

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT HANGING OF THE GREENS | DECEMBER 1



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.

First United Methodist Church of Seattle 180 Denny Way Seattle, WA 98109

December 1, 2024 | Hanging of the Greens First Sunday of Advent

- GATHERING -

The Holly and the Ivy Prelude Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

Advent Proclamation Jeremiah 33:14-16, 26b April Little

This is the word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

* Call to Worship Peter Jabin (credit: Slettom Jeanyne)

How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?

With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.

How shall we prepare this house for the eternal Christ?

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the prophet of Galilee?

With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.

Today we wait with Hope for the light of Christ to shine in the dark places of lives and memories.

We wait in Hope for God's vision of wholeness, justice, and peace for all creation to be born again in Bethlehem.

* Opening Hymn UMH #196 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Peter Jabin * Passing of the Peace

Hear the words of Jesus: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." The peace of Christ is ours, through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Jackie Celin

Land Acknowledgement Peter Jabin

- CENTERING -

Lighting the Community Candle

Peter Jabin

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.

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

Introduction **Barbara Moreland** The Trees Lorry Celin

The Star Tom Bruhns

Invitation to the Congregation Peter Jabin

Decorating the Tree

Hymn during Decorating UMH #211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Advent Wreath Kari Rosen

The Candles

Prayers of the People Peter Jabin

Prayer Response UMH #204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us, revealed in us, his name is

his name is called Emmanuel. called, Emmanuel.

The Bells Joyce Frost
The Crèche Roman Benasko

- PROCLAIMING -

Advent I Proclamation Luke 21:25-36 Isaac Pruden

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

Sermon "Strong in Hope, Active in Service" Rev. Wongee Joh

Advent Banner Dedication Isaac Pruden

- RESPONDING -

Invitation to the Offering Peter Jabin

Special Music Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Sanctuary Choir, Elisabeth Ellis, Director

Doxology UMH #95 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

* Prayer of Dedication Rev. Wongee Joh

* Communion Hymn WS #3047 God Almighty, We Are Waiting; verse 1 & 2

God Almighty, we are waiting As we look for signs and wonders,

for a Savior to appear. help us see you in a child.

Meet us in our desert journey; give a sign that you are near:

burning bushes, parted waters, God Incarnate, we are waiting food a plenty in the wild. for the feast day of your birth.

Looking back and looking forward to the Christ's return to earth. Help us to proclaim the gospel,

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Prayer of Jesus

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kindom 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

'til the world is reconciled. Let us set your holy table for each woman, man, and child.

Rev. Wongee Joh and Rev. Jackie Celin

trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kindom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

- SENDING -

Call to Discipleship

Rev. Jackie Celin

Elisabeth Ellis, organist

*Closing Hymn

Postlude

UMH #89 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Benediction Rev. Wongee Joh

Improvisation on "Now Thank We All Our God"

*Please stand as you are able, body and spirit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

True Thanksgiving: Stewardship 2025: During our Stewardship giving campaign this year, we invite all to prayerfully remember God's generosity and how we participate as co-creators with our community, as an urban church, and as caretakers of the cosmos. Let us be faithful to God, one another, and to the world we are called to serve, "so that together we sing a song of thanksgiving AS IF God's kin-dom is already here and still yet coming".



Need a Nametag?: Please scan the gr 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

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."











^{**}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, April Little; Reader, Isaac Pruden; Communion Steward, Peter Jabin; Assisting with Communion, Rev. Jackie Celin, Cary Lee; Advent Leaders, Roman Benasko, Joyce Frost, Barbara Moreland, Lorry Celin, Tom Bruhns, Kari Rosen; Greeter, Beth Snyder; Audio-Visual Operator, Laura Celin