# LOST IN WONDER, LOVE AND PRAISE



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 United Methodist Church of Seattle 180 Denny Way Seattle, WA 98109

First Sunday of Advent | Hanging of the Greens

- GATHERING -

Prelude Meditation on "The Holly and the Ivy"

arr. by Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

November 26, 2023

Advent Proclamation

Shawn Smith

\* Call to Worship

(Source: enfleshed)

**Violet Boyer** 

How shall we prepare this house for the birth

of Jesus?

this revelation of

With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence

and strength.

How shall we prepare this house for the

eternal Christ?

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves

are ever living, ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the

prophet of Galilee?

With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his

passion, death and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for

this revelation of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.

Today we wait with Hope for the light of Christ to shine in the dark places of

lives and memories.

We wait in Hope for God's vision of wholeness, justice, and peace for all

creation to be born again in

Bethlehem.

\* Opening Hymn UMH #196 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

\* Passing of the Peace

Welcome

**Violet Boyer** 

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

- CENTERING -

**Lighting the Community Candle** 

**Violet Boyer** 

Rev. Jeremy

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.

**The Hanging of the Greens** Introduction, The Trees, The Star, Decorating the Tree,

The Advent Wreath, The Candles, The Bells, The Crèche

Special Music Who But the Lord? - Craig Courtney
Sanctuary Choir, Elisabeth Ellis, Director

Prayers of the People Violet Boyer

Prayer Response UMH #204 "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called, Emmanuel.

- PROCLAIMING -

Advent | Proclamation Mark 13: 24-37 (NRSVue) Erin Elaine Gail

This is the word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Struggling with Wonderlust" Rev. Jeremy

- RESPONDING -

Invitation to the Offering Violet Boyer

Offertory Every Valley, from Messiah - G. F. Handel
Cary Lee, soloist; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

\* Offering Response UMH 234 v1 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, King of angels;

joyful and triumphant, O come, let us adore him, O come ye, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

Come and behold him, born the Christ the Lord.

Call to Discipleship Rev. Jeremy

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Jeremy

\*\*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 #202- "People Look East"

\* Blessing & Sending Rev. Rev. Jeremy

Postlude Improvisation on "Greensleeves" Elisabeth Ellis, organist

<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.

Our Thanks to Those Helping in Worship: Lay Worship Leader, Violet Boyer; Reader, Shawn Smith; Reader, Erin Elaine Gail; The Hanging of the Greens Readers, Communion Steward, Violet Boyer; Front Door Greeter, Candy Bonham; Audio-Visual Operator, Laura Celi

### ANNOUNCEMENTS



Advent Events: Join us during Advent as we offer ways to gather in wonder, love, and praise this season, promising a season of transformation for our homes, families, workplaces, and circles.

Neighborhood House Drive: Global Missions is excited to announce the upcoming "Hygiene Kit" drive for the Neighborhood House. We will gather on Sunday 12/17 after the service to assemble the kits. Look at the updated list under https://firstchurchseattle.org/news/ or scan the QR code!



Sermon Series | Lost in Wonder, Love and Praise: Advent is a time for experiences that cause us to be lost in wonder. Tangible expressions of community centered on expecting the Christ Child remind us of our own journeys. Each week we will journey with a different character in the nativity, seeing how they were lost in wonder so that we might be as well.



Lunch & Learn | Zero Waste: Zero Waste: How can we get there? Join us Sunday, December 10 from noon - 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom to learn from Zero Waste Washington how we can advocate for a healthy and waste-free world. Register at https://firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events/ or scan the QR code!

Fall 2023 Charge Conference: Church leaders are expected to attend the annual Fall Charge Conference with our District Superintendent Derek Nakano. We'll gather in-person in Room 301 or on Zoom. Register at https://firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events/ or scan the QR code so we can plan for your attendance or to get the link!





2024 Stewardship Campaign "Honoring our Past, Committed to our Future": Find out more information about Stewardship giving campaign this year, or make your pledge today by using the QR code or visiting FirstChurchSeattle.org/give

Earth Pledge 2024: Commit to a livable future! Find out more information about creation care actions or make your pledge today by using the QR code or visiting FirstChurchSeattle.org/give/earthpledge!





Food Services Volunteers: As we continue to grow our church community and events, we are in need of volunteers to help us with hosting opportunities for Coffee Hour and Lunch and Learn activities. Find out more information by using the QR code or talk with Duuna Evans at coffee hour.

Climate Justice Group: The First Church Climate Justice Group urges you to sign a petition to tell Costco that it needs to drop Citi as its credit card issuer. Read more at https://firstchurchseattle.org/news/ and to sign the petition.

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."