Rosemary Jermann profile

Living Our Faith
Meet Rosemary

I've been a parishioner for: 46 years. Graduate school at SLU brought me into the College Church parish in 1977. My raggedy jeans raised the eyebrows of one of the priests at the time, but no one kicked me out.

Living my faith: My activities have included serving as a lector, a eucharistic minister at the hospital, and a guide for Weeks of Guided Prayer and retreats for the homeless. In earlier years, I helped Kate Shaw's committee start the Gathering Place (now called Doughnut Sunday) and gave presentations on Jeremiah and on an early Christian tradition of the Holy Spirit as feminine. These days, participation in racial justice vigils and hosting Dining Out for Seniors are my focus.

Why I'm involved: College Church's openness to, and support of, different levels of participation has facilitated involvement at different points in life and has helped me balance a highly introverted personality. When trying to sing hymns during pandemic YouTube Masses, I realized how much I depend on other parishioners to shore up my faltering and off-key voice.

Three words that describe SFX: Respectful, Responsive, Flexible

My neighborhood: The two-block area from College Church to Vandeventer has been my home for more than 45 years. I have either lived, worked, taught, studied, prayed, or dined in every building – except three --from the Hotel Ignacio to Vandeventer Avenue. A big plus is walkable access to church, the post office, SLU events, art museums, grocery stores, pharmacies, bus lines, and the symphony.

Fun facts: I continue to write and edit after retirement from SLU, where I taught Old Testament and did translating and editing for _Theology Digest_. A constant challenge is keeping track of time differences while working on a column for a Honolulu newspaper and editing for a professor in Sweden. Reading and discussing Shakespeare plays is a favorite hobby. Recently, I've been learning how black scholars are raising awareness of racism in the plays or in their interpretation.