



# the Spire

The Monthly Newsletter of Seattle First Baptist Church



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear church,

March 8, 2022 marks 2 years since the first Sunday SFBC went online for worship. It was a quick decision, made in consultation with healthcare workers and other congregations discerning what to do about the rapidly-increasing COVID pandemic. And now here we are, 2 years in, and almost 1 million (USA) deaths later.

It is completely normal to feel such grief, anxiety, loneliness, anger, fear and more when reflecting on the past two years. Sometimes it feels like these two years have been “time out of time,” as time has gone on but life has seemed stuck for many of us as we try again and again to adapt to “new normal” after “new normal.”

And yet, the cycle of life goes on. Births and deaths. Comings and goings. And the circle of the church year continues on, inviting us to be present in each season of the church’s life as a reminder that we are not alone, because the Ho-

ly is with us in all times.

The beginning of March this year brings the beginning of the season of Lent, a time when we “get ready to come close

## simple joys of grace

LENT 2022  
WITH SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



to the mystery of Easter,” in Godly-Play speak. This year, our Lenten theme at SFBC is “Simple Joys of Grace.” The words “joy” and “grace” might not be the first things you associate with the Lenten season, draped in rich purples and carrying a melancholy tone of self-denial. But that’s only one way of observing the Lenten season. The wor-

ship staff picked this theme because we hope slowing down to notice the simple joys in your life will help you get ready to come close to Easter's mystery.

Some people like to do Lenten practices to help them prepare to make space in their lives for the mystery of Easter. Often, people think of Lent as a time to give something up. "Giving up" practices could be everything from giving up chocolate or meat, giving of your time to people in need, or stopping negative thoughts about yourself. Or, some people like to take on a practice or add something to their lives. "Taking on" practices could be something like taking a walk every day, focusing on drinking more water, or trying a new craft or delving into a new cookbook. Whatever practice you feel suits you, know that it is enough—and that YOU are enough.

This year, our church Lenten devotional comes in the form of an envelope containing cards for each day of the season. The cards have prompts for things to do or reflection questions to ponder as you traverse this season. Examples of prompt are: shopping at Black-owned businesses, or sharing a pot of tea with a loved one, or practicing body positivity. All the activities are low- to no-preparation so they don't add a bunch of stress to your busy life, but rather encourage you to make space for those "Simple Joys of Grace" each day. So pick up an envelope of devotional cards in the sanctuary foyer or the church office and keep them on your kitchen table or your refrigerator during this sacred season. Or, find [the digital version of the devotional on the church website](#).

Each Sunday during Lent, a member of

our congregation will share about how they are experiencing grace in this season. Join us on March 6 as Janet Hasselblad starts this series on the First Sunday of Lent.

As we continue to live in this place and in this time and in this community, know that you are loved and that you are not alone. How beautiful a gift that our life cycles have aligned to allow us to journey together as Church. May your Lenten season be blessed as you get ready to come close to the mystery of Easter through experiencing simple joys of grace.

With love,  
*Pastor Anita Peebles*



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
LIGHT: 8 Tealights + Christ Candle.

CONFESS: God of love, you are God, and we are not. While you mend, too often we tear apart with injustice. While you are the very breath of spring, we are dust, and to dust we shall return. Mend us, heal us, bless us, and make us live again in you. Amen.

EXTINGUISH: 1 Tealight

READ: Isaiah 58:5-8

MEDITATE: Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

BLESS: May God bless you and keep you! May the radiant face of God shine upon you as we begin our Lenten journey from ashes to crocuses. In Jesus' name, Amen.



**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
LIGHT: 8 Tealights + Christ Candle

CONFESS: Dear God, here we are: beloved, flawed, beautiful, failing, and trying again to be your people in the world. Forgive the wrongs we have done, and the good we have left undone. Amen.

