



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 *Cuando El Pobre (When the Poor Ones)* arr. by Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle Karen McComber, Aliyah Smith, Jada Gray, and Maureen Johnson

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

* Call to Worship

Ann Shaffer

Rejoice!
for the inbreaking of the Holy is found in humble places;

it meets those who are weary and in need of wonder.

Rejoice!

for the Holy guides us when we feel lost;
it is a bright star in a directionless night.

Rejoice!

Holiness is found for those who seek Her—

thanks be to babies and children who remind us
that the Holy is found in the present moment.

Rejoice!

for we are casting out, discarding, crumbling old ways

that keep us from the Kin-dom of heaven in the here and now.

God is near!

Let us rejoice!

* Opening Hymn

UMH #210 “Toda la Tierra” (All Earth is Waiting)

* Passing of the Peace

Ann Shaffer

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

Ann Shaffer

- CENTERING -

Lighting the Community Candle

Ann Shaffer

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 *In the Bleak Midwinter* - Holst, arr. by Whitworth
Sanctuary Choir; Elisabeth Ellis, director and pianist

Prayers of the People Ann Shaffer

Prayer Response UMH #204 "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.

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

- PROCLAIMING -

Welcome and Introduction to Las Posadas

First Door; Second Door; Third Door

UMH#243 "De Tierra Lejana Venimos" (From a Distant Home)

Introducing the Preacher Rev. Wongee Joh

Video from Rev. Keren Rodriguez of Aloha United Methodist Church, Aloha, Oregon

- RESPONDING -

Invitation to the Offering Ann Shaffer

Offertory Music *I Wonder as I Wander* - Appalachian folk song, notated by John Jacob Niles
Tess Altiveros, soloist; Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

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

* Prayer of Dedication Rev. Wongee Joh

The Sacrament of Holy Communion Rev. Wongee Joh, Rev. Jackie Celin, Cary Lee

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

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

*Closing Hymn UMH #202 "People, Look East"

Benediction The Immigrants' Creed by Jose Luis Casal Rev. Wongee Joh

Postlude Improvisation on "En el Frío Invernal" (Cold December Flies Away) - Catalanian carol
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, Ann Shaffer; Reader, Kari Wilson; Reader, Michael Glauner; Audio-Visual Operator, Laura Celin*

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".



Today | Vintners Young Adult Gathering: Join us after worship for good food and fellowship at Queen Anne Beer Hall.

Collection Drive for Blaine Veterans Center: This year, during Advent, we will be collecting donated items for the Blaine Veterans Center that provides transitional housing to Veterans, located at First Church and operated by Compass Housing Alliance. Thank you for taking care of our Veterans this Holiday Season!



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



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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