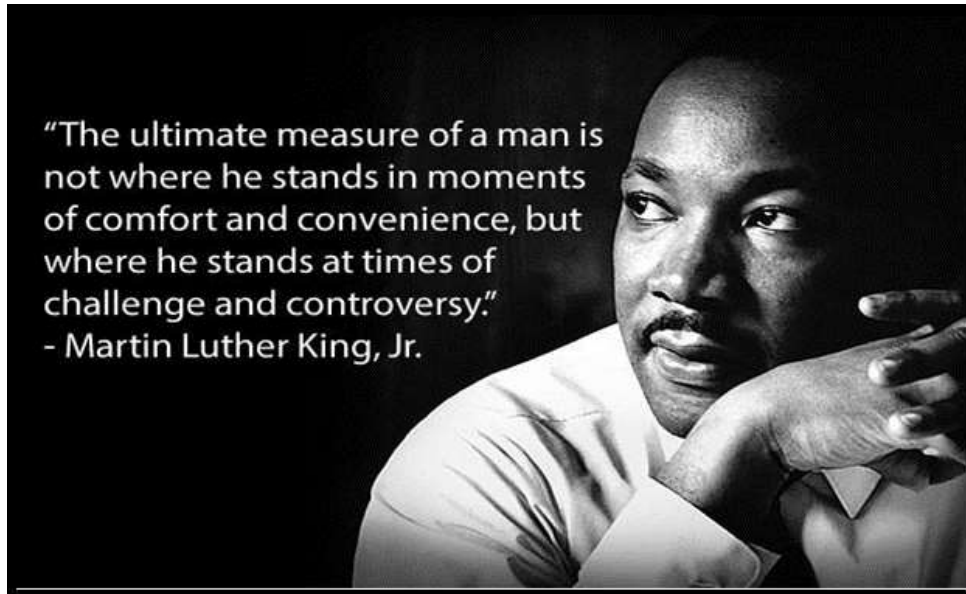


Old First Presbyterian Church



The measure of person is not how great their faith is,
but how great is their ability to love. *-MLK, Jr.*

Epiphany Season January 16, 2022

The Reverend Maggi Henderson, Pastor
The Presbyterian Church (USA)

Worship through Praising God

*Please fill out a guest card found in the pew rack and
place it in the offering basket in the narthex when you exit the church building.*

Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.

** At the asterisk, please rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude	Two Preludes on We Shall Overcome	Charles Albert Tindley (1851-1933)
	Theme and 6 Variations	Gaël Liardon (1973-2018)
	Maestoso	Adolphus Hailstork (born 1941)

**Welcome and
Church Life**

***Call to Worship**

Betty Voris

Leader Come, believers, God-beloved,
Christ-redeemed, Spirit-infused!

People What is our call?

Leader We are called to stand against injustice, inequality, and oppression,
as our Lord and Savior did,

People for injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Leader We are called to examine the actions of our nation:
its military might, economic relations,
political institutions, and cultural patterns,

People for whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.

Leader We are called to be weavers of the kingdom, makers of peace,
for we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality,
tied in a single garment of destiny.

**People Come, believers, come to worship God—
The God of heaven and earth is with us.
The God of peace is our refuge.**

Adapted from "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
by Martin Luther King, Jr. (1963) and from Psalm 46

***Hymn 772 Live into Hope**

1 **Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first see
the year of God's own jubilee!**

2 **Live into hope! The Blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.**

3 **Live in to hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread,
to hear God's word and thus be fed.**

4 **Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.**

**Prayer of
Confession**

Betty Voris

Leader O God, you call us beyond ourselves,
toward compassion and concern for others.
Your call is persistent in the face of peaceful and challenging times.

**People We admit Lord, do we trust you enough
to truly follow you what you teach us.**

Silence is kept.

Leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. summoned us to build-up our strength to love;
beyond division and differences, beyond race, class, and culture,
beyond politics and society.

**People Holy One, strengthen our capacity to love.
Grant us the faith and courage
to speak, act, and live the things you have sacrificed to teach us**

Leader Grant us bold spirits!
Let our lives reflect our dedication to you.

Adapted by Carmen Mason Browne
from *Black Pearls* by Eric V. Copage

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader Hear the Good News:
When we face Christ with the truth about, ourselves,
we face God with the awareness of our faults and needs.
God is gracious and grants us the courage to make changes in our lives.
In Christ we are freed and forgiven to live into fresh new beginnings.

People Thanks be to God. Amen.

