



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 *What Child is This?* -arr. by Elisabeth Ellis, pianist
*** Call to Worship** (Source: enfleshed) **Don Crawley**

Accompanying Wisdom, as we turn to the new year, we consider all that has shaken us awake.

We ponder how we have changed. We cherish what has bloomed into being.

We rage at what we have lost—ecosystem collapse, unthinkable violence.

**We let grief wash over us like a tide.
We let joy rise like the moon.**

As we turn to the new year, we long to be loyal to what is beautiful.

So we rededicate ourselves to solidarity, to paying-attention, to presence, to care.

Root us in steadfastness, Faithful Spirit.

Join us in turning towards life. Amen

*** Opening Hymn** **UMH 216 “Lo, How a Rose”**

*** Passing of the Peace** **Don Crawley**
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements **Rev. Jeremy**

- CENTERING -

Lighting the Community Candle **Don Crawley**

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 ***Bashana Haba’a (Next Year) - Manor/Hirsch***
Tess Altiveros, soloist; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

Prayers of the People **Don Crawley**

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 (NRSVue)

Jane Gregg

New Testament Reading

Galatians 4:4-7 (NRSVue)

Dana Birkby

This is the word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“At the Cusp”

Rev. Jeremy

- RESPONDING -

Invitation to the Offering

Don Crawley

Offertory

Canticle of the Turning - Rory Cooney
performed by Danielle Reutter-Harrah

*** 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

***Wesley’s Covenant Prayer** (adapted by Rev. Jeremy Smith)

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

*** Closing Hymn**

UMH 383 “This is a Day of New Beginnings”

*** Blessing & Sending**

Rev. Jeremy

Postlude

Auld Lang Syne

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, Don Crawley; Reader, Jane Gregg; Reader, Dana Birkby; Communion Steward, Jane Gregg; Front Door Greeter, Candy Bonham; Audio-Visual Operator, Laura Celin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

12 Days of Christmas House Gatherings: We are happy to bring back our tradition of 12 Days of Christmas house gatherings! It's a great way to meet people! You're invited to attend as many as you'd like. Register with the QR code or firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events/



The 12 Days of Christmas Reflections Guide: In our guide, you will find passages from the daily lectionary readings alongside reflections on social justice issues that are important to First Church. View with the QR code or at firstchurchseattle.org/news/



Faith & Ai | Sermon Series: Join us on January 7th and 14th for Pastor Jeremy's two-part sermon series on how Christians can respond to the rise of Artificial Intelligence and how we can continue to shape the future we seek.

Kaur Book Class: Join us on Sunday mornings at 9am in discussing *See No Stranger* by Valerie Kaur. We will explore how we can reclaim love as a force for justice. All are welcome either in person or via zoom! Register with the QR code or firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events/



Lunch & Learn | Meaningful Movies: Join us Sunday (1/21) from noon – 1:00 p.m for an event with speakers and Q&A for *Stories of Us: Camp Second Chance* by Melinda Raebyne. You are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. Register with the QR code | firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events/



Youth Confirmation is happening in 2024! Confirmation is open to all youth aged 13+ (or 7th grade+). It is a multi-week program that introduces youth to faith topics as United Methodists, practices for spiritual growth, and real-world applications. Students are then "confirmed" in a special ceremony on Easter Sunday. Save the date for an info session for parents and youth on **Sunday, January 21st at noon** with Pastor Jeremy.

Adult Confirmation Class is happening too! Open to adults seeking baptism or longtime members wanting a refresher on United Methodist basics, our Adult Confirmation Class will coincide with the youth class this Lent 2024 (February and March evenings). Register at firstchurchseattle.org/news/



Pax Christi Yoga begins again on January 6th. Yoga is a prayer that you 'say' with your body to bring calm to your mind, joy to your heart, and the Holy Spirit to comfort your soul. Our Saturday @ 9am classes are free, open to everyone. To join in, email Sharon at PaxChristiYoga@firstchurchseattle.org



We're Hiring | Director of Children and Youth Ministries: We are currently hiring at First Church. If you know someone who may be a great fit, please send them our way! Resume review is on January 3rd. More information at <https://firstchurchseattle.org/about/employment/>



Thank you for your offerings and Communication Cards! You can drop them in the offering plate or make a gift online by using the QR code 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.*"