



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 Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* - arr. by Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

*** Call to Worship** (Source: ChatGPT) **Erin Elaine Gail**

As the Magi followed the star to find the
Christ Child

In an age where technology connects us
yet often divides,

**So we follow Your light to find Your
presence in our world.**

**Help us use our tools for unity,
understanding, and the spread of Your
love.**

Guided by ancient prophecy and a
celestial sign,

As gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh
were offered with reverence,

**May we seek Your wisdom in the
scriptures and the signs of our times.**

**Let our use of technology be an
offering of worship, reflecting Your
glory.**

*** Opening Hymn** **UMH 577 "God of Grace and God of Glory"**

*** Passing of the Peace** **Erin Elaine Gail**

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

Welcome and Announcements **Rev. Jeremy**

- CENTERING -

Lighting the Community Candle **Erin Elaine Gail**

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 *Star of Wonder* - traditional carols, arr. by Page and Shafferman
Sanctuary Choir; Elisabeth Ellis, Director and Pianist

Prayers of the People **Erin Elaine Gail**

Prayer Response **UMH #402 verse 4 "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"**

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. (In my heart)

In my heart, (in my heart) in my heart, (in my heart)
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. (In my heart)

- PROCLAIMING -

Introducing the Scriptures		Rev. Jeremy
Old Testament Reading	Exodus 31:1-5 (NRSVue)	Bruce Hall
New Testament Reading	Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSVue)	Tom Allen
	This is the word of Life. Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	“What Chihuly teaches us about AI”	Rev. Jeremy

- RESPONDING -

Invitation to the Offering		Erin Elaine Gail
Offertory	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i> - arr. Ellis Tess Altiveros, soloist; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist	

* Offering Response	UMH 473 “Lead Me, Lord”	
Lead me, Lord,	For it is thou, Lord,	
lead me in thy righteousness;	thou, Lord only,	
make thy way plain before my face.	that makest me dwell in safety. [repeat]	

Call to Discipleship		Rev. Jeremy
Prayer of Confession	(Emily DenTar Birt)	Erin Elaine Gail

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 454 “Open My Eyes, That I May See”	
* Blessing & Sending		Rev. Jeremy

Postlude	<i>We Three K</i> - setting by Paul Manzings	Elisabeth Ellis, organist
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**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, Erin Elaine Gail; Reader, Bruce Hall; Reader, Tom Allen; Communion Steward, Jane Gregg; Front Door Greeter, Shawn Smith; Audio-Visual Operator, Laura Celin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebration of Life for Will Cook : A celebration of life for Will Cook will be held on Sunday, January 14th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Learn more information about his service at firstchurchseattle.org/upcoming-events/

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.

Sunday Morning 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 about homelessness. The goal is to explore policy alternatives in King County. You will receive a link to the film to be watched in advance for *Stories of Us: Camp Second Chance* directed by Melinda Raebayne. 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



Food Services Volunteers Needed: 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. We would like to invite members to support this food ministry. If you are interested in volunteering, scan with the QR code or visit firstchurchseattle.org/news/



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."

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