

THE TIDINGS

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Faith : Religion : Church
The Three Pillars of Following Christ



Recently you may have heard me share this triptych in a conversation or sermon about the means of connection with Jesus and His Way. It is possible that our conversation gave you the impression that I have a ranking system for them, and you may be right. However, if we are honest, we all do. And it is likely not exactly the same person to person. And that is OK. What is important, imho, is that we don't throw out the Baby Jesus with the bathwater; we need to maintain the three even as we prioritize them differently. In this article, I will clarify what I mean by these three terms, why I see them as pillars of following the Way, and how Admiral Church helps folx deepen their engagement with each.

I will start with the easiest one to toss (at least for me): RELIGION. The literal definition both is and is not helpful. *"Religion is a range of social-cultural systems, including designated behaviors and practices, morals, beliefs, worldviews, texts, sanctified places, prophecies, ethics, and/or organizations, that generally relate humanity to supernatural, transcendental, and spiritual elements—although there is no scholarly consensus over what precisely constitutes a religion."* I find religion easy to toss because it is often defined by its durability, which tends towards self-preservation, sometimes at the expense of the people who practice it. However, it is precisely this durability that gives it enduring value for our walk with Jesus. Followers of Christ have collected stories, experimented with practices, had encounters with Spirit, and developed systems of thought and behavior which have oriented them towards the power of Christ at work in their lives. Admiral Church is part of the stream of the Protestant Reformation, a movement grounded in the powerful insight that each individual has access to God personally. We utilize liturgy, ritual, music, and spiritual practices from the broad swath of Protestant (and occasionally Catholic) religious communities in order to draw from the well they have established.

Flowing from Religion (perhaps) comes the second pillar: FAITH. Faith is about the experience of connection and trust in the unseen, ultimately unknowable mystery of the divine. Much of the content of our Faith may be shaped by our Religion, but Faith is the personal experience and internal orientation towards the divine which exists separate from our Religion. This is the component that is developed through introspection, encounters with Creation, experiences of suffering, healing, beauty, and so much more. I tend to use the word "trust" to define Faith, because what we trust in, what we invest in as true regardless of the evidence to the contrary, is what guides us in our struggles and setbacks. Our

Do Justice

Love Mercy

Walk Humbly

Religion may give us practices, but our Faith gives them meaning. Admiral Church is committed to engaging people in developing their Faith through worship, study, pastoral care and counseling, and fellowship.

The third pillar is the one that many people of faith today have let go of: CHURCH. If you are reading this, that probably isn't you. Church is not worship; Church is faith *community*. Most followers of Jesus utilize Religion and Faith, but many in the 21st Century are not finding Church nearly as important. This should not surprise us, as the means of building community have changed drastically in the past 50 years. There are so many more options for connection, service, entertainment, and rest available to people today than ever before, many with little expectation of enduring commitment (though with increasing requirement for payment). Church is a space for commitment, because Church is a place where people grow in their Faith and Religion together; it is a setting where we test out what our Faith means and what our Religion offers in the context of diversity, disagreement, and solidarity. Without a commitment, Church becomes simply a vehicle for Religious education or Faith expression rather than a community of support, challenge, and collective power. Admiral Church welcomes members who take on the shared responsibility of shaping programs and practices for collective growth. We become Church when being together becomes an essential part of our walk with Jesus into His Kin(g)dom.

So, what do you think? Which one matters most to you? If they were in a flow chart, which would come first in your life? If you disagree with my descriptions, let me know! The first three people to respond via email will get a drink on me at their favorite Admiral neighborhood beverage station.

In Peace and With Love,
Pastor Andrew



The Good News of St. Luke is considered by scholars to be the most intentionally inclusive of the Gospels. Luke takes great pains to demonstrate Jesus' welcome of Gentiles, women, those living with disabilities, and followers of John into His movement for liberation and redemption. His Gospel contains many unique stories which shed important light on the life and ministry of Jesus. This Eastertide (from Easter to Pentecost) we will study some of his exclusive stories and consider how they shape our understanding of our risen Savior.

