



**Rising from Ruin:  
Crafting our  
Communal Renaissance**

**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** *Be Thou My Vision* arr. by Elisabeth Ellis, Pianist

**\* Call to Worship** (Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell - Rev-O-Lution) **Jackie Celin**

Designer of our Universe, draw us into wisdom and understanding.

**You have shared the deep mysteries with us, through Your work in creation, the oracles of the prophets, and the love of Jesus, who laid down his life for us.**

You have woven us into the fabric of Your creation by making us co-creators with You.

**Guide us with wisdom and humility into knowing our role, into understanding Your design, and how important our part is.**

Share with us Your insight and love, so that we might draw others in. Amen.

**\* Opening Hymn** **UMH 88 “Maker, in Whom We Live”**

**\* Passing of the Peace** **Jackie Celin**

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

**Welcome and Announcements** **Rev. Jeremy**

**- CENTERING -**

**Lighting the Community Candle** **Jackie Celin**

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 today.

**Special Music** *At the Riverside* - traditional spiritual, arr. Choplin  
**Sanctuary Choir; Elisabeth Ellis, Director and Pianist**

**Prayers of the People** **Jackie Celin**

**Prayer Response**                      **TFWS 2179 “Live in Charity”**

Live in charity and steadfast love  
Live in charity, God will dwell with you.  
Live in charity and steadfast love  
Live in charity, God will dwell with you.

**- PROCLAIMING -**

**Introducing the Scriptures**

**Rev. Jeremy**

**Gospel Reading**

**Mark 1:9-15 (NRSVue)**

**Ann Shaffer**

**New Testament Reading**

**Acts 8:26-31,35-40 (NRSVue)**

**Wally Shaffer**

This is the word of Life.  
Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

**Our Renaissance is...Diverse**

**Rev. Jeremy**

**- RESPONDING -**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Jackie Celin**

**Offertory**

***Come Sunday* - Duke Ellington  
Janet Crawley, soloist; Don Crawley, pianist**

**\* Offering Response**    **“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” (TFWS 2195)**

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful,  
In the Lord I will rejoice.  
Look to God, do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

**Call to Discipleship**

**Rev. Jeremy**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Rev. Jeremy**

**Communion Hymns:**    **The Faith We Sing # 2257-a, b, The Lord’s Prayer, d**

**\*\*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 269 “Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days”**

Postlude

*Improvisation on "Come Ye Sinners"*

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, Jackie Celin; Reader, Ann Shaffer; Reader, Wally Shaffer; Communion Server, Deb Anderson; Front Door Greeter, Beth Snyder; Music, Elisabeth Ellis; Audio-Visual Operator, Laura Celin*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Lent Opportunities:** Lent is the annual observance of 40 days of reflection during the weeks leading up to Easter, including Holy Week that re-enacts the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have put together a guide to opportunities at First Church for this season. Scan with the QR code or visit [firstchurchseattle.org/news/](http://firstchurchseattle.org/news/)



**Lenten Lunches** each week with a common meal and spiritual enrichment opportunities!

**Mission projects** and opportunities during Lent!

**Special services** schedule, including Holy Week and Easter on March 31st!

**Sermon Series | Rising from Ruin: Crafting our Communal Renaissance:** Lent this year feels like a time of starting anew from a state of ruin. Each week we will seek to be a community that is actively shaping our own future, seeking a new Renaissance period of revitalization and change in Seattle and beyond. See you on Sundays at 10:30am!

**Adult Confirmation Class for Lent!** 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/](http://firstchurchseattle.org/news/)



**Pax Christi Yoga** Our Saturday @ 9am classes are free, open to everyone. To join in, email Sharon at [PaxChristiYoga@firstchurchseattle.org](mailto:PaxChristiYoga@firstchurchseattle.org)

**Food Services Volunteers Needed:** If you are interested in volunteering for hosting opportunities for Coffee Hour and Lunch and Learn activities, scan with the QR code or visit [firstchurchseattle.org/news/](http://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](http://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."

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