

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.

**- GATHERING -**

**Prelude**      *"I Wonder as I Wander" (Appalachian folk tune)*      arr. by Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

**Lighting of the Second Advent Candle**

<b>* Call to Worship</b>	<b>(Source: enfleshed)</b>	<b>Barbara Moreland</b>
Comfort, o comfort my people!	<b>Let the apathetic be convicted.</b>	
This is the cry of the Holy.	<b>The privileged choose solidarity.</b>	
<b>Let the weary find rest.</b>	<b>The greedy be released from excess.</b>	
<b>The captive be set free.</b>	Through divine comfort and divine challenge,	
<b>The despairing encounter hope.</b>	God is drawing near!	
Challenge, o challenge my people! This, too, is the cry of the Holy.		

**\* Opening Hymn**      **UMH #103 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"**

**\* Passing of the Peace**      **Barbara Moreland**  
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

**Welcome**      **Rev. Jeremy**

**- CENTERING -**

**Lighting the Community Candle**      **Barbara Moreland**

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**      ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* - arr. Jay Rouse**  
**Sanctuary Choir; Elena Denny, cellist; Elisabeth Ellis, director and pianist**

**Prayers of the People**      **Barbara Moreland**

**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 -

Introducing the Scriptures		Rev. Jeremy
Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 12: 1-5 (NRSVue)	Bruce Hall
New Testament Reading	Mark 1: 1-8 (NRSVue)	Mona Tanaka
	This is the word of Life. Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	“Lost in Preparations with John the Baptist”	Rev. Jeremy

- RESPONDING -

Invitation to the Offering		Barbara Moreland
Offertory	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i> - arr. Gail Salvatori Elena Denny, cellist; 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.

Call to Discipleship Rev. Jeremy

Prayer of Confession Barbara Moreland

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 TFWS #2095 - “Star-Child”

\* Blessing & Sending Rev. Jeremy

Postlude *Fantasia on “Adeste Fideles”* - Geoffrey Shaw 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, Barbara Moreland; Reader, Bruce Hall; Reader, Mona Tanaka; Communion Steward, Violet Boyer; Front Door Greeter, Teresa Benedict; Audio-Visual Operator, Laura Celin*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**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/](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 [firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events/](https://firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events/) or scan the QR code!

**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/](https://firstchurchseattle.org/news/)

**Pub Theology | AI & Faith:** Pastor Jeremy is hosting a conversation about Ai and Faith, helping to inform a sermon series in 2024. Come join the musings on Wednesday, December 6th at 7pm at Redhook Brewlab in Cap Hill. All are welcome, hosted by Vintners. RSVP at [firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events/](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://FirstChurchSeattle.org)



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