

Welcome

All Souls, seeking to be a church not just for ourselves, exists to be a vibrant expression of who God is—gracious, present, hospitable.

Launched in 2010, we are a worshipping community rooted in the belief that the historic Christian gospel is true, compelling, and promises to change our lives powerfully, in the direction of freedom, wholeness, and hope.

We seek to embody and articulate this gospel of grace, bringing about spiritual, social, and cultural renewal in Seattle and, through it, the world.

Please feel the freedom to participate actively in worship or to just listen and observe at your discretion. It is a time to process freely and safely the audacious claims of Jesus, and the inevitable tension between the beauty and scandal of God's grace, freely given to you.

As a church, we are part of that historical, counter-cultural community that Jesus started and continues to build, sustain, and perfect.

Anyone is welcome in worship, and we encourage you to come as you are. We understand that visiting a church for the first time can be intimidating. So it's our commitment to walk you through each component of the worship service so no one feels like an outsider. There will be no obscure, tribal language. No 'in-house' moments.

Our worship is structured, with liturgy and rich music that connects us to the church of old and those who've gone before us— we are deeply rooted in something much larger than ourselves or our own cultural moment. But worship should be accessible and enjoyable if it's to be meaningful.

We haven't heard the gospel for what it really is if we don't find it at once horribly offensive and staggeringly beautiful.

It is both heart-breaking and heart-mending.

So let us explore. Let us worship!

Exploring?

Do you have questions about the Christian faith?

Do you wrestle with intellectual barriers that make belief seem implausible, even irresponsible?

Do you struggle to reconcile a good God with a hurting world?

We recognize that belief is hard. That's why:

- We value questions, and the people who ask them
- We prize being a community where you can belong before you believe
- We assume, each Sunday, that there are people present who are not convinced
- We desire to talk to skeptics not about them
- You are welcome here...

So, be curious. Doubt. Ask. Explore.

How do I get connected?

visit allsoulsseattle.org for the latest

All Souls Kids + Youth

allsoulsseattle.org/kids (/youth)

How can I serve?

allsoulsseattle.org/connect

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cover art by Lori Bailey

the Babe that I carry carries me, saith Mary.

Ephraim the Syrian 3º6-373 a.d



Please help us to be hospitable:

Face covering required indoors for all. Maintain six feet of space with people outside of your family or bubble. Participate online if you have symptoms of Covid-19 or have known exposure to someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.

Please silence all devices for the duration of worship.

The Youngstown Movement Studio next door is available for those of us who need to wiggle while worshipping. Parents please accompany your children.

The Church calendar begins anew with the first Sunday of Advent. During this season we are called by the Church to remember that Christ came into the world at his birth, and that we are to anticipate that he will come again at his return. In both instances, Jesus comes as a light shining into a world that has been darkened by sin and death. Advent, then, is a word of hope that Jesus has come and is always coming into the darkness to make a way forward.

Bold text is read together by the congregation. Plain text is read by the leader. Responsive readings remind us that during corporate worship God speaks to his people and we respond together as a community.

If you, or someone with you this morning, has special needs we do not want to miss an opportunity to serve you.

Please introduce yourself and let us know how we can support you best. Our community gathers on Sundays to enter the presence of the Lord and offer him praise, as he graciously invites us to do. We come to sing, pray, encounter God's Word, celebrate Communion, and to simply be together. We're glad you're here, and as you're getting settled we invite you to sit toward the aisle, allowing access for others along the edges. Thank you.

Call to Worship

Father Let Your Kingdom Come

In the Bible, God calls us to worship, because it is not our natural impulse to come to Him. But He calls, reminding us of His pursuing love, and we respond in gratitude.

words: Matthew 6:10 + Isaiah 43:19; music: The Porter's Gate

Hallelu, hallelujah Father, let Your kingdom come You make all things new (2x) In places we don't choose You make all things new

Lighting the Advent Candles

from Isaiah 7:14; 40:3-5; Matthew 1:23; John 1:14

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

first candle

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

second candle

The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son. And they shall call his name Immanuel, which means, God with us.

third candle

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

fourth candle

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken

Invocation

The Book of Common Prayer

O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life: Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will; and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great Day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Music at All Souls is comprised of "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" (Eph. 5:19).

These are often works that date back as far as Jewish antiquity, anchoring us in the ancient roots of Christian faith. Sometimes these are newer works that reflect prayerfully and prophetically on our current moment.

They contain theological richness and focus on God's character and redemptive work. They also lend poetic voice to our deepest emotional expressions: praise and thanksgiving, anger and sorrow, hope and joy.

