



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 *There is a Balm in Gilead* Elisabeth Ellis, pianist

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Elizabeth Ingram Schindler & Pastor Jackie Celin

Lighting the Community Candle Erin Elaine Williams

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself today,
across the spectrum of human existence, sexuality, gender, identity, ability, or privilege;
in a world full of questions and doubts, and the entirety of creation in peril,
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.

***Call to Worship** Erin Elaine Williams

One: God is in the water that restores our soul.

All: And God is in the night when we lose our way.

One: God is in today and tomorrow, raising up leaders, prophets and dreamers.

All: And God is in the wilderness with us—every step of the way.

One: So with confidence we declare—

All: If God is in those spaces, then God is surely here.

One: Let us worship the God of creation.

All: Let us worship the God of wilderness spaces

- PROCLAIMING -

***Opening Hymn** *Shepherd Me, O God* UMH #140

Gospel Reading: John 9: 1-41 Craig Mathews & Shawn Smith

Sermon *Wilderness: A Place of Healing* Pastor Kathy

Moment for Reflection

Take a moment now to reflect, pray, or simply to be still.

- RESPONDING -

Sung Prayers of the People Pastor Elizabeth

Invitation to the Offering Erin Elaine Williams

UMCOR'S RESPONSES IN 2025



30

FLOODS



11

TROPICAL STORMS



5

FIRES



6

TORNADOES



29

MIGRATION EVENTS



3

LANDSLIDES



5

EARTHQUAKES



7

CONFLICT/
CIVIL UNREST



3

PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCIES



16

OTHER KINDS
OF DISASTERS



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to UMCOR Sunday



Offertory Music

Requiem - Eliza Gilkyson, arr. Johnson
Sanctuary Choir; Elisabeth Ellis, director and pianist

*Doxology

O Love, How Deep v. 6

UMH #267

*All glory to our Lord and God -
for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore,
forever and forevermore.*

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Elizabeth

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Pastor Elizabeth and Pastor Jackie

- SENDING FORTH -

Call to Discipleship

Pastor Jackie

*Closing Hymn

Healer of Our Every Ill (v. 1, 2, 4)

TFWS #2213

Benediction

Pastor Kathy

Song of Blessing

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing (v. 1)

UMH #671

**Please rise in body or spirit*

***Our thanks to those helping in worship: Worship Leader, Erin Elaine Williams; Scripture Readers, Craig Mathews & Shawn Smith; Communion Steward, Jane Gregg; Altar Guild, Barbara Moreland; Front Door Greeter, Bruce Hall, Audio-Visual Operator, Laura Celin*

Today's liturgy comes from Rev. Sarah Are, Sanctified Art, sanctifiedart.org; is adapted from UMCdiscipleship.org; and is adapted from Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher, Eucharistic Prayers (2016).

Benediction from Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals, edited by Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, and Enuma Okoro, © 2010 by The Simple Way and School for Conversion and Zondervan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today | Lunch & Learn: Climate Justice and the Right to Food, downstairs:

Learn about the innovative strategies the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has developed in the context of disaster recovery and climate risk reduction, with the goal of food security for the most vulnerable. Speaker Dan Gustafson is a member of First Church and the former Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Mar. 21 | Intercultural Competency Workshop, noon to 5:00 p.m., downstairs:

All are invited to attend this eye-opening workshop that will help us see where we are on the intercultural competency continuum and provide next steps on our journey to become a fully inclusive church. Lunch is provided.



Every Sunday at 7 p.m. | Bible Study, online: WHAT IF? An exploration of several parables of Jesus for such a time as this that tradition has taught us to read through the eyes of empire. This Bible study is open to everyone. You will only need your Bible and an open mind. Sundays at 7PM on Zoom. Led by Pastor Kathy.



Upcoming Classes/Events:

- **Mar. 15:** Lunch & Learn: Climate Justice and the Right to Food, after worship
- **Mar. 18:** Women's Groups: Seattle Armory at 10 a.m.
- **Mar. 21:** First Church Annual Grounds Clean Up, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- **Mar. 21:** Intercultural Competency Workshop, noon to 5:00 p.m.
- **Mar. 26:** Book Club, 7 p.m.
- **April 30 - May 1:** Camp Indianola Beach Clean Up
- **May 1-3:** All Church Retreat at Camp Indianola
- **Every Sunday:** Bible Study at 7 p.m. on Zoom



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."*



FirstChurchSeattle.org



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