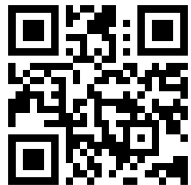




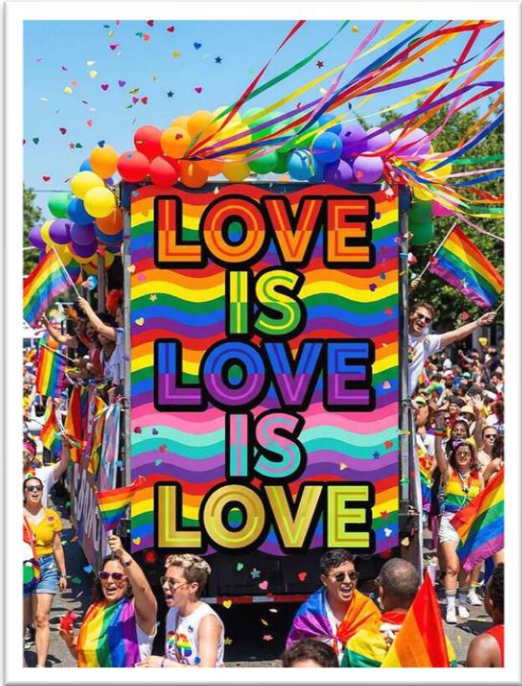
GIVE ONLINE HERE



**Church Office Hours**  
Tue-Thurs 2-4 PM  
Mon and Fri closed  
[admiralchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.admiral.church)  
**Pastor Jermell Witherspoon, Music Director Sam Peters**



# WORSHIP SERVICE

*Pastor Jermell Witherspoon*  
7 June 2026



PRELUDE

WELCOME & MAKING SPACE FOR SPIRIT

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** We gather today as people who know joy and loss.  
**People:** We gather as people who have loved and been loved.  
**Leader:** We gather as people shaped by family, friendship, community,

and unexpected companions along the journey.

**People:** We gather because no one was meant to walk alone.

**Leader:** When the road was difficult, someone walked beside us.

**People:** When our faith was fragile, someone carried hope for us.

**Leader:** When we felt abandoned, God showed up through the presence of another.

**People:** We give thanks for the sacred gift of companionship.

**Leader:** Come, let us worship the God who creates belonging beyond boundaries.

**People:** Let us worship the God whose love is wider than we can imagine.  
Amen.

**SHARED SINGING: "New Patterns of Loving", (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

***"I've Got a Feeling"***

African American Traditional, arr. Sam Peters

**The Admiral Choir**

#### INVITATION TO SHARE

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

**SCRIPTURE: RUTH 1:11-18, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION**

But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still

hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has turned against me!"

At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her

#### SERMON:

*"Beyond Categories: The Queerness of Companionship"*

**Pastor Jermell Witherspoon**

#### CONVERSATION

**1. Ruth and Naomi's relationship did not fit neatly into the traditional categories of their society.**

What relationships, families, or communities today challenge our assumptions about what love, commitment, and belonging are supposed to look like? How might God be inviting the church to learn from them?

**2. Ruth tells Naomi, "Where you go, I will go."**

What does faithful companionship look like in a world that often encourages individualism and self-sufficiency? How can we become people who "stay" with one another through seasons of change, struggle, and uncertainty?

**SHARED SINGING: "I Shall Not Leave From By Your Side", (insert)**

#### COMMUNION