We sing because we believe God is with us— present in our worship; inhabiting the praises of his people.

seated

Confession happens within the context of relationship, both with God and each other. We confess together, in community, before a gracious God who has given us himself.

Confession both acknowledges our need for mercy and celebrates its abundance in Christ.

Sin, in its essence, is a word that means, "an obsession or worship of oneself." Martin Luther described sin as "curving in on oneself," which causes a relational breach not only with people we harm, but also with God by not giving God the place he deserves in our lives as our loving Creator and Savior.

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

words: Charles Wesley, Martin Madan, Joseph Swain, John Cennick music: Nathan Ryan (2014)

Lo! He comes with clouds descending; once for our salvation slain Thousand thousand saints attending; swell the triumph of His train Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Christ appears on earth again (2x)

Lo! He comes in glory shining; saints arise and meet your king
Glorious captain of salvation; "Welcome! Welcome!" Hear them sing
Shouts of triumph, shouts of triumph! Make the heav'ns with echoes ring (2x)

Now redemption, long expected; see in solemn pomp appear All His saints, by man rejected, now shall meet Him in the air Hallelujah! Hallelujah! See the day of God appear (2x)

Yea, amen! Let all adore Thee; high on Thine eternal throne
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for Thine own
O come quickly! O come quickly! Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come (2x)

prayer of confession

In our impatience at your coming, we have lost sight of your Kingdom and sought to make a kingdom of our own— making ourselves the center of our work and worship, and doing harm.

Almighty God and Father, we confess to you,

to one another, and to the whole company of heaven,

that we have sinned, through our own fault, in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.

For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and by the power of your Holy Spirit raise us up to serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

You are invited to acknowledge these things silently before God who hears you, and to draw hope from this promise: "Then I acknowledged my sin to you... and you forgave." (Psa 32:5).



Receiving of Grace Galatians 4:4-5a

We serve a God of limitless power and might. Yet, in all of his power he looks on us with mercy, and draws us into his family, because of what Jesus Christ has done.

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption.

God's grace abounds for us, even in our weakness.

Let us remember the hope of the gospel: In Christ, we are forgiven.

standing

Reading

It has been the practice of the church for thousands of years to have portions of the Bible read during worship. We do this because we are people who need to be shaped by all of God's Word.

Luke 1:39-56

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

46 And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

55 as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

- 1 Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.
- You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth 2 before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
- Awaken your might; come and save us.
- 3 Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.
- The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- 4 How long, Lord God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.
- 6 You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.
- 7 Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

Homily Mary's Song

Rev. Andy Pelander

standing

the Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed has for centuries helped people understand who God is, and the essential truths of Christian faith. Who is God? As we speak the creed now together it unites us with the Church globally and across the ages. We say this together as a community, because we need each other in life with God, and so that as a community we may grow as a vibrant expression of who God is.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Come, O Come

Be our light

Drive out the darkness

Come, O Come

Be our light

Drive out the darkness

Come, and end all the violence Come, do not be silent Come, cling to your promise Come, break all injustice Come, Jesus, Come

Lord, come to us now:
In our loneliness,
In our illness,
In our loss.
Come, do not be silent.

Lord, come and bring an end to this pandemic.

We long to be a community again in the ways we have known.

Reveal new ways for us to be together as a church,

to love our neighbors,

to serve and to savor the life you have given us—

in the daily struggle, in the daily glimpses of glory now—

in anticipation of the glory that is to come when you return to make all things new.

Lord Jesus, come.

Come, O Come

Be our light

Drive out the darkness

Come, O Come

Be our light

Drive out the darkness

Come, and end all the violence Come, do not be silent Come, cling to your promise Come, break all injustice Come, Jesus, Come We regularly pray for needs in our community, our city, and the world as an act obedience and love, and to align our concerns with the Lord's. If you have children with you, please feel free to use this time to teach them to pray with us, as we ask God to honor our hope that we are becoming a vibrant expression of who God is—gracious, present, hospitable.

"Drive out the Darkness"; (feat. Latifah Alattas & Paul Zach) by The Porter's Gate PRAYERS FOR THOSE
NOT COMMUNING

Because All Souls is a church not only for the convinced but also for those journeying toward trust in Jesus, we gladly extend room for you to consider and dialogue. Use the prayers below during Communion as guides to reflect upon and respond to what God is doing in your life.

> PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

PRAYER OF BELIEF

Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, and yet, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sin and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit.

Amen.

* Hosanna means "save me!" but with Jesus came to mean "salvation is here!"

Communion

Communion, also called the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians.

EXTEND PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of Christ be with you always! And also with you.



