

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.

September 3, 2023 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- GATHERING -

Prelude Hymn of Promise arranged by Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

* Call to Worship

Jackie Celin

The Creator has planted seeds in all of us.

May we nurture goodness, respect, and kindness toward our neighbors.

Jesus is calling us to bear spiritual fruit.

May we follow his example of closeness to God and service to others.

The Holy Spirit moves in us, encouraging us to explore, to experiment.

Let us join together as one body in this time of worship and praise.

* Opening Hymn

UMH 89 - "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

* Passing of the Peace

Jackie Celin

Welcome Barbara Moreland

- CENTERING -

Lighting the Community Candle

Jackie Celin

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

Be Still, My Soul - Kathrina von Schlegel, hymn tune Finlandia Tess Altiveros, soloist; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

Prayers of the People Jackie Celin

Prayer Response This is God's Wondrous World, v.3

This is God's wondrous world. O let me ne'er forget

That though the wrong seems oft so strong. God is the ruler yet.

This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?

Let voices sing, O let the heavens ring! God reigns, let earth be glad.

- PROCLAIMING -

Introducing the Scriptures Barbara Moreland

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 17: 5-8 (NRSVue) Lorry Celin

New Testament Reading Galatians 5: 13-16a, 22-25 (NRSVue) Bruce Hall

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

Sermon "Bearing Fruit" Barbara Moreland

- RESPONDING -

Invitation to the Offering Jackie Celin

Offertory The Call - Ralph Vaughan Williams
Tess Altiveros, soloist; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

* Offering Response UMH 400 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing v.2

Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;

he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious love.

Call to Discipleship Jackie Celin

Prayer of Confession Jackie Celin

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Kathryn Everett

**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 577 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

* Blessing & Sending Barbara Moreland

Postlude Improvisation on "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" 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: Jackie Celin, Lay Worship Leader; Lorry Celin, Reader; Bruce Hall, Reader; Candy Bonham, Communion Steward; Laura Celin, Audio-Visual Operator

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. To register, please visit firstchurchseattle.breezechms.com/form/1d332a6844. Last day to register is September 30th.

Weaving Our Strengths Conference- The Church Council of Greater Seattle invites representatives from First Church to attend a day (9:30am-4:30pm) of workshops and reflection on the organizing practices and anti-racism values that have undergirded the Church Council transition to faith-rooted community organizing work over the last several years. We will end the day with a Special Called Assembly install Joey Lopez and Tara Miller as Co-Executive Directors. Lunch provided. If you are interested in attending on First Church's behalf, sign up please visit

events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ejx1tvw00649bf02&oseq=&c=&ch=

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 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."











