



Advent 12 10 23

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.

All Souls is a space to begin, or begin again, from anywhere. 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

Announcements p. 8

Home Group details + map p. 9

Kids + Youth on Sundays p. 10

Giving as part of worship p. 11

cover illustration: Lori White

What wonders shall we see, when we shall see thy full-en'd love!

George Herbert

Order of Worship

ADVENT / DECEMBER 10 2023



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 simply to be together. This a space to begin, or begin again, from anywhere.

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 and music The Porter's Gate (2019)

chorus

Hallelu hallelujah

Father let Your kingdom come x4

May the works of my hands

Bring You joy x4 / *chorus*

May the words from my mouth

Speak Your peace x4 / *chorus*

You make all things new

You make all things new

In places we don't choose

You make all things new / *chorus*

STANDING

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.

from The Book of Common Prayer

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your Holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

***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 afternoon, 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.

Eternal Light

words and music Paul Zach, Joshua Jay Miller and Kate Bluett (2021)

Eternal light shine in my heart	Eternal peace quiet my soul
Shine in my heart and drive the dark away	Eternal love never let go x2
Eternal hope lift up my eyes	
Lift up my eyes to see your dawning day	You are the same
Eternal light shine in my heart	yesterday today forever x3
Eternal hope lift up my eyes	You never change
	You have no beginning
Eternal peace quiet my soul	And you have no end
Quiet my soul like the waters flow	
Eternal love stand by my side	Eternal light shine in my heart
Stand by my side and never let me go	Shine in my heart
	And drive the dark away

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

words unknown 12th cent., trans. John M. Neale (1851) music Veni Emmanuel (15th cent.)

O come O come Emmanuel	O come O come great Lord of might
And ransom captive Israel	Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
That mourns in lonely exile here	In ancient times did give the law
Until the Son of God appear	In cloud and majesty and awe
	<i>chorus</i>
<i>chorus</i>	
Rejoice Rejoice Emmanuel	O come desire of nations bind
Shall come to thee O Israel	In one the hearts of all mankind
	Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
O come Thou dayspring	Fill all the world with Heaven's peace
Come and cheer	<i>chorus x2</i>
Our spirits by Thine advent here	
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night	
And death's dark shadows put to flight	
<i>chorus</i>	

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.

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.

BE 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.

**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.

Let's acknowledge our need for Jesus to do what we cannot: heal, forgive, and restore where we have harmed, hurt, and broken. After a brief silence we will sing our confession.

T.J. Williams / E. Wilson



Lord, ha - ve mer - cy. Christ, ha - ve mer - cy. Lord, ha - ve mer - cy on ____ me. *Fine*

5



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Chris - te e - lei - son, Christ, ha - ve mer - cy on _____ me. *D.C. al Fine*

Receiving of Grace

based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

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.

‘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.**

Blessing for Learning

Childcare in the Giraffe classroom is provided today for children ages 1-3. PreK-5th grade classes meet today for choir rehearsal and lessons. Zebra (6th-7th) class remains in the service today.

Lord, bless these children whom you love, as they discover in their own language who you are.

Give them a sense of being known and loved by you, and the freedom to come fully as themselves.

Bless our teachers, and be present in their every word and interaction.

Help us all to become learners.

Beloved children, go in peace. Amen.

Please stand and sing as kids go out and we prepare to hear from God's Word. Music: Verses "Isaiah 40:8" (2023).

The grass withers, the flower fades

But the word of our God will stand forever

the 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.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
3 A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.
4 Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
5 And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
6 A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.
7 The grass withers and the flowers fall,
Because the breath of the Lord blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.
8 The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."
9 You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
10 See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.
11 He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

2 Peter 3:1-13

Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. 2 I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. 3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, 2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”—
3 “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6 John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Homily

Longing and Hope

Rev. Kara Nichols Barrett

Musical Interlude

Musical interludes are included to provide space for reflection and worship.