EXTINGUISH: 2 Tealights

READ: Mark 1:9-15

MEDITATE: Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Child, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

BLESS: May God bless you and keep you! May the radiant face of God shine upon you as you become who you truly are: God's beloved child, in whom God is well pleased. Amen.

# Growing Together

## Godly Play starts in person March 6 from 9:30-10:30

Kids in kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join Godly Play Sunday school in person in the Godly Play room (room 210) on Sunday, March 6 from 9:30-10:30. We will spend time together listening to the stories of our faith tradition, wondering together, sharing communion and working with the story creatively. All kids in this age group are welcome. Masks will be worn in the Godly Play room. Contact Pastor Anita with questions.

## Parents/Guardians Lenten Creativity Gathering *Begins March 6 from 9:30-10:30*

Janet Hasselblad will host space for parents/guardians of kiddos during Godly Play time. Janet will lead participants in simple, no-preparation reflective and creativity activities. No preparation necessary. Simply show up, drop your kiddo off at Godly Play, and head up to the 3rd floor youth room. Coffee is provided . ☺

# Worshiping Together



## Ash Wednesday Service *Wednesday, March 2 at 6pm in the Sanctuary and Online*

Join Pastor Anita for a time of reflection, song and the imposition of ashes. The Sanctuary will be open for silent reflection half an hour before the service and half an hour following the service.

## Lenten Worship in the Style of Taizé *Wednesdays at 5:30 pm (3/9 – 4/13) on Zoom*

Worship in the style of Taizé comes from the small ecumenical monastery in southern France, for which it is named. Taizé services feature short readings of poetry and scripture, and simple repetitive songs that create a meditative atmosphere. Pastor Anita visited Taizé as an undergrad and looks forward to sharing the simple beauty of this worship style with you during Lent. To volunteer to help Pastor Anita host these services, please email her: [anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org).

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86369247250>

Meeting ID: 863 6924 7250 | Join via phone +12532158782 then dial code 86369247250#

# Learning Together

## Thursday Bible Study with Pastor Anita

Noon on Thursdays on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86761779225>

Join by phone: 1-669-900-9128 | Meeting ID: 867 6177 9225

**March 3:** John 1:1-5 and Matthew 17

**March 10:** Mark 16:9-15 and Genesis 2:7-9,  
15-25

**March 17:** Matthew 7:15-20 and Genesis 3:1-7

**March 24:** Mark 13:14-22 and Genesis 3:8-21

**March 31:** John 3:11-17 and Song of Songs  
4:7-16

**April 7:** Luke 13:18-21 and Isaiah 51:1-8



**THE WINDS OF GOD**  
A Virtual Retreat for Lent  
Sat, March 5 10a-2p  
Must register in advance

There is still time to register for this virtual retreat! Get to know and experience fellowship with others, stretch some spiritual muscles, sense the presence of the Sacred, and have some fun. Email Retreats Coordinator Cherry Johnson at [retreats@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:retreats@seattlefirstbaptist.org).

## SFBC Choristers on the Stage!

Join SFBC choir members Katie Kelley, Jared White and Eric Jeffords with Lowbrow Opera Collective for their Spring Show! March 25 & 26 at 7pm at Rendezvous Jewelbox Theater, 2322 2nd Ave, Seattle, WA 98121. This evening will be full of laughs and musical debauchery (please note the venue is 21+ and there will be alcohol present). The feature performance will be MARTH<sup>A</sup>, composition by Lingbo Ma, Libretto by John de los Santos. Written for Opera Lab at The Juilliard School, you can learn more about this performance and get tickets at <https://lowbrowoc.org/>



# Our Lives Together

## Seeking Nursery Caregivers

We hope to open the nursery at SFBC sometime in March. This will help us be accessible to families with young children. If you are interested in volunteering for the nursery or being a paid nursery staff, contact [Pastor Anita](#). You can read the job description on our employment page [here](#).