We provide nursery care Sunday mornings during the church service!

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY - If you would like a ride to any church event listed please contact Peggy Rich joyinthemorning1130@gmail.com or call (206)460-3021 and she will arrange your transportation to and from these planned events.

Masks now optional at Admiral Church.



CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

This contemporary Tuesday evening worship service will continue in 2024. If you enjoy acoustic guitar music and conversation about things that matter in your life, this may be a gathering you would enjoy! Come and find out! Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30.





Church Events

Tuesdays - Contemporary
Worship 6:00

Apr. 6 - Games, Games,
Games 2:00

Apr. 16 - First PFLAG
Meeting 7:30.

Apr. 29 - Leap of Faith Movie
6:30



Do Justice

Sunday

Sermons

Scriptures

Apr. 7- Rev. Bruce Wilson preaching
Encounter on the Road to Emmaus
(Luke 24:13-35)

Apr. 14- Herald of God's Faithfulness
Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

Apr. 21- A Mother's Preview of Pride and Terror
(Earth Day)
Boy Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

Apr.28- Lay Preacher (Pastor Andrew @ PNCUCC
Annual Meeting)
Parables from the Travel Narrative
(Luke 9-19, esp 15)

May 5- Divine Comfort for Transformational Witness
An Angel in the Garden (Luke 22:39-46)

May 12- Dramatic Transition of Leadership
Jesus' Ascension to Heaven
(Luke 24:50-53/Acts 1:6-11)

May 19- The Fire Within (PENTECOST!!!)
Tongues of Fire and the Holy Spirit
(Acts 2:1-13)

Love Mercy

Walk Humbly

EASTER AT ADMIRAL 2024

I hope you were all able to be a part of the joy and excitement on Easter Day here at Admiral Church! We had an incredible Easter worship service, then threw a big party! Yay!



Admiral's Congregational Connections Team decided to step out boldly this Easter and try a much more adventurous Community Easter Festival than we have had in past years. A celebratory worship service followed by our traditional annual Easter egg hunt for our own and neighbors' kids was expanded to include a scrumptious brunch and four craft activities, designed to interest both children and adults. Well, it was a BIG success!! Our worship service welcomed 33 adults and seven children. The post worship brunch and activities drew a crowd of 60! Wow!

First came Easter worship. The Sanctuary looked fantastic, thanks to the Worship Team (Laura Sutkus, Kathy Heinemann, Ken Kriekenbeck and Anita Shaffer). Pastor Andrew's inspired leadership and message, Sam Peters' brilliant playing of the organ and piano, Tobi Stone's beautiful contributions on flute and sax, a stellar performance by the Admiral Choir and a lovely, sunlit morning all combined to ensure it was a very special day. A premiere of Sam's new composition for choir, piano and flute, "Morning Has Broken", was a big hit! Stephanie Trinneer's impromptu performance group of kiddie egg-shakers was a delight. Thanks, Stephanie!

Then came the Easter Festival! This all began with careful planning, of course. Thanks so much to our Easter Festival planning group, Chairs Peggy Rich and Anita Shaffer, members Anne Muller, Stephanie Trinneer, Tyna Ek, Ken Kriekenbeck and Laura Cook!

Brunch was a treat for the eyes and the taste buds, from Anne Muller's gorgeous dyed eggs and Paska to Tyna's gluten-free quiche and Peggy's Mixed Berry French toast. Thanks to all who contributed food and staffed



the kitchen: Anne, Tyna, Ken, Peggy, Anita, Laura S, Kathy! Many appreciative comments were heard from partakers. And we didn't run out of food!

Next was the Egg Hunt; the usual bedlam reigned. Ha. Seriously, this event was masterfully run by Stephanie and Lily Trinneer and Admiral's three Nursery Care teens, Larry, Ember and Lincoln.