Welcoming New Members

Having put my faith in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, having been buried with Christ in baptism, and raised to newness of life, and being in agreement with the mission, vision, and values of All Souls Church of Seattle, I choose to become a member of All Souls Church of Seattle.

By God’s grace, I commit myself to the following:

I will commit to growing in the following life-giving practices:

Love Jesus and others wholeheartedly

Pray daily

Fellowship frequently

Give generously

Serve joyfully

Invite consistently

I will support the mission and vision of All Souls Church of Seattle.

I will support and pray for the leadership of All Souls Church of Seattle.

I will protect the unity of All Souls Church of Seattle.

Grateful Giving

Freely you have received; freely give.

Matthew 10:8



Communion

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

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.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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 with one voice:

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

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.

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

Come Light Our Hearts

words and music Sandra McCracken arr. Rain for Roots (2015)

chorus

For you O Lord our souls in stillness wait x2
Truly our hope is in You x2

O Lord of life our only hope
Your radiance shines on all
Who look to You in the dark
Emmanuel come come light our hearts

chorus

O Joy above all other loves
In you we find more than enough
We come as we are
O heal and restore
Come light our hearts / *chorus*

God Most High,

We thank you for welcoming us, teaching us and feeding us. We deserve nothing from you but in your great mercy, you have given us everything in your Son Jesus Christ. We love you and give ourselves to you to be sent out for your work. Grant us your blessing, now and for ever. Amen.

Justice Will Roll Down

words and music Sandra McCracken (2011)

Oh my love you have grown so cold
To the world outside to the house next door
She who has been loved much
Has so much to give
Mercy is the fragrance of the broken

chorus

Justice will roll down
Oh justice will roll down
From high upon those mountains
With a mighty river sound
It will roll down x2

Oh my child I will be your light
In your secret pain in the dark of night
No enemy no conqueror
Will steal your life from me
I am your salvation and your victory

chorus

Soon oh soon when the trumpet sounds
Every knee shall bend
Every heart will pound
I have made a new world
Where the servant is the King
Oppression will be over
And the slave set free / *chorus*

Benediction

Psalm 27:14

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. **Amen.**

Now go into the world in peace. Have courage, hold on to what is good, honor all people, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, restore the wandering, and share the gospel.

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 and non-alcoholic grape juice for Communion. For those with wheat allergies, a gluten-free cracker is available in place of the bread (ingredients: cauliflower, brown rice flour, tapioca starch, coconut milk powder, pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, mustard powder, sea salt, garlic powder, onion powder).

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 questions about how this process works, please speak with one of our pastors.

Scripture appears in the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) or the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.

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

Second Sunday Supper: Join us after the service for our monthly meal!

Wednesdays in Advent: Vespers Join us for midweek, evening prayer featuring choral worship music, a reflection from All Souls' pastoral team, and a piece of art to guide our meditation on the coming — or Advent — of Jesus.

December 13 and 20 from 6:30-7:30p. Childcare is available.

Co-Work Fridays: Bring your work to the All Souls' Upper Rooms on **Fridays starting at 8:15a.** Stay or drop in. A call room is available. Coffee + lunch are provided at Noon with a short midday prayer. Happy Hour (and ping pong) begins at 3p. Invite a colleague or friend! Want to help and serve as a host? Have questions? Contact R.J. (rj@).

Christmas Eve Service: Bring friends, family, and neighbors to a joint Christmas Eve service with Trinity as we team up with our hosts to worship at our usual time of **4p on Sunday, December 24.** Drinks and desserts to follow. **There will not be a Christmas Day service on Monday.**

Serve Together

Serve Teen Moms. We are looking for volunteers to help with the annual YoungLives Christmas Party on **the morning of December 16.** Please contact Alyssa (Alyssa@) for more information.

Feed unhoused neighbors. Come help prepare meals for Westside Neighbors Shelter on **Sunday, December 17 from 1:30-3:30p** at Trinity. All recipes, ingredients, and supplies will be provided. Please contact Kara (kara@) for more information.