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## Organist/Pianist Search

Since October, Margie Paynton has very graciously agreed to serve as our church pianist and organist during both Sunday services and choir rehearsals on an interim basis as we look to fill the position with a permanent hire. We thank Margie for her ministry and generosity of spirit, and we will be forever grateful as this is now the second interim period that Margie has filled at Seattle First Baptist. We have been so blessed. There is typically limited turnover in musician roles in the late fall and early winter, but we are confident we will have a qualified and diverse group of candidates to interview later this spring, and we hope to have a permanent hire in the months ahead. We are grateful for the hard work of our organ search team: Brian Lew, Darla O'Brian, Margie Paynton, Marsha Ulmer, and Pastor Anita Peebles. We thank them for their service and trust we are in good hands.

*Ben Luedcke, Minister of Music*

*Sara Tollefson, Personnel Committee Chair*

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## Welcome, Baby Wilder!

Along with grandparents David and Pat Kile, we celebrate the birth of their granddaughter Wilder to Kate and Sam on January 19 in New York, NY!



## Seattle Pro Musica

returns to Seattle First Baptist Church  
Saturday, March 5, 2022 - 7:30 pm

Two years ago, Seattle Pro Musica had to cancel their performances just two days prior to their premiere. We're thrilled to announce that they are remounting this project, and tickets are now available for purchase (including a streaming option)! Venue capacity restrictions apply; proof of vaccination and masks will be required - but they, in fact, ***Shall Not Be Denied...***! Tickets and more information are available at [this link](#).

# Concert Spotlight

## Ranger and the "Re-Arrangers"

March 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.



Seattle Jazz Vespers is proud to present a premiere performance of Ranger and the "Re-Arrangers" on Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 6 p.m.

Ranger Sciacca - violin; Dave Stewart - guitar, mandolin and vocals; Mick Nicholson - bass; Jeffrey Moose - percussion; Mike Sciacca - guitar

Ranger and the "Re-Arrangers" evoke the spirit of a Paris cafe and the raucous energy of a Gypsy campsite with their version of Gypsy jazz. "At the heart of their sound is Ranger Sciacca's sweet violin playing... his sense of melody and daring improvisations" (World Rhythm). The band's



repertoire includes swing standards, traditional Gypsy melodies, the music of Django Reinhardt, and Ranger's unique originals.

**THE GENRE** - "Gypsy jazz," is named in honor of Django Reinhardt, Europe's acclaimed composer and guitarist. In the 1930's, Django and violinist Stephane Grappelli blended their own musical legacies with the new American art form of jazz, Soon their recordings brought international fame to the genre. Gypsy jazz is characterized by upbeat, high energy swing on acoustic instruments, especially guitar, violin, bass, clarinet, and accordion.

**THE BAND** - Ranger and his father Michael formed the band in 2006, after a pilgrimage to the world's foremost Gypsy Jazz event, the Django Reinhardt festival in Samois Sur Seine, France. The band has now released 4 CDs and performs over 100 times each year at music festivals, concerts in the park, swing dances, weddings and events of all sorts.

Learn more at [Seattle Jazz Vespers Facebook page](#).

# STAFF DIRECTORY

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## 2022 Officers and Church Leaders

For more information please contact the church at  
[contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

<b>Officers</b>	<b>President:</b> Megan Walker <b>VP:</b> Dick Miller <b>Treasurer:</b> Metta Williams <b>Secretary:</b> Eric Watness
<b>Members at Large</b>	Inola de la Cruz David Delgado Martha Hopler Nirmala Jeldi Bob Sittig Christine Warren David Young

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*Submissions for the Spire are due by the 20th of the month prior. All submissions should be sent to [editor@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:editor@seattlefirstbaptist.org)*

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## SAVE THE DATES FOR HOLY WEEK:

- **Friday, April 15 :** Good Friday Service at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall
- **Saturday, April 16:** Easter Bunny Meet & Greet and Crafts, 10-1 on the corner of Harvard and Seneca
- **Sunday, April 17:** Easter Worship at 11am, in the sanctuary and online