GRATEFUL GIVING

Freely you have received; freely give. (Matthew 10:8)

INVITATION + THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts! We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. We give thanks to you with those who have gone before us, and with brothers and sisters around the world, and along with the angels and all the company of heaven, we praise you with one voice:



BREAK BREAD

For as often as we eat this bread and drink the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Cor 11:23-26)

Therefore, together, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world, for by him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

DRAW NEAR

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;

Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Trinity Song

words and music by Sandra McCracken

Holy Father, Son, and Spirit Holy Communion, Three-in-one.

Come with your peace, with your invitation Bind us together in Holy love.

This Little Light of Mine

words and music by Fanny Lou Hamer

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x) Let it shine (3x)

I've got the light of Jesus, I'm gonna let it shine (3x) Let it shine (3x)

Everywhere I go, Lord, I'm gonna let it shine (3x) Let it shine (3x)

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Benediction Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;

the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**

Let us go forth and serve our world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

All Souls welcomes all who are trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation, understand the meaning of the Lord's Supper, and are in good standing with congregations that proclaim the gospel to receive Holy Communion with us.

Please note that we use wine for Communion; non-alcoholic grape juice is in the smaller of the two goblets. For those with wheat allergies, a glutenfree cracker is available in place of the bread (ingredients: water, organic brown and white rice flour).

A word to parents:

Children are welcome at the communion table. To receive the Lord's Supper, a child must have been baptized and received as a communing member by the leadership of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. If you have any question about how this process works, please speak with one of our pastors.

Our pastoral staff and other leaders are available following the service for prayer or to answer any questions you may have about All Souls.

Announcements

Advent Vespers + Christmas Dinner



Wednesday, December 22, 6-8p: Christmas dinner with a time of singing and prayer at Trinity WS. All Souls Youth will be joining in lieu of regular Wednesday eve gatherings. To RSVP for dinner, follow the QR code.

Christmas Eve Liturgy

Friday, December 24, 8:15-9p on Zoom

Advent Giving Opportunities

Seeking to be a church not just for ourselves, and a vibrant expression of who God is, please join us in these two specific partnerships this Advent season:

- YoungLives: We are thankful for the continued opportunity to come alongside YoungLives and their mentoring ministry to teen moms and their children. We invite you to consider sponsoring a meal or Christmas gift for a YoungLives family this holiday season. Contact Alyssa Reeve (alyssa@allsoulsseattle.org)
- Department of Children, Youth, and Families: Join us in supporting foster care this season by donating to our local DCYF. Bring formula, bottles, and pacifiers on Sundays during December. For a list of which items to donate, follow the QR code or email Nancy Spiro (nancyspiro@gmail.com).



Join the All Souls Kids volunteer team: Beginning in January, we are hoping to open up childcare for 1-2 year olds, and Sunday school for 3-5 year olds during both services but we need your help. Follow the QR code to the interest form. Contact Suzanne Case (suzanne@allsoulsseattle.org) for more information.

Group Life



Grace Groups: Living by God's grace is a paradigm shift for all of us and as a big shift, it involves study, practice, community, and the work of the Holy Spirit within each of us. All Grace Groups will this common thread: learning to live by grace in a wide variety of life. In January, join us for a four-week **Marriage Grace Group** and in late winter a new run of our **Racial Justice Grace Group**. *Details coming soon*.



Home Groups: R.J. March is currently meeting with former Home Group leaders and hosts as we plan to relaunch these groups in late January. Home Groups are one of the main ways we learn to receive and extend the hospitality of Christ in our neighborhoods. If you are interested in hosting, contact R.J. (rj@allsoulsseattle.org).

All Souls Youth Group

On Wednesdays during Advent, all Middle and High school students are invited to join for dinner and vespers (see above). Contact Suzanne Case with any questions (suzanne@allsoulsseattle.org).

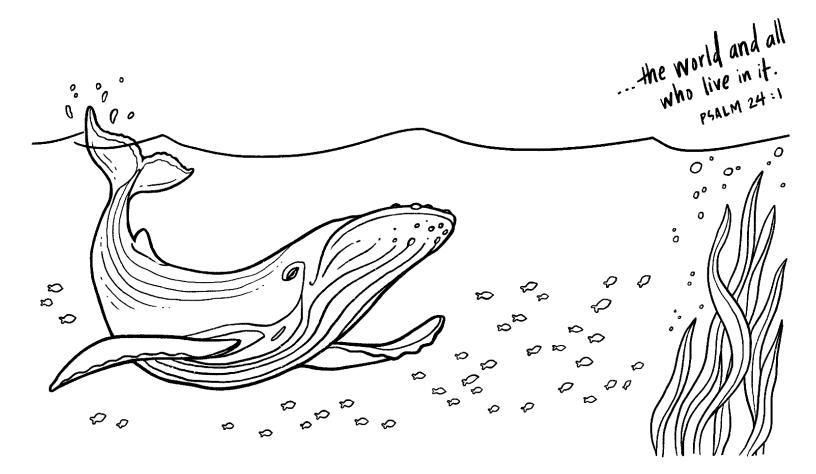
Parents: Join the All Souls Youth Parents channel on Instagram @allsoulsyouth_parents

