

**Ellen Fackler Gamrath**

March 30, 1925 - January 18, 2025



**Isaiah 43:1** " I have called you by name and you are mine"

**Sunday, February 9, 2025     2:30 pm**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
1215 Thomas Street, Seattle, WA 98109

Live Stream on YouTube channel @ImmanuelSeattle at 2:30 pm

# Ellen Fackler Gamrath

March 30, 1925 - January 18, 2025

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## **Welcome to you, one and all!**

WELCOME Welcome to worship at Immanuel! We are glad you are here! We are a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation, which means:

- We welcome all persons – all sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, races, ethnicities, ages, abilities, citizenships, and economic statuses – to worship with us, to receive God's gift of grace at the communion table, and to participate fully in our community's life, including membership and leadership.
- We strive to be an Anti-Racist community, realizing we are on an important journey as we move toward the destination of respecting and honoring people of all races.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that our church, Immanuel Lutheran, and many of the spaces where congregants live are on unceded Coast Salish land, specifically the ancestral land of the Duwamish, Suquamish, Stillaguamish, and Muckleshoot People. We recognize the stewardship of this land by the Coast Salish peoples since time immemorial, and the disruption of this work by colonization, a disruption that continues even today. We strive to remedy this injustice through our beliefs and transforming actions in and beyond our community.

## ACCESSIBILITY

We welcome infants and children as full participants in our worship and encourage you to take advantage of our Pray-ground in the front of the sanctuary, equipped with books, toys that have been sanitized, as well as some extra space to move. Young children accompanied by caregivers, or others in need of a quiet space apart, may also use the cry room at the back of the sanctuary. Ask an usher if you need a hearing assistance device, sensory reduction headphones or fidget tools to help with anxiety or focus.

## MUTUAL CARE

Our Pledge to Care is an encouragement to be mindful of the health and well-being of the community when choosing to worship in the building. Masks are encouraged and available in the building, especially during cold and flu season, but no longer required. Gender Neutral public restrooms can be found through the door at the top of the ramp in the front of the sanctuary or downstairs in the Parish Hall. Ask an usher to direct you. Be advised that all areas in front of the balcony are subject to being on camera. If you wish to remain off-camera, please sit in the available pews under the balcony or ask an usher for assistance.

***We invite you to join us weekly for worship in person and online:***

Sunday Worship with Children's Church at 10:30 am

Coffee Hour & Learning 1st Sundays, Coffee Hour Social 3rd Sundays, Community Meal Last Sundays

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit gathers us together as the people of God*

PIANO PRELUDE

FAMILY PRELUDE      *My Life Flows on in Endless Song*      Carly Brook, Abby Brook, Claire Smith

INTRODUCTION

L: Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen,  
to remember before God our sister *Ellen Fackler Gamrath*, to give thanks for her life, to  
commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*words by Dan Erlander*

"Grafted into Christ through baptism, dwelling in Christ as a branch is connected to a vine, we  
have fullness of life. United to Christ, we know who we are and whose we are. Nourished by  
Christ, we actually do bear the fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,  
generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Baptized into Christ, life is indeed a feast of  
extravagant Grace."

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with  
you all.

**C: And also with you.**

PSALM:

Psalm 23

Karen Erlander

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,

<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul. He guides me along  
the right paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love  
will follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

GATHERING HYMN

*What a Fellowship*

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FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

Abby Brook

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 121

Sara Pitcher

- I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?  
2 My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.  
3 He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber;  
4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
5 The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand;  
6 the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.  
7 The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life;  
8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Word of God word of life, **thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL

Luke 1:38-47 The Magnificat

by Marty Haugen

### The Magnificat

Luke 1: 46-55

*All:*



1.3. My — soul pro - claims your  
2. You have cast the might - y



great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in  
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of



you, You have looked with love on your  
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with



ser-vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won-drous things, and left the wealth-y no part.



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith-ful One,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.  
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,



How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,  
As you prom-ised to Sar-ah — and A - bra - ham,



hum - bling the proud of heart.  
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Beautiful Savior*

*page 8*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Blessing for the Brokenhearted*  
by Jan Richardson

Claire Smith

*"Let us agree  
for now  
that we will not say  
the breaking  
makes us stronger  
or that it is better  
to have this pain  
than to have done  
without this love.  
Let us promise  
we will not  
tell ourselves  
time will heal  
the wound,*

*when every day  
our waking  
opens it anew.  
Perhaps for now  
it can be enough  
to simply marvel  
at the mystery  
of how a heart  
so broken  
can go on beating,  
as if it were made  
for precisely this—  
as if it knows  
the only cure for love*

*is more of it,  
as if it sees  
the heart's sole remedy  
for breaking  
is to love still,  
as if it trusts  
that its own  
persistent pulse  
is the rhythm  
of a blessing  
we cannot  
begin to fathom  
but will save us  
nonetheless."*

† PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always!

