

Lisle

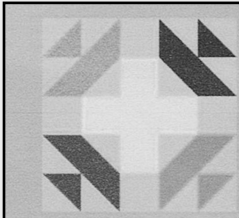
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2024
11 AM WORSHIP



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

We invite you to look at the banners hanging above the sanctuary and note that they display quilt square designs from our theme this Advent season, "Words for the Beginning". Each quilt square is a visual representation of the theme for one given Sunday of Advent. This morning's theme is:



DO THE GOOD THAT IS YOURS TO DO We are each uniquely gifted, called, and equipped for the good that is ours to do in the world. In the center is the cross, symbolizing Christ's impact, and surrounding it are individuals reaching out and shining their particular light in the world.

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

Prelude

Christian Broughton

“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme,” BWV 645

J.S. BACH

Call to Worship

Pastor Anita Peebles

One: “Teacher,” the crowd asked, “What should we do?”

ALL: If you have two shirts, give one away. Hold onto hope.

Live like we belong to one another. Speak the truth.

Look for God.

Do the good that is yours to do.

One: It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

Let us worship our present and active God.

***Hymn 112**

“Keep Awake, Be Always Ready”

WACHET AUF

Time with Children

Pastor Leigh Curl-Dove

***Candle Lighting Song 107 (v. 3)**

REJOICE, REJOICE

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”



In deep-est night Christ's com-ing shall be, when all the world is de - spair - ing as



morn - ing light so qui - et and free so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.



One with-out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in won - der, the



weak are raised a - bove the strong, and wea-pons are bro-ken a - sun - der

Scripture

ISAIAH 58:9B-12 (NRSVUE)

Kathleen Southwick

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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

Sarah Cooper

***Hymn 127**

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

ES IST EIN’ ROS

Prayer

Pastor Leigh Curl-Dove

Anthem

“Joy to the World”

Sanctuary Choir

HEATHER SORENSON

Terence Mejos, soloist

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room.
And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n nature sing,
And heav’n and heav’n and nature sing!
Joy to the world, the Savior reigns.
Let men their songs employ.
While hills and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Scripture

LUKE 3:7-16 (NRSVUE)

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I

baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

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	“Do The Good That Is Yours To Do”	Pastor Anita Peebles
*Hymn 129	“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”	IN DULCI JUBILO
Benediction		Pastor Anita Peebles
Postlude	“In dulci jubilo,” BWV 729 J.S. BACH	Christian Broughton

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.

STARS FOR EPIPHANY

Join Darren in the Parlor following worship this morning to help us finish decorating the large paper stars that will hang in our sanctuary during the season of Epiphany.

YOUNG ADULTS MOVIE NIGHT

Young adults (ages 20-40ish) are invited to gather at Rev. Anita's home for a cozy movie night!

When: Tuesday, December 17th

Food: Served at 6pm

Movie: Starts at 7pm

RSVP: Let Jacob Maez, Small Groups, or Rev. Anita know if you're coming, and we'll give you the address!

Note: Rev. Anita has a cat. The home will be cleaned beforehand, but we cannot guarantee it will be completely allergen-free.

Dietary Restrictions? Let us know when you RSVP so we can accommodate you.

Bring a friend, and come ready for good food, great company, and a fun evening!

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 6:30PM IN THE CHAPEL

The holiday season can be a time when grief feels particularly heavy. We feel the loss of ones we love a bit deeper. We hope you will join us in the chapel on Thursday, December 19th at 6:30pm for a service or prayer, hymns, Scripture, and reflection. We will gather to hold the grief together and to remember that even on the longest night of the year God is with us.

Parking for this service will be available (from 5-9pm) in the small lot on the corner of Spring St. and Boylston Ave.

ADVOCACY 101 WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 FROM 1-2PM IN THE PARLOR

An important aspect of justice work is advocacy—calling our elected officials, letter-writing, offering public comment at city council meetings, and more. If you've never done it before (or even if you have), it can feel overwhelming. With that in mind,

we hope you will join us after worship on Sunday, January 5th for an Advocacy 101 workshop with Elizabeth Dickinson from Faith Action Network! Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Pastor Leigh (including any dietary restrictions) if you would like to attend.

SFBC DONATION TO THE AMOS TRUST CHRISTMAS APPEAL

At the December 3rd monthly meeting, the Council of Ministries decided to make a \$2500 contribution to the Amos Trust Christmas Appeal. Money collected during the Christmas Appeal will provide the following for people in Gaza:

- Essential medical care with Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital.
- Vital food and water aid, in coordination with MA'AN Development, the Welfare Association, and Gaza Sunbirds, who are purchasing food and water locally while aid trucks are being denied access to central Gaza.
- Therapeutic interventions for women and children, aspiring to provide support for approximately 8,500 women and 35,000 children in 2025.
- Support for Gazan writers, artists and musicians who still convey beauty in the face of horror and who are documenting their experiences in Gaza.