Assist asylum-seeking neighbors. If you have flexibility to make a new friend as you drive them to an immigration appointment or have opportunities to assist with employment and housing, please contact R.J. (rj@).

Group Life

Home Groups —

In a world that pushes us toward isolation, we need community—a place where we're known, loved, and belong. Home Groups are one of the main ways we learn to enjoy and extend the hospitality of Christ in our neighborhoods. See page 9 or contact R.J. (rj@) to learn more.

Grace Groups

Women's Book Study — *on Fridays, 9:30a*

Alissa Moor and Lydia Peterson are co-leading a study by Jen Wilkin, *None Like Him*, exploring ten attributes of God. We will meet **most Friday mornings through December 15 9:30-11:00a** (not meeting on public school holidays). For childcare, email: alissamoor@gmail.com or lydia.s.peterson@gmail.com.

Grace Groups @Work

Join conversations that explore how to live more by God's grace @work. Make new connections and deepen connection with other All Souls people working in your field: for tech (contact Greg, greg@kroleski.com), for education (contact Tyler, tylerashby@gmail.com), to start a new group (contact R.J., rj@allsoulsseattle.org)

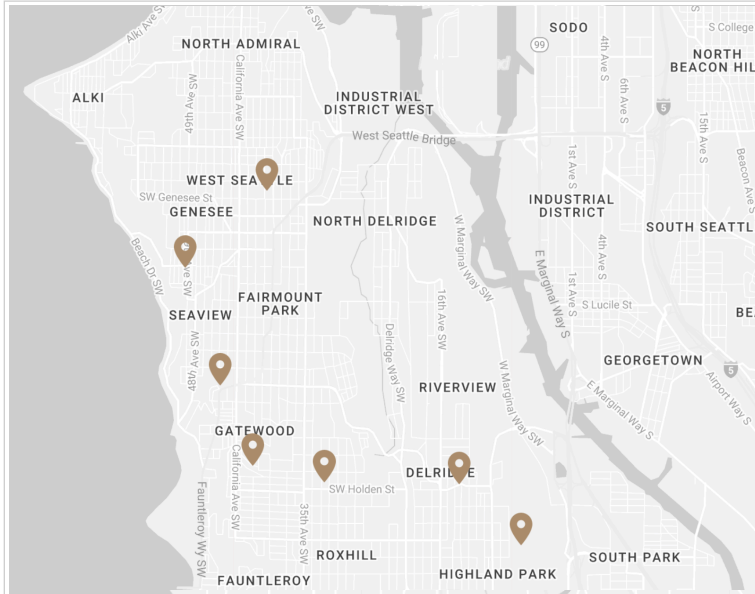
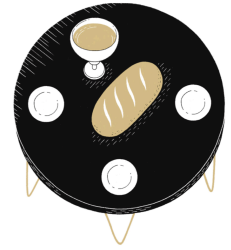
Youth Group

8th-12th grade- Youth group resumes January 3rd.

Upcoming: Joint youth Christmas Party with Trinity and Grace Seattle youth groups. **December 15** at Trinity.

Home Group Map + Details

These are open groups anyone can join at any time, built to be a place to share—food, stories, hopes, and life.



ALASKA

Peter + Kara Barrett
Every other Sunday, 6-7:30p
indoors, mixed group of adults, kids welcome, meal included

GATEWOOD - NORTH

Andrew + Jen Eckert and Steve + MaryAnn Simmons
Every other Thursday, 6-7:30p
online, mixed group of adults, kids welcome, meal included

GATEWOOD - SOUTH

Luke + Terri Crook
Every other Sunday, 6-7:30p
mixed group of adults, meal included

HIGHLAND PARK - EAST

Jeff + Suzanne Case
Every other Sunday, 6-7:30p
indoors, mixed group of adults, kids welcome, meal included

HIGHLAND PARK - SOUTH

R.J. + Carolyn March
Every other Sunday, 10-11:30a
mixed group of adults, kids welcome, meal included

SEAVIEW

Dustin + Kelley Long
Every other Tuesday, 6-7:30p
mixed group of adults, kids + teens welcome, meal included

WESTWOOD

Thad + Lauren Williams and Erik + Nicole Bennett
Every other Wednesday, 6-7:30p
mixed group of adults, kids welcome

To connect with one of these groups,
visit: allsoulsseattle.org/connect



All Souls Kids + Youth on Sundays

Our ministry exists to help children in partnership with families to know Jesus, and experience his love.



