

# THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2024  
11 AM WORSHIP



1111 Harvard Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98122  
[seattlefirstbaptist.org](http://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.*

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Announcements Pastor Anita Peebles

Prelude “Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her” Christian Broughton

ERNST PEPPING

I. Allegro cantabile

II. Scherzando

III. Pastorale

Call to Worship Pastor Leigh Curl-Dove

One: In a world that is lonely,

**ALL: we will save a seat for you.**

One: In a world that is anxious,

**ALL: we will light candles against the gloom.**

One: In a world that is weary,

**ALL: we will sing songs of joy and truth.**

One: I am not alone.

**ALL: We are not alone.**

One: For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

**ALL: Light the candles! Sing with joy!**

**We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.**

**\*Hymn 101** “Comfort, Comfort O My People” PSALM 42

Time with Children Pastor Anita Peebles

# Welcome New Members

Jacob Maez

Kat Thomas

*Please join in reading the mission covenant when invited.*

**We are a community of faith united in exploring what it means to follow the way of Jesus Christ, to be a people of God, and to love and care for our neighbors. As a church we will know no circles of exclusion, no bridges we will not cross, and no loyalties above those that we owe to God.**

Advent Candle Lighting

New Members

**\*Candle Lighting Song 107**

REJOICE, REJOICE

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "To us, to all in sor-row and fear, Em-man - u - el comes a - sing-ing,\_\_\_ whose hum - ble song is qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing. Mu - sic to heal the brok - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing kind - ness, the thun-der of the an-thems roll to shat-ter all hate and in - jus - tice.\_\_\_\_"

Scripture

RUTH 1:1-18, 22 (NRSVUE)

Kira Walmsley

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years,

both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

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

Doug Beasley

**\*Hymn 345**

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

PICARDY

Prayer

Pastor Anita Peebles

Anthem

“Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”

Sanctuary Choir

– *arr.* SHAWN KIRCHNER

O beautiful star of Bethlehem, shining a far through shadows dim,  
Giving a light for those who long have gone,  
And guiding the wisemen on their way unto the place where Jesus lay,  
Beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.

*Refrain:*

Beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine upon the glory dawn,  
Give us thy light to light the way until the land of perfect day.  
Beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.

O beautiful star, the hope of light, guiding the pilgrim through the night,  
Over the mountain till the break of dawn.  
And into the light of perfect day it will give out a lovely ray,  
Beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on. *Refrain*

O beautiful star, the hope of rest for the redeemed, the good, the blest,  
Yonder in glory when the crown is won.  
For Jesus is now the star divine, brighter and brighter He will shine,  
Beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on. *Refrain*

Scripture

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12 (NRSVUE)

Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

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

“Two Are Better Than One”

Pastor Leigh Curl-Dove

\*Hymn

“People, Look East”

BESANÇON



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
2. flour - ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

Benediction

Pastor Leigh Curl-Dove

Postlude

Christian Broughton

Toccata on “Veni, Redemptor gentium,” Op. 5, No. 10

PAUL MANZ

*Thank you to our guest musician, Teddy Wiggins, for the music this morning.*

*Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee hour.*

*You may give financially to SFBC online here:*






**Closeup detail #2**

Ruth is filled with blues, oranges, and greens. Whereas Naomi’s portrait holds grief and duality, Ruth’s color palette is meant to feel more hopeful and vibrant. It feels like she puts on a brave face for Naomi when she pledges her allegiance to her mother-in-law. There is something pure about her as reflected in the pearls around her neck. However, the heavier colors reside around her heart. She too is embraced by clouds and patterns continuing the continuity of a quilted/patchwork of a background.



**Closeup detail #3**

“Wherever you go, I go” is reinforced across the entire piece but most certainly here. There is a trinity of bonds right at the intersection of four different patterns. Ruth and Naomi’s braids that span across the canvas are woven into each other. The two of them are also portrayed on opposing sides of the braids reaching toward each other. They are stretched out seeking each other while also latching onto their bond. Ruth and Naomi are also the two hands pressed upon each other like a prayer. It feels like two worlds are colliding with the rounded waves and galactic triangles surrounding them. Above the hands is an omnipresent moon, as if God is looking over their bond.



*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.*

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## ARTIST'S STATEMENT



The Second Sunday of Advent | WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING  
**WE CAN'T GO ALONE**



### **BINDING BRAIDS**

by Nicolette Peñaranda

Inspired by Ruth 1

Acrylic, markers, paper, and  
mixed media collage on canvas

When I was a child, my mother used to give my older sister and I this unibraid down our backs. She was never particularly good at doing our hair. We always had

flyaways and little bits of frizz at our edges accompanied by our bright big smiles on picture day. I always wondered why my braid was never smooth and long like hers.

It wasn't long until I started braiding my own hair. At the tender age of nine I would spend hours in the bathroom staring at myself in the mirror with two hands to heaven. Braids would become a staple in my haircare routine. The more I did my own, the more I noticed others' braids as well. I would learn to appreciate our shared kinship. Our braids were our ancestors, our heritage, and our culture. Our designs were our creativity and our individuality. Braids bind us in ways that go beyond the physical—we are forever entwined.

Ruth and Naomi find themselves bound by their widowhood and familial grief. And while Orpah made the choice to return to her village, Ruth bound herself to her mother-in-law: "Where you go, I will go." They too have spiritual connections that are deeper than the surface. The two of them are connected through a simple braid; they are also reaching for each other from opposing sides of the braid (in the middle of the canvas). This piece conveys several different forms of connection over a blanket of decorative textiles quilted together. *Binding Braids* continues a whimsical fantasy I incorporated in a former work, *Lift Off*.<sup>2</sup> These are sister pieces meant to invite the audience into an otherworldly, fluid space for biblical wonderment. —Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda



#### **Closeup detail #1**

Naomi is embodied by purples, yellows, and greens. While purple is most commonly associated with royalty, here it's meant to hold her grief. The deep color reflects her processing the loss of both of her sons and husband while the contrast of the yellows and gold represent the glimmers of hope she finds in companionship with Ruth. Rather than traditional blending, Naomi has bold streaks that emulate a harshness to her story. While she is surrounded by whimsical patterns and clouds, Naomi's portrait stands distinct from her surroundings. Her chest holds a subtle landscape detailing her and Ruth holding hands while journeying back to Naomi's native land. The image is soft like the clouds surrounding her, as if her story is suddenly easier now that Ruth is with her.

(Artist's statement continued on page 7)

<sup>2</sup> Lift Off was originally created for the Lent series, "Wandering Heart." You can view or license that image here: [sanctifiedart.org/image-licensing-library-ordinary-time/lift-off](https://sanctifiedart.org/image-licensing-library-ordinary-time/lift-off)