



**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** *Let All Things Now Living* - arr. by Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

**\* Call to Worship** (*Source: from "Vapor," by The Liturgists*) Rev. Wongee Joh

Holy. You, O God, are holy. Valleys bow down to you.

**Trees clap their hands for you. Everything rising to**

**Oceans they dance for you. sing all our songs to you.**

You are holy, infinite and holy. Come like dawn, like waves, like sunlight,

**A billion suns rise for you. bring this world to life.**

**Clouds paint the skies for you. Come like rain, like breath, like springtime,**

Mountains stand tall for you. **restore this world to life.**

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

**\* Passing of the Peace** Violet Boyer

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

**Welcome and Announcements** Rev. Jackie Celin

**Land Acknowledgement** Wally Shaffer

**- CENTERING -**

**Lighting the Community Candle** Violet Boyer

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.  
There is nothing that can separate us from God's all-embracing love.  
Christ invites you – Christ invites us – to find him in worship and celebration today.

**Special Music** *You Make the Sun to Rise* - Craig Courtney; lyrics by Martin Gehring  
Sanctuary Choir; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist and director

**Prayers of the People** Peter Jabin

**Prayer Response** UMH 145 "Morning Has Broken" verse 1

Morning has broken like the first morning, praise for the morning,  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for them springing  
Praise for the singing, fresh from the Word.

**- PROCLAIMING -**

**Introducing the Artist** Peter Jabin

Psalm Reading **Job 12:7-13** Violet Boyer

An Ecological Reading **Robin Wall-Kimmerer: On The Language of Animacy** Peter Jabin

New Testament Reading **Romans 1:19-20** Wally Shaffer

This is the word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Message **“Reflections on St. Sebastian”** Joseph Gregory Rossano

The Prayer of Jesus Rev. Wongee Joh

**- RESPONDING -**

Invitation to the Offering Wally Shaffer

Offertory ***What a Wonderful World***  
Tess Altiveros, soloist; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

\* Prayer of Dedication Rev. Wongee Joh

\* Offertory Response Hymn ***All Things Bright and Beautiful***

Blessing of the Animals Rev. Wongee Joh

Animal Companion Introductions Rev. Jackie Celin & Peter Jabin

Prayer of Blessing (Source: Humane Society) Rev. Jackie Celin

God, our Creator, we ask you to bless our animal companions with Your light & love. May our animal friends have good health, happy lives and always be protected and safe.

We ask for better understanding as we learn from our animal friends' wisdom, their innocence, their loyalty and particularly their seeming ability to not judge human beings unkindly.

Thank you for their companionship and friendship especially for those lonely hours we may have experienced. We thank you for those animal companions who have been received into your care. May their companions find comfort and assurance. Bless all animals in harm's way, heal the sick, protect those who are lost, and guide them to safety. Thank you for the gift of love. Amen

**- SENDING -**

Call to Discipleship Rev. Jackie Celin

\* Closing Hymn **UMH 92 “For the Beauty of the Earth”**

Benediction Rev. Wongee Joh

Postlude ***Improvisation on “All Creatures of our God and King”*** Elisabeth Ellis, organist

*\*Please stand as you are able, body and spirit*

*\*\*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, Peter Jabin; Reader, Violet Boyer; Reader, Wally Shaffer; Communion Steward, Violet Boyer; Assisting with Communion, Peter Jabin; Greeter, Shawn Smith; Audio-Visual Operator, Laura Celin*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

### Portraits of the Divine Sculpture by Joseph Gregory Rossana & Guest Preacher | Today

We're honored to feature artist, Joseph Gregory Rossana's "St. Sebastian: ANNO ÆTATIS SUÆ XXXI" from his Portraits of the Divine exhibit for the month of October at First Church. Joseph will also be our guest preacher this morning! The art exhibit will be available the entire month of October in the Sanctuary on Sundays for viewing from after worship to 2 pm or by appointment. On October 13th, the exhibit will open after the recital. Parking will be available in our parking garage until 3pm on Sundays.

### Elizabeth Galafa Ylaya: Latin American Music | After Service

In celebration of Hispanic heritage month, First Church presents Elizabeth Galafa Ylaya, soprano, in a lively program of Latin American music! Together with Elisabeth Ellis, pianist, the two E's will present a sparkling song set featuring classical Spanish art songs, Puerto Rican folk songs, and popular zarzuela favorites. Admission is free, and a free-will donation will be collected to benefit the First Church music program. If you're bringing your pet for Blessing of the Animals, after service care for (socialized) pets will be available during the recital.

**Ministry Fair | October 20:** Come join us for morning worship and a ministry fair to follow to find out all the groups and activities at First Church!

**MPC Advocacy Opportunity:** Our Urban Outreach Team is part of the Meal Partnership Coalition (MPC) in Seattle that works each and every day to ensure that Seattle meal providers have the resources needed to serve nutritionally dense, culturally, gender, and age appropriate meals to those in our community who would otherwise go hungry. We encourage your involvement with this advocacy effort within our city, to help support the important work of our food ministry program, Shared Breakfast. Reach out to Rev. Jackie Celin with questions.

**Prayer Shawl Group:** The prayer shawl group will meet in person on zoom on Tuesday, October 15 at 7PM. Anyone interested in joining this group is also invited to attend.

**Get to know Pastor Wongee:** Pastor Wongee is doing a series of meet-and-greets in small groups at congregants homes. Sign up for dinners in October and November! Don't worry if you can't make it in person, there will be digital gatherings for those who can't make it in person.

**Need a Nametag?:** Please scan the qr code and submit a request to receive a nametag! Once you fill out the request, you'll find your nametag on the welcome table in the Narthex.

**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

---



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.*"