

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



DECEMBER 1, 2024

11 AM WORSHIP



1111 Harvard Avenue | Seattle, WA 98122 | seattlefirstbaptist.org

We gather on the unceded ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people, past and present. With gratitude, we honor the land itself and the legacy of the First People of Seattle, the Duwamish Tribe. May we remember that the oppression of Native peoples is not a relic of the past but continues today. And may we, through God's Spirit, repent and walk forward together, changing systems that discriminate as we live into authentic diversity and healing.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**If it is comfortable, you are invited to stand.*

Announcements

Pastor Leigh Curl-Dove

Preludes

Christian Broughton

“Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599”

J.S. BACH

“Gottes Sohn ist kommen, BWV 600”

J.S. BACH

Call to Worship

Inspired by Isaiah 43:1-4 and Luke 1:26-29

Pastor Anita Peebles

One: God says,

ALL: “Do not be afraid.”

One: God says,

ALL: “I have called you by name.”

One: God says,

ALL: “I will be with you.”

One: God says,

ALL: “You are precious and honored in my sight.”

One: At the beginning of this season,

ALL: at the start of this week,

One: at the top of this hour,

ALL: may we wrap ourselves in these words. May we begin again.

One: Let us worship our Holy God!

***Hymn**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel
And with your people always dwell
Who mourn in mortal exile here
Until the Lord of Life appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again and with us ever dwell.*

2. O come, Redeemer of the slave,
The shackled Hebrews you did save.
And then your covenant was sealed,
The Torah on the mount revealed. [*refrain*]

3. O come, O God’s revealing Word,
Your voice the Hebrew prophets heard;
They saw that one day war will cease,
And all creation be at peace. [*refrain*]

4. O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Who brings the truth of Adonai,
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in your ways to go. [*refrain*]

5. O come, Incarnate Word revealed,
Your people you both taught and healed,
You trusted Abba’s love would save,
And so were raised up from the grave.
[*refrain*]

Time with Children

Pastor Anita Peebles

Advent Candle Lighting

Tuesday Prayer Group

***Candle Lighting Song 107**

REJOICE, REJOICE

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” (v. 1)

Scripture

ISAIAH 43:1-7 (NRSVUE)

Eric Setran

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and

my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

Reader: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, and for the word of God within us,

All: Thanks be to God.

Call to Giving

Muriel Cashdollar Jones

***Hymn 111**

“O Loving Founder of the Stars”

CONDITOR ALME

Prayer

Pastor Leigh Curl-Dove

Anthem

“Cover Me with the Night”

Sanctuary Choir

ANDREA RAMSEY

Come, Lord, and cover me with the night.

Spread your grace over us when the night is cold and dark.

Your promises are more than the stars in the sky.

Your mercy is deeper than the night.

Lord, we wait for you: Come, Lord!

Scripture

LUKE 1:26-38 (NRSVUE)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Reader: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, and for the word of God within us,

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“You Are A Blessing”

Pastor Anita Peebles

Communion

Pastor Leigh Curl-Dove
and Pastor Anita Peebles

*Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

2. Christ, by highest heav’n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased with flesh in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

3. Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that all no more may die;
Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Benediction

Pastor Anita Peebles

Postlude

Christian Broughton

“Herr Christ, der einge Gottes-Sohn,” BWV 601

J.S. BACH

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee hour.

You may give financially to SFBC online here:



*Children are a treasured part of our community. Please find a
Worship Adventure Packet or a Busy Box at the tables in the
foyer. Children are free to use these resources in the pews or in
the Wiggle Room, a mostly soundproof room on the north end
of the sanctuary where young worshippers and people who
need to move around can see and hear the service.*

Every minor in the Wiggle Room must be attended by an adult.

**CELEBRATION OF LIGHT AND JOY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 FROM 12–2PM**

All are welcome to Seattle First Baptist Church for our 5th Annual Celebration of Light and Joy! We welcome our members, friends and neighborhood to join us on Sunday, December 8 at noon for a Lunch with Santa followed by a Christmas Carol-Sing with choir and brass in our beautifully decorated sanctuary. Children and youth are especially welcome to take a photo with Santa and share in the joy of the season!

COME HELP US FINISH OUR EPIPHANY STARS

A project is underway to complete a cluster of large paper stars to be hung in the sanctuary for the season of Epiphany. We could use your help to complete the design at the center section of each star. The project involves cutting out and gluing a simple paper quilt pattern. We will meet

for several Sundays after worship in the parlor beginning December 8th.

**SEASONAL NOSTALGIA WITH
THE PLAY READING CIRCLE**

On Saturday, December 7th from 10am to noon (NOTE TIME CHANGE), the Play Reading Circle will be gathering IN PERSON to usher in the Christmas season with a little party. Please plan to bring finger food to share. We will be reading a radio play version of *It's a Wonderful Life*, complete with radio-ready sound effects.

