



ADVENT

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.

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.

You should always 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 the historic Christian gospel.

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.*



All Souls

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.

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In preparation for the season of Advent, we are inviting artists from within our All Souls family to contribute to our space at Madison on Sunday mornings. As we enter this season of fading light, we are thinking about the contrast between light and shadows, hiddenness and revelation.

cover art by Lori Bailey

to practice Advent is to lean into an almost cosmic ache: our deep, wordless desire for things to be made right and the incompleteness we find in the meantime.

Tish Harrison Warren

"Want to Get Into the Christmas Spirit? Face the Darkness"

New York Times, Dec 30, 2019

Order of Worship

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / 8 DECEMBER 2019



Please silence all devices for the duration of worship

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.

standing

welcome

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 scripture, 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

based on Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation—
Whom shall I fear? (2x)

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?

one thing I ask
one thing I seek
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
wait for the Lord (2x)
Oh, be strong and take heart

lighting the advent candle

based on Isaiah 9:2; John 1:1-5

Each Sunday in Advent we light a candle on this wreath as a sign of the coming light of Christ, the hope that breaks apart the darkness and rescues the world.

Hear the word of the Lord:

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made;

without him nothing was made that has been made.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.

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.

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.

This is a liturgy in which not only words, but also actions and symbols, speak.

invocation

from the Book of Common Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

words: unknown, 12th cent.
trans. John M. Neale, 1851

music: Veni Emmanuel

hymns

O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear

chorus:

Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

chorus

Oh come Desire of Nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and sorrow cease
Fill all the world with Thine unending peace

chorus

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming,
From tender stem hath sprung!

Of Jesse's lineage coming,
As those of old have sung

It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the light.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind,

With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.

To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Saviour,
When half spent was the night.

O flow'r, whose fragrance tender,
With sweetness fills the air,

Dispel in glorious splendor,
The darkness ev'rywhere.

True man, yet very God,
From sin and death now save us,
And share our ev'ry load.

words: 15th cent. trans. by
Theodore Baker

music: Alte Catholische
Geistliche Kirchengesang, 1599

*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.*

reading + interlude

from the Jesus Storybook Bible

“He’s Here!” (Luke 1-2)

There was a young girl who was engaged to a man named Joseph. Joseph was the great, great, great, great, great grandson of King David. One morning this girl was minding her own business when suddenly, a great warrior of light appeared right there in her bedroom.

He was Gabriel and he was an angel, a special messenger from heaven. When she saw the tall man standing there, Mary was frightened. “You don’t need to be scared,” Gabriel said. “God is very happy with you.” Mary looked around to see if perhaps he was talking to someone else. “Mary,” Gabriel said, and he laughed with such gladness that Mary’s eyes filled with sudden tears.

“Mary, you’re going to have a baby. A little boy. You will call him Jesus. He is God’s own son. He’s the one! He’s the Rescuer!”

The God who flung planets in space, and kept them whirling around and around, the God who made the universe with just a word, the one who could do anything at all was making himself small and coming down... as a baby.

Wait. God was sending a baby to rescue the world? “But it’s too wonderful!” Mary said and felt her heart beating hard. “How can it be true?”

“Is anything too wonderful for God?” Gabriel asked.

So Mary trusted God more than what her eyes could see. And she believed.

“I am God’s servant,” she said. “Whatever God says, I will do”

prayer of confession

God of love, you have made a way where a way seemed impossible, because with you nothing is impossible, and yet—

we confess:

we are quick to despair, and be fearful

we are quick to accuse, to blame

and we are slow to trust you.

**We confess that we do not live with anticipation of your fulfilled promises,
but live hurried, distracted lives, centered on ourselves.**

When, Lord, will we remember that no one desires our good
and our joy more than you?

Forgive us, and grant us faith and wisdom.

As you did with Mary, enlarge our hearts, that we may trust in your ways.

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).

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.

seated

Confession of sin 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 is a word that basically means to insert oneself into space only God should occupy. Martin Luther described sin as a “curving in on oneself,” which causes a relational breach not only with the people we harm, but also with God by not giving him the place he deserves in our lives, as our loving Creator and Savior.

words: Katharina von Schelgel,
Latifah Alattas, Reid Phillips,
Dann Stockton,

music: Jean Sibelius,
Latifah Alattas, Reid Phillips,
Dann Stockton, David Wilton

hymn

Be Still My Soul

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In every change, He will remain

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord
When disappointment, grief,
and fear are gone
Sorrow forgot, love's joys restored

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
To guide the future, as in ages past
Your hope, your mind,
your will let nothing shake
All now mysterious shall be bright

receiving of grace

based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

'The day will come,' says the Lord, 'when I will do for my people all the good things I have promised them. In those days and at that time I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line. He will do what is just and right throughout the land.'