COMING UP

• Summer Service Trip: All Souls is sending a team of 20 teens and adults back to Warm Springs, Oregon this summer. The dates are July 2-9, 2022. Register your interest with Suzanne.

	something you - ng worship today?
Did you hear any words that were NEW to you?	ran your IMAGINATION.
What's ONE question You'd want to ask Your parents or pastors?	A.r.
What's ONE question you'd want to ask GOD?	
Who do you want, or need, GOD to be to you today?	PRAY: Ask GOD to take care of everything you need. He always hears you, because He loves you!





Giving as Part of Worship

All we have is given to us by God. Our offerings express this joyful dependance and our commitment to join God in his work of renewal. Whether we have much or little, God calls us to treasure and trust Him above all. So we are to give as generously as we are able, knowing that He who met our most dire need through Christ will continue to provide for every need we have. All giving goes toward ministry initiatives of All Souls and the relief of those in need.

While there are many ways to contribute financially to God's Kingdom, scripture says the Church is the primary means by which that kingdom is established on earth. So, God calls us first and foremost to be faithful in the regular, ongoing support of one's local church body through tithes and offerings. If you haven't made tithing a practice, please consider adopting this as a spiritual practice—that you might grow in faith.

We recognize, too, that as the church, we must consistently remind one another of the truth that everything we have is a gift from the Lord.

The Bible says that 'we know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich' (2 Corinthians 8:9). Jesus' death on the Cross represents the most generous gift ever given— when he gave up everything in order to reconcile us to God.

Giving cheerfully, sacrificially, and consistently is a part of our worship— not because it's something churches do, but because giving in response to the gospel is intended to be worshipful. When we are generous with others we are reminding one another of the great generosity of God.

All Souls seeks to build community, love our neighbors, and work for peace and justice within Seattle. Our desire in giving is not only to meet our own financial needs, but to be able to serve those in need in our city and neighborhoods.

There are a few ways that you can contribute financially to All Souls:

Mail a check, or set up automatic bill pay through your bank, payable to:

All Souls PO Box 16613 Seattle, WA 98116

- Visit allsoulsseattle.org/give
- For any assistance or questions about:

Giving on a recurring basis via EFT (electronic fund transfer), stock donation, or non-cash contribution options (e.g. property or vehicle donation) please contact bookkeeper@allsoulsseattle.org

The intentional financial participation of those who consider All Souls their church home is vital. If you are not already tithing regularly, please prayerfully consider doing so. If you have questions about tithing or biblical guidelines for giving, please ask. If you are our guest today, please feel no obligation to give.

Amidst one of the longest seasons of challenge most of us have ever experienced, we want to celebrate how God has continually met our community's financial needs. This has allowed All Souls to continue in her mission, entering our eleventh year of worship together, as a church in and for our neighborhood seeking to be a vibrant expression of who God is—gracious, present, hospitable. 98.5% of our costs from last year were covered by careful cost adjustments by staff, and your continued giving and support. We thank God for your partnership in this work!

This year, as we look at our budget, there are few things to note: Pandemic realities have led to our giving and expenses shrinking around 20% over the last 2 years. However, this year we anticipate additional costs and have built them into our budget as we resume in-person Sunday gatherings. We have budgeted as realistically as possible, though many uncertainties remain about our costs this year. Our new budget of \$600,000 (\$550,000 last year) assumes a 10% growth in giving, and even then we are prepared to dip into our reserves about \$70,000 as we expect our costs to be closer to \$670,000. The pastors and leadership of All Souls invite you to join us in this generous risk, investing in our shared life together this next year.

November Giving Goal: \$50k November Actual Giving: \$44k Deficit: \$6k

All Souls

CLERGY COMMUNITY / LITURGY

Rev. R.J. March Charlotte Aljets Rev. Andy Pelander Kara Barrett

Emma Groppe

VESTRY

ART / MUSIC Charlotte Aljets

Peter Barrett Lori Bailey
Joe Berg Alyssa Reeve
Suzanne Case Evan Wilson

Rachel Faunce

Graeme Hanson KIDS / YOUTH

Dan Reeve Jeff Case
Nancy Spiro Suzanne Case
Thad Williams Carrie Mahoney

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It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the other garden plants and becomes a tree, so that birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

Matthew 13:32