

A NEW HOPE



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 *Across the Stars (Love Theme from Star Wars)*
- John Williams, arr. Keveren Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

*** Call to Worship** *(Source: Do you even need to ask?)* Jackie Celin

"The Force will be with you, always."

We know our God is guiding us through the challenges of life.

Even though we know "Fear is the path to the dark side." In times of uncertainty, we "do or do not, there is no try."

We choose love and faith over fear and distrust.

When we face trials, we remind each other, "Never tell me the odds." We know that "the greatest teacher, failure is," as we learn from our mistakes and grow in faith and understanding.

With God, all possibilities are present, and we persevere with hope.

"You must unlearn what you have learned" as we let go of past burdens.

We won't be the church by "fighting what we hate, but by saving what we love."

We embrace new life and transformation in Christ.

"Rebellions are built on hope," and our hope is in God's persistent love. Empower us to be agents of change in the world, striving for justice, peace, and love in God's holy name. "This is the Way."

We gather in peace, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

God says to us "I love you."

The people reply: "I know."

May the First Church Be With You...Always. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn** TFWS 2236 "Gather Us In"

*** Passing of the Peace** Jackie Celin

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

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Jeremy Smith

Land Acknowledgement Jackie Celin

- 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 *All You Need Is Love* - John Lennon & Paul McCartney/arr. Alan Billingsley
Sanctuary Choir; Elisabeth Ellis, director and pianist

Prayers of the People

Jackie Celin

Prayer Response **UMH 431 "Let There Be Peace On Earth**
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

- PROCLAIMING -

Introducing the Scripture

Rev. Jeremy Smith

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 1 (NRSVue)

Teresa Canady

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 32: 24-32 (NRSVue)

Bruce Hall

This is the word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Kobayashi Maru"

Rev. Jeremy Smith

- RESPONDING -

Invitation to the Offering

Jackie Celin

Offertory *"Goodbye," from Space Opera (Luke Skywalker to Obi-Wan Kenobi)* - David Bass
Cary Lee, soloist; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

*** Offering Response** TFWS #2237, v. 3 *"As a Fire Is Meant for Burning"*

As a green bud in the springtime is a
sign of life renewed,
So may we be signs of oneness 'mid
earth's peoples, many hued.

As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is
past and gone,
May our lives reflect the radiance of God's new
and glorious dawn.

Call to Discipleship

Rev. Jeremy Smith

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Jeremy Smith

****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.

- SENDING -

*** Closing Hymn**

UMH #583 "You Are The Seed"

Litany of Farewell

Book of Worship (adapted)

Postlude

Main Theme from Star Wars: A New Hope 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, Teresa Canady; Reader, Bruce Hall; Communion Steward, Teresa Canady; Greeter, Shawn Smith; Music, Elisabeth Ellis; Audio-Visual Operator, Laura Celin*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Jeremy's Farewell Celebration | Today: We warmly invite you to be a part of our celebration honoring Pastor Jeremy's devoted service and commitment during his time at First Church. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after service.

Volunteer at Pride 2024: We need volunteers to sign up for setting up, for handing out cookies and drinks, for being stationed inside the narthex to direct people to the bathrooms, and for cleaning up. We have morning and afternoon volunteer shifts. Lunch will be provided for volunteers who request it. Learn more online on the church event page.

An Evening with Lifelong Climate Activist Bill McKibben: Tuesday, July 2, 7:00 pm, An Evening with Lifelong Climate Activist Bill McKibben, hosted by First Church. Third Act Washington (TAWA) is presenting a talk by Bill McKibben, who will be issuing a call to action on climate and democracy, followed by a Q&A. Register online on the church event page.

Leave it to Beavers – Sun., June 23 at noon: Join us in-person or virtually for a Meaningful Movies at First Church lunch event to watch a 10-minute video and hear from April Rhodes with Beavers Northwest to learn how beavers support healthy ecosystems and to see fun beaver artifacts. Children are welcome! Register online on the church event page.

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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