If this sounds like fun, we'd love to have you join us—as a newcomer or an old faithful. No experience required. For information on the location of this gathering, contact Joanne Hjort, Cherry Johnson or the church office.



SEATTLE JAZZ VESPERS PRESENTS

JOVINO SANTOS NETO QUARTETO

TONIGHT! Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 6pm at SFBC

Three-time Latin Grammy nominee Jovino Santos Neto, a master pianist, composer and arranger, is among the top Brazilian musicians working today. In 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2018 the Jovino Santos Neto Quinteto won as Best Northwest Acoustic Group in the Golden Ear Awards by Earshot Jazz. Come hear them next Sunday in the SFBC Sanctuary!



SFBC CALENDAR THIS WEEK

All groups and events are open to new members unless otherwise stated below. For more information, see the church calendar, The Spire, or email smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org. The schedule below is accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of publication.

SUNDAY 12/1 SEATTLE JAZZ VESPERS 6pm in the Sanctuary

MONDAY 12/2 COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES 7pm in the Peacemaker Room and on Zoom

TUESDAY 12/3 COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES 7pm in the Peacemaker Room and on Zoom

TUESDAY 12/3 BUILDING LASTING BRIDGES 6:00pm on Zoom

TUESDAY 12/3 PRAYER AND REFLECTION 12pm on Prayer Group Zoom

THURSDAY 12/5 BIBLE STUDY 12 pm on Zoom

FRIDAY 12/6 EXPLORING CONTEMPLATION 11am on Zoom

SATURDAY 12/7 PLAY READING CIRCLE 10am off-site; contact Joanne Hjort, Cherry Johnson or the church office for location.

SATURDAY 12/7 MEN'S GROUP 11am on Men's Group Zoom

SUNDAY 12/8 CELEBRATION OF LIGHT AND JOY, 12-2pm at SFBC

SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST'S 5TH ANNUAL

Celebration of Light and Joy

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024
12:00–2:00PM**

LUNCH WITH SANTA CLAUS

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG
WITH CHOIR AND BRASS**

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1111 HARVARD AVENUE
SEATTLE, WA
seattlefirstbaptist.org





ARTIST'S STATEMENT

HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK



JOSEPH'S DREAM

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Matthew 1:18-25

Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink
on patterned paper

The angel holds Joseph as his dream unfolds in quilted vignettes. At the top, Mary gazes ahead, pondering her role in welcoming the Son of God into the world. Below, a squishy baby Jesus peacefully rests as his glory shines on a longing world eager to soak up the light of Emmanuel. Just as a dream holds layers of meaning, this image reflects more than the sum of its parts.

I'm fascinated by symbology. Stars have come to represent both Mary and Jesus in liturgical art, so I decided to research stars in quilting. It turns out that quilting holds its own wealth of symbology through choices in color, shapes, patterns, etc. A star quilt holds significance in a number of different cultures, including the Lakota. Star quilts are given at important moments throughout one's life, including birth, and the eight-pointed morning star "represents fulfillment, the release from darkness, [and] ushering in a new day."³

This brings me to another fascination of mine, Biblical numerology. One of my most well-worn resources is a glossary of common liturgical symbols in European Christian art called, *Symbolism in Liturgical Art*. In it, the writers describe that the eight-pointed star is often used in imagery of Christ as an allusion to the eighth day of creation when Christ rose from the dead, "a beginning of days outside of time."⁴ It delights me that this eight-pointed star is made up of triangles with three sides. The number three references the Trinity, and therefore, the communal fullness of the Divine.

In researching imagery for Mary, I realized that both stars and lilies are often used in European art to celebrate Mary's purity. My glossary reads: "Her bearing of Christ without loss of her virginity is seen as similar to stars sending out their light without loss of brightness."⁵ Of all the things we can lift up about Mary, such as her courage, strength, or steadfast love, why emphasize her virginity? This feels incredibly limiting and dismissive and misses how incredible and multifaceted Mary is. In my image, I want to reclaim the imagery of stars and lilies to represent how Mary is a brilliant, shining example of radical faithfulness in the face of every possible earthly fear. Lilies are resourceful, hearty plants which represent rebirth across cultures. I would argue that Mary is resilient in the face of an impossible task, and in many ways, the entire story of the people of God is reborn through Mary's bravery. —Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

³ A quote from Kevin Locke, Lakota Sioux. nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/evolution-expression

⁴ Appleton, LeRoy H. and Stephen Bridges. *Symbolism in Liturgical Art*. (New York: Charles Scribner, 1959). 97.

⁵ Ibid. 96.