

## We are committed to these values:

- We will go deeper in faith as we do justice, love mercy, work for peace and walk humbly with God.
- We will be present to one another and our neighbors in our personal relationships and by creating venues for engagement where we can learn about viewpoints different from our own.
- We will respect all religions by learning about the beliefs, values and struggles of our neighbors and by demonstrating support for them.
- We will welcome the stranger, including immigrants and refugees, as our scriptures instruct. We will explore how to support their causes and advocate for justice, remembering that many of us are the children of immigrants and refugees.
- We will actively work to recognize and change our own biases and to fight racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, ageism and other systemic prejudices.
  - We will protect our environment and support preservation programs that are based on scientific data designed to improve our resources, enhance biodiversity, and reverse human-caused climate change.

Sunday Worship  
Sunday, August 6, 2023  
11 AM

Pentecost 10  
Seattle First Baptist Church  
[www.seattlefirstbaptist.org](http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Welcome to Worship at Seattle First Baptist. All are Welcome.

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 during worship in the pews or the Wiggle Room.

Prelude	Morning Has Broken – Laure E. Wasson	Dori Baunsgard
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Gathering Darla O'Brian

ONE: God of all lands and people.

**ALL:** You treasure each and every one of us, from every culture and nation.

ONE: Give us the desire and sensitivity to welcome the stranger and defend the powerless.

**ALL:** Help us to share the comfort of your presence and our communities with them.

ONE: Let us worship God.

\*Hymn                      Jesu, Jesu                      NCH 498

Time with Children Brooke Rolston

Song Build a Bridge - Amanda Meisenheimer Ben Luedcke and Alex Katschke

We will cross a river...we will climb a mountain...

We will build a bridge...to love our neighbor.

*Refrain:* There is no wall that can hold back love.

There is no border that can change your worth.

You are my neighbor even when you're far away,

And I will build a bridge to care for you.

We will speak your language...we will share a meal...

We will listen to your words...and try to understand.

Invitations to Involvement/Call to Giving/Call to Prayer Bob Sittig

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

*Hymn	This is My Song	NCH 591
Prayer		Keith Ervin
Scripture	Matthew 25:31-40	Vanessa Perkinson
Sermon	Exercising Empathy	Vanessa Perkinson
Communion		Vanessa Perkinson and Jacob Maez

*Communion at Seattle First Baptist is open to all.  
 We serve gluten free bread and grape juice.  
 We ask that you hold the bread when you are served so that we may eat together,  
 And the same with the cup.*

*Hymn	For the Healing of the Nations	NCH 576
Benediction		
Postlude	This Little Light of Mine – Michael Hassell	Dori Baunsgard

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Heritage Hymn Notes:

***This is My Song*** - Lloyd Stone/Jean Sibelius

Born in 1912, Lloyd Stone studied music in California and, after joining a circus, ended up in Hawaii. There he taught public school and wrote several books of poems and songs until his death in 1993. *This is My Song*, written when he was 22 years old, is associated with Psalm 82:8: “Arise, O God, and rule the earth. For you shall take all nations for your own.” As one reviewer noted, “Here was an image of God big enough to love the whole world and not just a piece of it.” The hymn praises the love we feel for our nation while acknowledging the love that others feel for their nation as well. The words are sung to *Finlandia*, a symphonic poem written in 1899 by Jean Sibelius as a patriotic tribute to his nation which at that time was under control of Tsarist Russia.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AUGUST 6, 2023**

**Party for Pastor Anita and Scotty:** Sunday, August 27 after the worship service. We are celebrating the recent marriage of Pastor Anita and Scotty with a party in the Fellowship Hall following worship on August 27! We need volunteers to bring sides, desserts (anything but cake!), help with set up the day before (August 26), help with set up the day of the event, and help with clean up after! To RSVP for this party and to sign-up to volunteer, please fill out the Google form (link in This Week and on Facebook). Between now and August 27, bring an 8.5x11 piece of paper (or multiple pieces of paper) with a recipe, blessing, or other message for Pastor Anita and Scotty. We will compile these papers in a binder to give to them as a gift from the congregation!

**Nonagenarian Birthday Celebration:** Sunday, August 13th in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Join us to celebrate the 99th birthday of Renna Pierce and all the nonagenarians in our congregation.

**The Small Groups Ministry Advisory Group** is looking for new ideas for future groups! Send in your ideas to [smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org) or talk to Vanessa Perkinson.

**Announcement From the Pastoral Search Committee** The Pastoral Search Committee is pleased to announce their recommendation of the Rev. Leigh Curl-Dove to serve alongside Rev. Anita Peebles as Co-Pastor of Seattle First Baptist Church. Leigh was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. She attended Baylor University, where she earned a B.A. in Religion with a concentration in church history. Leigh then attended Duke Divinity School, where she received a Master of Divinity degree with a certificate in Baptist studies and a concentration in preaching. Leigh's application cover letter gave us a glimpse into her values and how they relate to those of our Church. Some excerpts from that letter:

"I am encouraged by your values and your commitment to following the way of Jesus Christ. I believe we would partner well in ministry together, as I share the same values and commitment. When I dream of what church could and should be, I see a place that mirrors the kingdom of God and has infinite seats at the table for all people. As Baptists, we believe that every member of the Church, every member of Christ's body, is a minister. Because we believe this, we also believe that all people should be welcomed and affirmed. This is done by living out the values you have committed to: being present to one another in relationships, striving to do justice, welcoming the stranger, working for peace, recognizing our own biases, and fighting systematic prejudices. Christ calls us to care for each other and the land we share. In acting on that call, I believe that we will find that common flourishing. Your values show me that you are already responding to this call and that you believe in this work too."

When Leigh came to visit with the committee in early June, we learned that her commitment to equal justice existed in deeds as well as words.

We will welcome Rev. Leigh Curl-Dove and Keith to visit with us during the weekend of September 16th and 17th. There will be an opportunity to meet with Leigh and Keith on Saturday at a scheduled event and on Sunday morning Rev. Curl-Dove will preach as a candidate and our congregation will have the opportunity to validate her as our Co-Pastor.

## **SFBC CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

For Zoom links, see our online calendar at [seattlefirstbaptist.org](http://seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Tuesday 8/8 **Finance Committee Meeting** 4:30pm on Zoom

Tuesday 8/8 **SFBC Council Meetings** 7pm on Zoom

Sunday 8/13 **Nonagenarian Birthday Celebration** 12pm in the Fellowship Hall