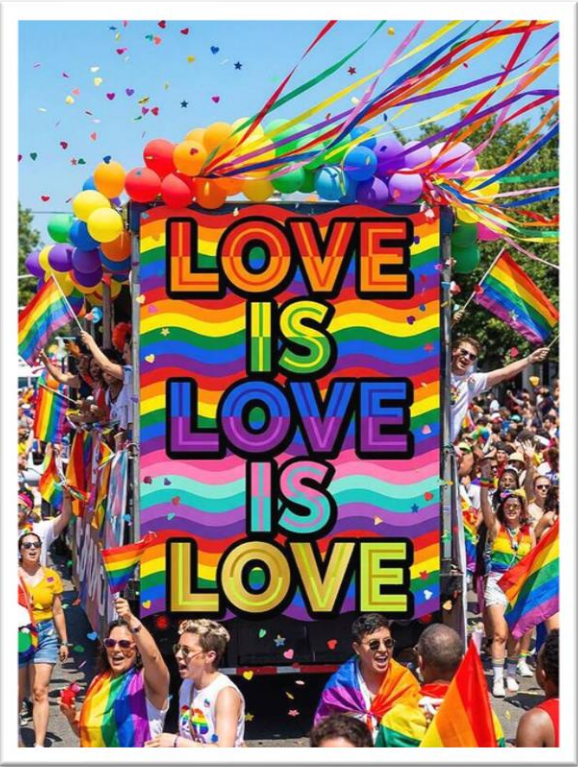


GIVE ONLINE HERE

Church Office Hours
Tue-Thurs 2-4 PM
Mon and Fri closed
admiralchurchoffice@gmail.com
or (206) 932-2928

Pastor Jermell's Office Hours
Mon 10-2 PM-Wed, 10-12PM, in person.
Additionally, individual zoom sessions
are available by appointment. Please call
(206)471-1597 or email him at
jermell.witherspoon@gmail.com to
arrange a time.

Admiral Congregational United Church of Christ @SJB
3050 California Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98116, www.admiral.church
Pastor Jermell Witherspoon, Music Director Sam Peters



WORSHIP SERVICE

Pastor Jermell Witherspoon
31 May 2026



PRELUDE

WELCOME & MAKING SPACE FOR SPIRIT

GATHERING SONG:
"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" (insert)

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: GOD OF EVERYBODY, EVERY STORY, EVERY IDENTITY, AND EVERY BECOMING,
WE GATHER TODAY IN THE BEAUTY OF YOUR CREATION.

PEOPLE: WE COME AS WE ARE, QUEER, TRANS, NONBINARY, GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, INTERSEX,
ASEXUAL, QUESTIONING, AND BELOVED.

LEADER: YOU FORMED US WITH INTENTION AND CALLED US GOOD BEFORE THE WORLD
EVER NAMED US OTHERWISE.

PEOPLE: NOTHING CAN STAND IN THE WAY OF OUR BELONGING.

LEADER: AS PHILIP MET THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH ON THE ROAD, MEET US NOW IN THIS SACRED SPACE.

PEOPLE: OPEN OUR HEARTS, RENEW OUR SPIRITS, AND REMIND US THAT WE ARE WORTHY
OF LOVE, JOY, AND LIBERATION.

ALL: AMEN.

SHARED SINGING: "For All the Children ", (insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(A CORPORATE TIME OF COMMUNAL PRAYER, FEEL FREE TO NAME PRAYERS OR UPLIFT PRAISE)

Leader: God of love, hear the prayers of your people.

People: God in Your Mercy, Hear our Prayer.

(SPEAK THIS AFTER EACH PRAYER GIVEN)

LORD'S PRAYER

Prayer Response: "Breath on Me, Breath on God", (insert)

ANTHEM

"Get Together"

made famous by the Youngbloods, arr. Sam Peters

The Admiral Choir

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 8:36-40, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

AS THEY TRAVELED ALONG THE ROAD, THEY CAME TO SOME WATER AND THE EUNUCH SAID, "LOOK, HERE IS WATER. WHAT CAN STAND IN THE WAY OF MY BEING BAPTIZED?" [37] AND HE GAVE ORDERS TO STOP THE CHARIOT. THEN BOTH PHILIP AND THE EUNUCH WENT DOWN INTO THE WATER AND PHILIP BAPTIZED HIM. WHEN THEY CAME UP OUT OF THE WATER, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SUDDENLY TOOK PHILIP AWAY, AND THE EUNUCH DID NOT SEE HIM AGAIN, BUT WENT ON HIS WAY REJOICING. PHILIP, HOWEVER, APPEARED AT AZOTUS AND TRAVELED ABOUT, PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN ALL THE TOWNS UNTIL HE REACHED CAESAREA.

SERMON:

"OUR GAY AGENDA"

Pastor Jermell Witherspoon

CONVERSATION

The Ethiopian eunuch asks, "What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" Where do you still see barriers being placed in front of LGBTQIA+ people today, in the church, society, or even within ourselves, and how is God calling us to remove them?

I named Pride as an "agenda" rooted in freedom, visibility, and survival for marginalized people. What does it look like for us at Admiral United Church of Christ to actively participate in that agenda of liberation, rather than simply affirm it in words?

SHARED SINGING: "Standing on the Side of Love", (insert)

INVITATION TO SHARE

(A TIME FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS; IF NONE ARE SPOKEN, PLEASE SEE THE PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS.)

POSTLUDE

(A TIME OF INTENTIONAL MUSIC, CENTERING US IN WHAT WE HAVE EXPERIENCED.)

BENEDICTION

BELOVED COMMUNITY, GO FORTH KNOWING THAT NOTHING CAN STAND IN THE WAY OF GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU. GO WITH THE COURAGE OF THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH, WHO CLAIMED THE FULLNESS OF THEIR BELONGING. GO WITH THE BOLDNESS OF PRIDE, TRUSTING THAT WHO YOU ARE IS NOT A MISTAKE, BUT A SACRED REFLECTION OF THE DIVINE. MAY GOD BLESS YOUR BODIES, YOUR IDENTITIES, YOUR QUESTIONS, YOUR BECOMING, AND YOUR JOY. AMEN