And on that day my people will be saved and will live in peace.'

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

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

responding to grace

from the General Thanksgiving

Let us pray in response to what God has done for us.

Lord, **we thank you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**Give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts, we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you in your ways, all our days. Amen.**

praying the psalms

Psalms 139:1-16

Praying through the Psalms teaches us how to pray, using the prayer book of ancient Israel, God's people.

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"

even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day,

for darkness is as light with you.

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,

intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. Amen.

hymn

Come And Fill Our Hearts

standing

Come and fill our hearts with Your peace

You alone, O Lord, are holy

Come and fill our hearts with Your peace

Alleluia!

Preschool and elementary-age children are dismissed to All Souls Kids following announcements, where they can learn and discover in a language and style more suitable to them.

SAFETY NOTE:

In the unlikely event of an emergency or evacuation, all children will be escorted immediately from their classrooms to the field behind the building. Parents should exit onto the terrace through the doors on the right side of the stage and meet children on the field to sign out their kids with teachers.

community rhythms + practices

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.

Ho-sa-nna is a word that means "save me!" but came to mean "salvation is here!"

word

'the people were in expectation' | Luke 3:2-6, 15-16

Rev. Andy Pelander

grateful giving

Matthew 10:8

Freely you have received; freely give.

All we have is given to us by God. Our offerings express this joyful dependence 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 gifts go toward ministry initiatives of All Souls and the relief of those in need.

If you are our guest today, please feel no obligation to give. Let us know you're here, as well as any questions, comments or prayer requests you may have, by placing your comment card in one of the offering bowls as they are passed. Read more about giving in worship on p.12.

table

The Lord's Supper, also called Communion or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. As we celebrate together, prayer stations are set up on the window-side of the room, where community leaders are available to pray with or for you.

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.**

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 by singing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lo-rd, God of pow'r and might,
 hea - ven and ear - th are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
 Bless-èd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho-san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

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.

standing

hymn

Lo! He comes with clouds descending, Once for our salvation, slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending,
Swell the triumph of His train:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign. (x2)

Every eye shall now behold Him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him, Pierced
and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see. (x2)

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 heavens with echoes ring (x2)

benediction + sending

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!

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

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! (x2)

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! (x2)

Numbers 6:24-26

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 gluten-free 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 Session 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.

words: Charles Wesley,
Martin Madan,
Joseph Swain,
John Cennick

music: Nathan Ryan

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

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV) or New International Version (NIV).

Connect with us via email!

The primary channel for church-wide communication at All Souls is email— periodic notes (2-4 monthly) with event and opportunity reminders and important updates, plus letters from our staff and leadership.

Send an email (right now!) to info@allsoulsseattle.org to be added, or to update your address on file, thank you.

Also, to see the full community calendar, visit allsoulsseattle.org/events.

How do we desire to be 'formed,' spiritually?

The gospel cultivates gratitude, generosity, patience, and compassion... and also a sense of wonder— a curious heart that seeks to know God more deeply and more intimately. Together, these are the makings of being 'spiritually formed'... alongside others, journeying toward maturity in Christ.

Coming to understand the gospel is the beginning of a process that gradually transforms how we do every aspect of life as new desires, new hopes, new thoughts, and new affections emerge. As we engage this new life in the Spirit, we find ourselves drawn to doctrines, practices, and disciplines that enable us to know Jesus more intimately, and savor Him more fully.

Gathering

WOMEN'S EVENING OF MIXED MEDIA COLLAGE + READING + SONG

Thursday, Dec 12, 7:30-9:30p

Advent means "coming." Come contemplate the "comings" that Advent awaits and anticipates with your All Souls sisters. We'll read, sing, create, and reflect. No artistic skills required. Ages 12+ welcome. RSVP to kara@allsoulsseattle.org for address and directions.

COME, O LONG EXPECTED (CHRISTMAS) PARTY - NEXT WEEK

Sunday, Dec 15, 7-9:30p

Our most festive gathering of the year returns, at West Seattle's Dakota Place (Calif./Dakota), when we'll celebrate this season of joy and hope together. Carols, dessert, coffee provided; please bring wine to share. **Parents:** arrange childcare at home or sign-up your kid(s) ages 3+ for childcare at The Art's Nest, 6:45-9:30p— pay what you can options; sign-ups required (suzanne@allsoulsseattle.org).

CHRISTMAS LESSONS + CAROLS

Sunday, Dec 22, 10a

Celebrate Christmas with All Souls as we tell and sing the story of Christ's birth. Invite friends! Children ages 3 & older are invited to participate in the entire family-friendly service. Nursery & toddler rooms will be open for childcare as usual.

