



A Service of Lessons & Carols

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 22 | 10:30AM

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 *Once In Royal David's City* Heather Hunter, violin; Elisabeth Ellis, piano

Proclamation *A Call to Love One Another* | I John 4:7-8 Peter Jabin

Processional Hymn UMH #211 *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* (verses on slides)

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle Greg Wallace and Craig Sheppard

*** Passing of the Peace** Greg Wallace and Craig Sheppard

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

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.

Welcome to Lessons and Carols - "A Song of Peace" Rev. Jackie Celin

Bidding Prayer

- CENTERING -

1st Reading *The promise of light for a people in shadows* | Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Craig Mathews

Choral Anthem *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* - arr. Marianne Forman

Reading *The Peace that Christ will bring is foreshown* | Isaiah 11: 1-4; 6-9 Shawn Smith

Congregational Hymn UMH #216 *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"* (verse 2 choir only)

Reading *The Birth of Jesus* | Luke 2: 1; 3-7 Craig Mathews

Congregational Hymn UMH #230 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* (verses 1-3)

Reading *The Shepherds go to the manger* | Luke 2:8-16 Shawn Smith

Anthem *The First Nowell* - arr. Wilberg (verses 1-2, verse 3 choir only)

Congregational Reading *Mary visits Elizabeth* / Luke 1:39-45 Craig Mathews

Pastoral Reflection

Rev. Wongee Joh

Christmas Comes by Ann Weems, from "*Kneeling in Bethlehem*"

- RESPONDING -

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Jackie Celin

Offertory Music

Gesu Bambino - Pietro Yon

Tess Altiveros, soprano, and José Rubio, baritone; Elisabeth Ellis, organ

*Congregational Prayer

- *attributed to St. Francis of Assisi*

Rev. Wongee Joh

*Congregational Hymn

UMH #431 "*Let There Be Peace on Earth*"

Call to Discipleship

Rev. Jackie Celin

Reading

The great mystery of the Incarnation | John 1:1-14

Shawn Smith

Anthem

Love's Pure Light (Silent Night) - arr. Elaine Hagenberg

Reading

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear - Edmund H. Sears

Peter Jabin

*Congregational Hymn

UMH #240 "*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*"

Benediction

Rev. Wongee Joh

Choral Postlude *The Work of Christmas* - lyrics by Howard Thurman, music by Dan Forrest

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music from the heart.*

**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: Reader, Craig Mathews; Reader, Shawn Smith; Reader, Peter Jabin; Sanctuary Choir and musician friends; Heather Hunter, violin; Greeters, Karen McOmber; Audio-Visual Operator, Laura Celin*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Service: Join us for a joyful evening service with carols and candlelight! After our Christmas Eve Service, please join us in the Narthex for a cookie exchange! Bring your favorite cookies to share with one another and stay for some fellowship together. All are welcome!

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".



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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