Any donation to the Amos Trust given from December 3-10 will be doubled through a matching grant to their organization. It is our hope that our \$2500 donation (doubled to total \$5000) will make a positive difference for our brothers, sisters and siblings living in Gaza.

Amos Trust is a small creative human rights organization committed to challenging injustice, building hope and creating positive change. They are "rooted in the inclusive stream of Christianity that stresses justice and liberation for the oppressed." They "work to create this through non-violence, reconciliation and peace...Amos' name was inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King's use of the Hebrew prophet Amos' call to "Let justice flow like rivers." Many thanks to Susan Blythe-Goodman for sharing the Amos Trust Christmas Appeal with the Council of Ministries.

ADVENT PLAYLIST

Our Advent theme this year is “Words for the Beginning.” Advent is the beginning of the church calendar for the year. It is the season where we wait in anticipation for the birth of Jesus. There are many beginnings in our lives—new relationships, new babies, new jobs, new homes, new cities, new schools—the list is endless. Sometimes a beginning is exciting, and other times a beginning is scary. Other times something ends, and you have to pick up the pieces and begin again. We hope this playlist will be a welcome soundtrack in this season of beginning.

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4nT3IM0rSQjhwLvvgtuK6j?si=4f96e0784c1449a9>

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 12/15 ADVENT GODLY PLAY 9:30am in the Parlor
SUNDAY 12/15 WORSHIP 11am in the Sanctuary
SUNDAY 12/15 FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE 12:45pm in the Peacemaker's Room
TUESDAY 12/17 PRAYER AND REFLECTION 12pm on Prayer Group Zoom
TUESDAY 12/17 YOUNG ADULTS 6pm at Pastor Anita's home (contact church office for address)
TUESDAY 12/17 PARENTS OF ADULT CHILDREN LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS 7pm on Zoom (email smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org for passcode)
WEDNESDAY 12/18 CHOIR REHEARSAL 7pm in the Sanctuary
THURSDAY 12/19 BIBLE STUDY 12pm on Bible Study Zoom
THURSDAY 12/19 LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE 6:30pm in Hintz Chapel
SATURDAY 12/21 MEN'S GROUP 11am on Men's Group Zoom

Email contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org to reach any of the following people.

STAFF

Rev. Anita Peebles, *Pastor*
Rev. Leigh Curl-Dove, *Pastor*
Darren Hochstedler, *Church Administrator*
Christina Sunstone, *Office Manager & Small Group Ministries Coordinator*
Ben Luedcke, *Minister of Music*
Christian Broughton, *Organist & Communications Manager*
Dick Steele, *Facilities Manager*
Chase McAdams, *Caretaker*
Stephenie Simmons, *Chef*

COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES

Mike Zaugg, *President*
Sue Ross, *Vice President*
Inola de la Cruz, *Treasurer*
Roem de la Cruz
Heather Dodge
Julio Gutierrez
Janet Hasselblad
Mary Keith
Bob Sittig
David Young

ARTIST'S STATEMENT



The Third Sunday of Advent | WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING
DO THE GOOD THAT IS YOURS TO DO



THE GOOD THAT IS YOURS

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 3:7-16

*Ink dyes and gold resist on silk,
with digital collage*

As John the Baptist preaches about transformation, he receives the same question three times from those gathered by the river: “What, then, shall we do?”

His responses are straightforward and practical, but also particular. He tells the crowd to share any excess clothing and food with those who have none. He tells the tax collectors not to use their position of power to launder and steal money. He tells the soldiers not to coerce and threaten, and to be satisfied with their wages.

In other words, he tells them what not to do, which leads me to assume that those showing up to be baptized are carrying some things they need to atone for. And yet, they have shown up. They have journeyed into the wilderness to be baptized and transformed. They long for a new beginning.

At the center of this quilt square collage, a pinwheel of fire spins. It represents the Holy Spirit impelling the world to turn. Surrounding it are four petal shapes that bloom like a flower. They are each filled with branches of fruit. When we align ourselves with the movement of the Spirit, we can do the good that is ours to do. Our actions can bear good fruit.

The petals and pinwheel are encapsulated by the outline of a blue cross. Four walls of the cross contain broken fragments. In stark contrast to the lush fruit, the fragments are like shards of glass. They symbolize the sins John the Baptist sees present amongst the crowds: extortion, coercion, and the hoarding of power and resources. And yet, these fragments are linked together by blue arrows filled with the waters of baptism. There is a way to begin again.

From each cardinal direction, a triangle of Holy Spirit fire faces inward, pointing us to baptism and transformation. When we do the good that is ours to do, we bear good fruit—fruit that repairs and nourishes, fruit that grows into the four corners of the earth. —Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org | © 2024

Cover art: "The Good That Is Yours" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn | melody: REJOICE, REJOICE | Words and music by Marty Haugen | © 1982
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