

A silhouette of a person with a backpack standing on a hill against a starry night sky. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a soft purple and pink near the horizon. The person is looking towards the right, and the stars are scattered across the upper portion of the image.

LOST IN WONDER, LOVE AND PRAISE

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.

- PROCLAIMING -

Introducing the Scriptures **Rev. Jeremy**

Old Testament Reading **Psalm 118:14-26 (NRSVue)** **Warren Askov**

New Testament Reading **Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSVue)** **Nickie Askov**
This is the word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon **“Lost in Love with Joseph”** **Rev. Jeremy**

- RESPONDING -

Invitation to the Offering **Julius Perez**

Offertory **“Rejoice!” from *Messiah* - G. F. Handel**
Tess Altiveros, soloist; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

*** Offering Response** **UMH 234 v1 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold him,	born the King of angels; O come, let us adore him, O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
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Call to Discipleship **Rev. Jeremy**

Prayer of Confession **Julius Perez**

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 #384 “O Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

*** Blessing & Sending** **Rev. Jeremy**

Postlude ***Improvisation on “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*** **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: Lay Worship Leader, Julius Perez; Reader, Warren Askov; Reader, Nickie Askov; Communion Steward, Teresa Canady; Front Door Greeter, Eleanor Schubert; Audio-Visual Operator, Laura Celin

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Lunch & Learn | Zero Waste: Zero Waste: How can we get there? Join us today 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 firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events/ or scan the QR code!



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 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.

We’re Hiring | Director of Children and Youth Ministries: We are currently hiring for a children and youth ministries director at First Church. If you know someone that may be a great fit, please send them our way! More information at <https://firstchurchseattle.org/about/employment/>

Moving Closer to our Debt-Free Future: This past spring, First Church embarked on a 3-year capital campaign with the goal of retiring the church’s mortgage by August 2025. If you haven’t fulfilled your pledge for 2024, we would appreciate you doing so by the end of December. Read the full update under firstchurchseattle.org/news/

Family New Year’s Retreat at Camp Indianola: Join us for an exciting getaway to start the new year! Register by December 17th at firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events/ or scan the QR code!



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.

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.”