**C: And also with you!**

*Share a sign of this spirit-filled peace, with those sitting near you, respecting the boundaries and honoring the consent of each other.*

*The assembly is seated.*

**SENDING**

*The Holy Spirit gathers us together as the people of God.*

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: Holy One in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive  
those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Holden Prayer of Good Courage

First time: Cantor. Second time: All

O God, you have called us to ven-tures where we can-not see the end,  
 By paths nev-er yet tak-en, Through per-ils un-known.  
 Give us good cour-age, Not know-ing where we go,  
 To know that your hand is lead-ing us Wher-ev-er we might go.  
 A - men.

Text adapted from the prayer "The Call of Abraham" by Eric Milner-White, King's College, Cambridge, 1941.  
 Music by Kent Gustavson © 2002 Kent Gustavson www.kentgustavson.com.  
 Taken from "Mountain Vespers," an evening prayer service dedicated to Holden Village www.holdenvillage.org

COMMENDATION

L: Let us commend Ellen Fackler Gamrath to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.  
*Silence is kept.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Ellen.  
 Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold,  
 a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming.  
 Receive *her* into the arms of your mercy,  
 into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,  
 and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

**C: Amen.**

DISMISSAL

L: Let us go forth in peace,

**C: in the name of Christ. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

*Let All Things Now Living*

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POSTLUDE

+ + +

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## SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister	Pastor Priscilla Austin
Assisting Minister	Daniel Lund
Music Director	Jennifer Faul
Additional Music	Tom Witt
Family Remembrances	Abby Brook
Lector/Readers	Karen Erlander
	Sara Pitcher
	Claire Smith
Ushers	Terrill Chang
	Elaine Harrison
Media Team	Hakme Lee

# What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

## *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?

what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
 oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
 I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

*Refrain*

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;  
 Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.  
 lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



# Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

# Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



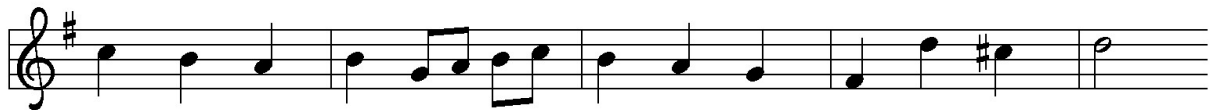
who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

## **Ellen Fackler Gamrath**

March 30, 1925 — January 18, 2025

A smart, beautiful, kind woman was called home by God on January 18th, 2025. Ellen was surrounded by family and love, in this world and the next. She is deeply missed and lovingly remembered for her steadfast love, commitment to living out her faith, lifelong dedication to learning, and her generosity.

Ellen was born March 30, 1925 to Othillie Trinklein and Rev. Ernest Carl Fackler in Detroit, Michigan (older brother Bill & younger sister Alice). She was baptized and confirmed at St Andrews Lutheran Church in Detroit. Ellen delighted in many childhood memories in Arcadia near the shores of Lake Michigan with her cousins and extended family. She graduated from Valparaiso University in 1947 with a degree in Social Work.

She met her lifelong love, Jim Gamrath, on November 27, 1948, and they began a long, wonderful, rich partnership of 65 years. They raised their family in Seattle, WA, and Ellen joined Jim in growing the family medical practice. They enjoyed living on Mercer Island for 30 years together before moving to a retirement community in Seattle.

Jim and Ellen traveled the world together, and one of their favorite places to visit was Holden Village, up Lake Chelan. They first went to Holden in the early 60s and then enjoyed at least one trip a year for most of the remainder of their lives. Many lifelong friendships and abundant blessings have filled their lives in connection with that special place. Holden had an extra-special place in Ellen's heart. She spent many years there serving, listening, studying, and worshiping. She was integrally involved in leadership as a member and president of the Holden Board of Directors.

Ellen embodied servant leadership in countless ways throughout her life, as a social worker, published author, and peacemaker.

Ellen is survived by her 3 children: David (Lisa), Linda (Tom), and Barbara (David); 5 grandchildren: Jason, Alicia (JB), Claire (Philip), Carly (Clara), and Abby; and 2 great-grandchildren: Madison and Lily; as well as her sister, Alice. She loved her family and was surrounded by them throughout her life. She passed peacefully on the morning of January 18th, and as we grieve the loss we rejoice in knowing that she is welcomed home by Jesus and the dear ones gone before, especially her beloved Jim, mother and father, brother Bill, niece Margaret, sister Ruth and so many others dear to her heart. We celebrate her gracious, generous, loving life, and we will miss her grounded, wise, witty, peaceful presence in our lives.

### **Memorials may be made to:**

Holden Village: [holdenvillage.org/donate/](https://holdenvillage.org/donate/)

Lutheran World Relief: [give.lwr.org](https://give.lwr.org)

**Isaiah 40:31** (NIV)  
“They who wait for the Lord shall  
renew their strength;  
they shall mount up  
with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.”