YOUTH GROUP

Sundays 5-7p

Gathers weekly to share a meal, play, and enjoy small group discussion on spiritually formative topics. Hosted at the home of Suzanne and Jeff Case in Arbor Heights; contact suzanne@allsoulsseattle.org for directions. Students are invited to gather weekly to connect and meet leaders before worship. They are invited also to serve in various capacities during worship, or to remain with family, friends, or youth leaders during the service.

- ▶ **Upcoming:** All Souls Youth Christmas Party + Jam Night! Sunday, Dec 8, 5-7p / Trinity Church. Bring a friend, an instrument, and a treat/side to share!
- ▶ **Young Life** has many opportunities for youth to connect, and to explore the gospel. To learn more, ask one of our student ministries staff or visit westseattle.younglife.org.

Growing

CURIOS ABOUT CHRISTIAN FAITH?

Do you wonder if God is real, or what his posture toward you might be? Do you wrestle with intellectual barriers to belief, or wonder how God could be good or loving amid so much pain in the world? Are you curious about how to connect with God— how to talk to him or listen to him? If yes, you're not alone— and a community leader would happily talk with you and/or hear your story. Contact Charlotte Aljets to get connected with a conversation partner (charlotte@allsoulsseattle.org).

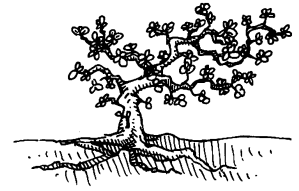
LEARN + SERVE

One of the marks of Christian maturity and growth is moving from being self-centered to others-centered. More curious about someone else's questions, experiences, hopes. Toward that end, we are trying something new as a community— this year, All Souls staff will curate events and experiences that help us to learn from and serve among our **Native American** and **First Nations neighbors**. How might we, together, discover who God is in fresh ways this year as we engage with the Native American experience in our city? Visit allsoulsseattle.org/native for details.

CARE + COUNSEL

The Bible teaches that God has given us powerful tools to navigate difficulty and grapple with hard questions: the Holy Spirit, the gospel, and community. At All Souls we lean heavily on these for encouragement, direction, and life-change. So whatever it is, you should know it's okay to talk about it (relationships, sexuality, addiction, marriage/family, faith, etc.). Don't wait. To meet with a pastor or other leader confidentially, or for a counseling referral: pastor@allsoulsseattle.org

How can I serve?



Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. (Romans 12:11)

We are called to serve, not to be served.

As Jesus came into the world to serve rather than to be served (Mark 10:42-45), our desire is that we as a church would regularly serve each other and also the under-resourced and marginalized of our neighborhood and city.

ALL SOULS COMMUNITY

We value— and rely on!— a collaborative culture at All Souls.

We're not here to consume or spectate, but to **lean in, take ownership, and serve**, no matter what we bring to the table. We honor God with what he's given us and seek to bless those around us, as a family, on Sundays and throughout the week.

current needs / opportunities to serve:

- ▶ **Sundays** - As you might imagine, it takes many hands to turn a middle school into a warm, welcoming worship space. We need volunteers to help with set-up, greeting, coffee/snacks, and more. Contact: Shannon (shannon@allsoulsseattle.org).
- ▶ **Make a Meal** - As a way to tangibly serve one another in challenging or transitional seasons of life, we as a family make meals for each other. To make *or request* a meal, please contact communitycare@allsoulsseattle.org. Thank you!
- ▶ **All Souls Kids** - Modeling and sharing the gospel to/with children is one of the more impactful ways one can serve. There are consistent needs in classrooms serving ages 2 through 5th grade, and your help is needed! The commitment is only one Sunday a month, and training and materials are provided— no experience necessary! Contact: Suzanne Case (suzanne@).

NEIGHBORHOOD + CITY

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you. (Jeremiah 29:7)

As a church 'not just for ourselves,' there are also lots of ways to serve and seek the well-being of our neighborhood and city through All Souls. We are primarily interested in connecting volunteers to vital service organizations already serving for the sake of renewal, mercy, and justice.

current opportunities:

▶ **Serve + Partner with Foster Care**

All Souls seeks to come alongside, serve, and support families, organizations, and agencies helping children in foster care in the West Seattle area. We heed the call from James 1:27 to "look after orphans and widows in their distress."