Sunday School

Sunday school classes are offered during worship October through June. We currently have four classes: Lion Class (PreK-K), Deer Class (1st-2nd grade), Bear Class (3rd-5th) and Zebra Class (6th-7th). All classes meet downstairs. Students will be signed in upon class arrival and signed out after dismissal back into worship.

First time here? Welcome! All Souls Kids staff and volunteers are here to greet you and answer any questions.

Kids will be dismissed from the service to their teachers prior to the scripture reading, and escorted to their classrooms. Teachers will bring students back to rejoin families just before the Lord's Supper.

Lion and Deer classes meet teachers at the back of the sanctuary. Bear and Zebra classes meet your teachers at the front of the sanctuary. Look for the clipboard with your class animal!

Nursery is provided for the entire worship service, ages 1-3. Parents: sign your little one in and out downstairs in the Giraffe (nursery) classroom.

F.A.Q.

Can I join my child in class, if they need me?

Absolutely! Parents may accompany children to class for as long as needed.

Can my child stay in the service with me?

Yes! Children of all ages are welcome in the service at any time. Clipboards with paper and WikiSticks are available for busy hands.

What will they be learning?

Children ages PreK through 7th grade will be learning about Jesus and the big story of the gospel through lessons from the Dwell Curriculum. Lessons include story, prayer, and fun activities. Classes are designed to be engaging for all children, whether this is their first or hundredth Sunday at church!

Is there an at-home connection?

Yes! Each Sunday we encourage parents to ask children questions about what they learned! Perhaps these questions may help guide your discussion:

- Ask your child to retell the story from class today.
- What does this story teach you about God?
- Is there anything you'd like to ask God about this story?
- What is one thing you'd like to remember about this story?
- How is this story about you?

How can I view your child protection policies?

Simple! Scan the code.



Additional questions? Contact Suzanne Case
suzanne@allsoulsseattle.org

Giving as Part of Worship

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 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, in addition to during worship, 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 (ACH now available)



- ▶ 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.

We thank God for your partnership in this work, and invite you to ask him how you might best reflect his radical, sacrificial generosity with your own.

Fiscal Year 2023 began this October (projecting \$40k surplus) as we hope to see All Souls this year grow in organizational health, wisdom, and listening to God. Our new budgeted average expense is \$44,300/month. November giving was \$27,362.12 (net -\$16,938).

All Souls

of The Diocese of Churches for the Sake of Others (C4SO)

PASTORAL

Kara Nichols Barrett, *deacon*
Suzanne Case, *pastor, kids + youth*
R.J. March, *rector*

COMMUNITY / LITURGICAL ARTS / OPERATIONS

Alyssa Reeve
Kelly Smith

VESTRY

Adam Aljets, *treasurer*
Corey MORAIGN, *new*
Jen Eckert, *new*
Merrilee Thompson, *secretary*
Nicole Bennett
Rachel Faunce, *people's warden*
Sonya Luchauer, *new*
Thad Williams, *senior warden*

KIDS / YOUTH

Elba Martin

vestry@allsoulsseattle.org

WORSHIP + OFFICE LOCATION

Trinity West Seattle - Sundays, 4p
7551 35th Ave SW

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 16613, Seattle WA 98116

info@allsoulsseattle.org

Instagram: @allsoulsseattle
Podcast: 'All Souls Church of Seattle'



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