The craft tables in the Sanctuary were inviting and attractive, and many adults and kids participated, taking home fun Easter-themed crafts in gift boxes. Huge thanks to Peggy Rich for masterminding and supervising this ambitious venture! The crafts and their teachers were: Easter Sun-Catchers by Tyna

Ek assisted by Ember, Cool-Whip Egg-Dyeing by Lily Trinneer assisted by Stephanie and Larry, Jigsaw Puzzle making by Leonette Carte and Gerrie Tollenaar, Bunny Cookie Decorating by Susan Oatis assisted by Lincoln.

EVERYONE had a super time: the Neighbors who came, the Admiralties who participated, the planners and organizers, even the cleanup crew! What an upbeat way to spend an Easter Day! Will we do it again in 2025? Stay tuned, Friends...



JOIN US APRIL 16th

TO CELEBRATE THE NEW MONTHLY PFLAG GROUP
IN NORTH ADMIRAL



PFLAG WITH CORI & ANDREW

THIRD TUESDAY
IN PERSON 7:30-9pm

ADMIRAL CHURCH
4320 SW HILL ST SEA, WA. 98116 PFLAG.org

For more than 50 years, PFLAG has been providing peer-to-peer support, publications, toolkits, and other resources to make sure that the family members of people who are LGBTQ+ get the support they need in the way that best serves their needs. Come to the first meeting and lend your support.

Meal and Mission

Even though Meal and Mission has suspended their activities, it's impact is still felt at Riverside Park United Methodist Church in Tukwila, Wa. It was agreed by the Meal and Mission Committee and the Admiral Church Council to send the remained of the Meal and Mission Designated Fund to Riverside Park to help in a small way their effort to help the large number of immigrants who have ended up on their doorstep. This week we received the following thank you note:

Dear Margaret,

Thank you so much for Admiral Church's donation of \$200, which we received on January 28, 2024. We have designated this to our Outreach Fund specifically the Asylum Seeker/Refugee Project.

Your donation is helping us provide a safe place, food, clothing, and other services to recent arrivals, while we work to find them placement in more permanent housing. Having a safe temporary place to live allows them time to pursue things they need to transition into living here, such as taking English as a Second Language classes, forming relationships with other local support groups, and sending their children to school.

We appreciate your generous support.

Carol Melton
Treasurer, Riverton Park UMC

You may have read in The Seattle Times on April 3rd that Riverton Park has run out of money to support the many refugees who have come to them for help. If you are in a position to help them, please do. Their attempts to help solve this community problem is genuine and laudable. If you wish to donate through Admiral's Outreach Program, we will pass your contribution on to Riverton Park ASAP.

Faith Journey

Join the Faith Journey Team for their fifth Mondays "Watch This Film" series on April 29th. It's a time to sit back, enjoy a good film, have some popcorn, and enjoy good company. The film is followed by a discussion. All are welcome. If you need a ride call Peggy at (206)460-3021 and she will be glad to provide or arrange a ride for you.

WTF*

@ADMIRAL CHURCH

MON, 4/29

6:30PM



Leap of Faith

* WATCH THIS FILM FOR YOUR FAITH JOURNEY

FREE | SCREENING & DISCUSSION

Admiral Church is located in the North Admiral neighborhood of West Seattle just off California Ave

4320 SW HILL ST

OUTREACH TEAM

We're still collecting egg cartons for the West Seattle Food Bank (only cardboard, please), and paper grocery bags with handles. Thank You, Marylou, for faithfully gathering and picking up egg cartons and paper bags to deliver to the Foodbank!

FELLOWSHIP TEAM

GAMES, GAMES, GAMES

Are you a gamer? Expert or beginners are welcome. Hands on boardgames, traditional games, new games, card games, whatever type of game you like to play - this is your chance to show us what you've got! Come share a fun time with church friends and their friends on the first Saturday of each month!

April 6, from 2:00 - 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall



**Worship Service
every Sunday @ 10:30
www.admiralchurch.org**



***Admiral Congregational
United Church of Christ
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