peter Jabin

Let all who long for salvation come
May the struggling be lifted

May the powerful repent

**Deliverance will lead us out from**A righteous reckoning is close at

under evil's hand hand

In the days of liberation, there will May God help us to be faithful

be a holy transformation

Material and lasting, the world

will breathe anew

\* Opening Hymn TFWS 2051 "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

\* Passing of the Peace Peter Jabin

Welcome Rev. Jeremy Smith

- CENTERING -

## **Lighting the Community Candle**

Peter Jabin

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself today, across the spectrum of human existence, 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 in worship and celebration.

Special Music The Road Home- Stephen Paulus
Summer Sanctuary Choir; Becca Buse, soloist

Prayers of the People Peter Jabin

Prayer Response UMH 405 "Seek Ye First"

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and God's righteousness. And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, Alleluia. Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find; knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, Alleluia. Introducing the Scriptures Rev. Jeremy Smith

Old Testament Reading Psalm 139: 1-18 (NRSVue) Warren Askov

New Testament Reading Romans 14:10-23 (NRSVue) Nickie Askov

This is the word of Life. **Thanks be to God.** 

Sermon "Resolved on Reproductive Choice. Rooted in Experience" Rev. Jeremy Smith

- RESPONDING -

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Healing is in Your Hands - Christy Nockels
Becca Buse, soloist; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

\* Offering Response TFWS 2242 "Walk with Me" verse 4
Walk with me, I will walk with you, and build the land
that God has planned where love shines through.
When you share your faith with me and work for life made new,
the witness of your faithfulness calls me to walk with you. Refrain

Call to Discipleship Rev. Jeremy Smith

Prayer of Confession Peter Jabin

# The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Jeremy Smith

Peter Jabin

\*\*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 TFWS 2047 "Bring Many Names" (verses 1-3,6)

\* Blessing & Sending Rev. Jeremy Smith

Postlude Improvisation on "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" Elisabeth Ellis, organist

Our Thanks to Those Helping in Worship: Peter Jabin Lay Worship Leader; Ann Shaffer, Reader; Warren Askov, Reader; Nickie Askov Greeter; Laura Celin, Audio-Visual Operator

<sup>\*</sup>All may stand as able.

<sup>\*\*</sup>You are invited to use the translation of the Lord's Prayer with which you are most comfortable.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**August Sermon Series - "Rooted & Resolved"** What are the Foundations of our Faith, and how do they help us stand firm in our convictions, even when controversial? This August series will be seeking Clarity in our Convictions through examining our four sources of authority as United Methodists.

August 6 - Resolved on Immigration, Rooted in Tradition

August 13 - Resolved on LGBTQ+ Inclusion, Rooted in Scripture

August 20 - Resolved on Reproductive Choice, Rooted in Experience

August 27 - Resolved on Gun Control, Rooted in Reason

See you each Sunday at 10:30am! Check our website for past sermon topics you might have missed!

**Pride + Faith | August Fellowship-** Pride + Faith is an LGBTQIA+ and allies group at First Church in Seattle that meets for fellowship once a month. We welcome anyone who supports the LGBTQIA+ cause to join us for some good food and conversation! Join us for our August gathering on Saturday, August 26, 6:15pm, at Domani Pizzeria & Restaurant, 1515 Queen Anne Avenue North. RSVP to **PrideAndFaith@FirstChurchSeattle.org**.

**Rally Sunday is September 10th!** Come join us for an ice cream social at Rally Sunday after church on September 10th. A 'Back to School' event of sorts after the summer, come meet folks from our church's wonderful ministries, small groups, and missions to learn what's going on in the church these days as they all kick off their mission year.

**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.

**Saturdays with Pax Christi Yoga!** Yoga classes welcome both beginner and more advanced students to participate in communion with God through the moving prayer of yoga. Pax Christi Yoga is now offered inperson & 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 <a href="FirstChurchSeattle.org/give">FirstChurchSeattle.org/give</a>



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