Solo

Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993)
Arranged by Roy Ringwald (1910-1995)
Sergey Khalikulov, bass

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Bring me home through the night,
Through the dark, through the storm to Thy light.
I have been to the mount,
I have seen the Promised Land:
Precious Lord, take my hand.

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Bring Thy child home at last,
Where the strife and the pain: All are past.
I have dreamed a great dream
That Thy love shall rule our land:
Precious Lord, take my hand.

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Take Thy child unto Thee,
With my dream of a world that is free,
For that day when all flesh
Joins the glory Thou hast planned.
Precious Lord, take my hand.

Adapted from Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993) and
Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) by Joyce Merman

The Peace *Please remain seated for the Peace.*

Leader Peace be with you.

People And also with you.

The Reverend Erwin Barron

Worship through Hearing God's Word

**Time with Our
Children**

The Reverend Erwin Barron

**Prayers of the
People**

Composed by George Becker
Read by Chris Burt

Prayer Partners Cynthia Kang, Saundra Keyes, Jeanne Kirkwood, Levi Knippel, John and
Riley Kramar, Nina Krietzman, Marne Krozek, Bobby Lane

**The Lord's
Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Scripture

Matthew 5:43-48, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Leader

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us,

People

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

When Love Speaks Truth

The Reverend Carmen Mason Browne

Worship through Responding to God's Word

Hymn We are One in The Spirit

- 1 We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
- 2 We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
- 3 We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
We will work with each other; we will work side by side,
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

- 4 **Praise God the Creator, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

***Charge and
Benediction**

The Reverend Carmen Mason Browne

Leader God has shown you what is good.
What does the Lord require of you?

People **But to do justice, and love kindness,
and walk humbly with our God.**

Leader Whatever you do in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord,
giving thanks to God through him.
Go in peace, serve the people of God.

You can place your offering in the basket when you leave the church.

Are you visiting today? Please fill in the contact tracing binder, if you have not already done so.

Today's Preacher: Carmen Mason Browne

This morning's preacher is the Reverend Carmen Mason Browne, M.Div., a member of the Presbytery of San Francisco and a graduate of the San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Carmen has served several diverse multicultural congregations in the Presbytery of the San Francisco, Redwoods, and New York Presbytery. Currently, she serves as project consultant to the West Bay Region Grace and Restoration Project. She has years of established leadership at the local and national level including work in parish ministry and community-based organizations with a focus on serving the underserved and communities of color. She is the recipient of the California Wellness Foundation Public Health Award, and has been recognized by the Assembly and Senate of California, for her work in community building and advocacy among racial/ethnic communities.

Old First Staffs the Food Pantry

Sign up to staff the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, January 22, when Old First staffs the pantry. You can sign up easily by visiting Old First's website – www.oldfirst.org – and then clicking on the link in the sidebar column to sign up for the Food Pantry. For more information speak with Pastor Maggi.

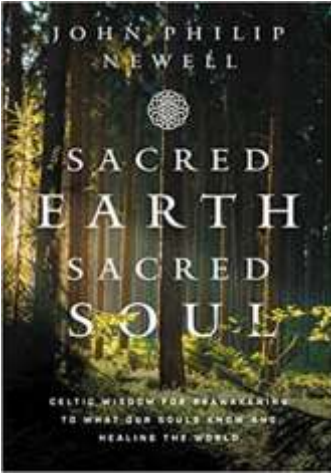
2022: New Year, New Leaders

In the new year, Old First will begin discerning the calling of new deacons and elders to share in leadership of the church. If you feel that someone you know or you yourself might be ready and called to serve the church this way, please speak to a current officer or to Pastor Maggi.

MLK Jr. Day

The church office will be closed tomorrow, January 17, in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: Book Study for Lent



During Lent, which begins March 2, Old First will read and discuss *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening to What Our Souls Know and Healing the World* by John Philip Newell.

John Philip Newell is making a rare appearance – he is coming all the way from Scotland – at First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael on Saturday, February 19 from 10 am to 12 noon. You can sign up beginning January 17 by mailing EventFPCSR@gmail.com with your name and the number of people in your party. The event is free but space is limited so sign up soon.

You can get the book from the library, at local bookstores, and also on Kindle. (If you use, Amazon, don't forget to make Old First your go-to on AmazonSmile.) We will also have copies closer to the date. –Maggi

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- Click “Get Started” either to sign in to your Amazon account or to create one.
- Search for Old First Presbyterian Church using the dialog box.
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