- Wed, Dec 11, 11a-2p / DCYF Office (4045 Delridge Way SW)— bless local social workers and learn more about the needs of our community by serving at the annual Department of Children, Youth and Family holiday staff appreciation lunch. Volunteers needed to pick-up and drop-off food, decorate, set-up, and clean-up. Contact nancyspiro@gmail.com

▶ **YoungLives**

YoungLives, the ministry of Young Life to teenage moms, invests in life-on-life mentoring with teen moms through entering into their lives, building relationships with them and their little ones, modeling the unconditional love of Christ, and encouraging them to become the women and mothers God created them to be. There are a variety of ways to serve and many levels of commitment are welcome! To learn more, contact Alyssa Reeve (alyssa@allsoulsseattle.org).

- Donate a blanket for a Christmas gift to YL moms (\$33): give via allsoulsseattle.org/give (memo: YoungLives blanket)
- Cook a meal for the YL Monday night gatherings for moms, little ones, and mentors (HG or GG service opportunity!)
- Donations baby supplies: NEW convertible carseats, Ikea stackable high chairs, diapers (sizes 4-6), and wipes

Smaller Groups in Community

GROWTH GROUPS

To grow spiritually, each of us needs consistent time praying and listening with God and others. Growth Groups gather weekly for gender-specific deeper spiritual exploration and prayer, and are a more intentional and intimate place to focus on life with God. Also, as those who've participated will attest, these groups foster a unique depth of relationship with others. There are groups that are ongoing and some that are still forming, with a variety of meeting times and locations. To learn more and connect, contact Shannon Smith (shannon@allsoulsseattle.org).

HOME GROUPS

In a world that pushes us toward isolation, we need community— a place where we're known, loved, and belong.

We need local 'family' — siblings in Jesus we can lean on, learn with and from, care for, and celebrate growth alongside.

Home Groups, designed to invite us into this relational space, are a vital part of our shared life and growth in Christ— places of care and community where we discover and live the Christian life together.

Simply put, they are the best way at All Souls to integrate as a newcomer, build lasting friendships, and to consistently be in each other's lives. We are a community that places high value on this time together in God's word and in prayer, and also serving our city and neighborhoods.

Generally, groups meet to discuss scripture, share stories, pray, plan service projects/relationships, and share meals.

Groups meet regularly through the academic year, shifting to a more informal, intermittent schedule during summer months. To learn more about a group and how to jump in year-round please contact R.J. March, or a group host(s) directly.

PLEASE NOTE: Group rosters are typically capped at 12 adults (plus kids). If a group is full, staff will help you find another option.

Neighborhood	Contact	Time
ADMIRAL	Andy Lewis + Ruth Rogers Lewis ruthrogerslewis@comcast.net	Wed / 7 - 8:30p
ALASKA	Peter + Kara Barrett kara@allsoulsseattle.org	Sun / 5 - 6:30p <i>includes a meal and childcare</i>
ARBOR HEIGHTS	Jeff + Suzanne Case suzannecase3@gmail.com	Tues / 6 - 7:30p <i>includes a meal</i>
	Matt + Nancy Spiro Nicholas + Alyssa Incorvaia nancyspiro@gmail.com	Tues / 6 - 7:30p <i>includes a meal</i>
COLUMBIA CITY	Daniel + Shiyun Chen danielandshiyun@gmail.com	Sun / 5 - 6:30p <i>includes a meal</i>
GENESEE	Joseph + Sydney Buckley joseph@bkly.org	Sat / 10 - 11:30a <i>includes brunch</i>
	Matt + Amy Huey amy_c_huey@yahoo.com	Mon / 6:30 - 8p
HIGHLAND PARK	Nate + Lori Bailey hi.loribailey@gmail.com	Thurs / 6:30 - 8p <i>includes a meal</i>
	R.J. + Carolyn March rj@allsoulsseattle.org	Sun / 5 - 6:30p <i>includes a meal and childcare</i>

group information can also be found at allsoulsseattle.org/connect

Notes + Doodles

This space is open for you to creatively respond from whatever place you find yourself in this morning. If it's helpful, feel free to use these questions as thought starters:

What is something I want to remember from worship this morning?

What is something I want to do (or do differently) because of worship this morning?



Giving as part of worship

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's 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 ought to be worshipful. When we are generous with others, we are reminding one another of the great generosity of our 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.

- Place cash or check in the offering on Sundays
- 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.

STAFF

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ALL SOULS KIDS + YOUTH

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CONSISTORY
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Charlotte Aljets **Rachel Faunce**
Joe Berg **Graeme Hanson**
Suzanne Case **Nancy Spiro**

worship location

Sundays 10a
Madison Middle School
3429 45th Ave SW

All Souls Loft
4138 California Ave SW, 2nd fl

mailing address

PO Box 16613, Seattle 98116

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² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,
⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Luke 3:2-6, 15-16