

Old First Presbyterian Church



*You are
worthy.*

**Third Sunday in Lent
March 20, 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 From Variations on an Original Theme (Enigma Variations) Op. 36
Variation IX: Adagio (Nimrod) Edward Elgar (1857-1934)
Benedictus, Op. 82 No. 1 Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1934)

**Welcome and
Church Life**

Introit From Magnificat Tertii Toni (1591)
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c.1525-1594)
Chelsea Hollow, soprano; Kirsten Fleischmann, alto
Michael Desnoyers, tenor; Sergey Khalikulov, bass
Gloria Patri et Filio *Glory to the Father and to the Son,*
et Spiritui Sancto. Amen. *and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

***Call to Worship** Erwin Barron

Leader Come, all who are thirsty.
People Come, all who are seeking.
Leader Come, all who are waiting.
People Come, all who labor.
Leader Come, all who need rest.
People Come, all who dream dreams.
Leader Come—
whether you're young or old, confident or curious, lonely or hopeful.
People This is God's house. All are welcome here.
Let us worship holy God.

***Hymn 215 What Wondrous Love Is This**

- 1 **What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!**
what wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
- 2 **When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!**
- 3 **To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great "I AM,"
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing!**
- 4 **And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

Prayer of Confession Erwin Barron

**Holy God, we treat our self-worth like something
that can be bought at a store,
and you know this even better than we do.**

Instead of trusting that we are made good,
instead of trusting that we are loved exactly as we are,
we stockpile our value in earthly things—
in trophies and awards, in likes and follows,
in job status and energy, in wealth and power.
Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick.
Forgive us for not seeing
the beloved of God in each person we encounter.

Silence is kept.

Heal our open wounds and tell our hearts
that we won't be forgotten if we slow down,
that we won't be forgotten if we rest.
Gratefully we pray. Amen.

**Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader Friends, take a deep breath.
Release the tension in your jaw.

Leader There is good news here.
People **For even when we stumble,
even when we take the easy way out,
even when we forget our own self-worth,
even when we lose our way— we belong to God.
We will say together —
We are loved. We are claimed. We are under God's wing.
We are worthy of grace. We belong to God.**

Offertory *Ushers will receive the offering at this time.* John Varley Roberts (1841-1920)
Michael Desnoyers, tenor

Seek ye the LORD while he may be found,
call ye upon him while he is near:
Let the wicked forsake their ways,
and the unrighteous ones their thoughts:
and return unto the LORD,
and he will have mercy and abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55:6-7

he Peace *Please remain seated for the Peace.*
Leader Peace be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

**Time with Our
Children**

**Prayers of the
People**

Betty Voris

Prayer Partners

Doris Bebb, Gabriele Beck-Engeser, George Becker and Christo Bresnahan,
Lorraine Bellesi and Tony Roman, Michael Bene, Michael and Nina Berg

**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

Isaiah 55:6-9, Luke 13:1-9

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

Pastor Henderson

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn** **We Pray for Peace** *sung to the tune FINLANDIA (Hymn 340)*

- 1 **We pray for peace, O God of love and justice,
as once again, we face a time of war.
The meek and humble try — amid the crisis —
to love and build, to nurture and restore.
May leaders hear the truth the prophets teach us —
that gifts of peace are well worth struggling for.**
- 2 **We pray for peace, O Christ who calmed the waters —
who stilled the storm, who stilled disciples' fear.
You spoke with love and with amazing power;
be with us now when trouble is so near.
May leaders see the miracle you offer —
that words and deeds can calm the nations here.**
- 3 **We pray for peace, O Spirit here among us;
your love emboldens, judges and restrains.
Take any hate and acts of impulse from us;
make leaders wise, amid competing claims.
May we seek peace, O God of love and justice;
may love and mercy be our highest aims.**

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***Charge and
Benediction**

Pastor Henderson

As you leave this place,
may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.
May you laugh, and may it be contagious.
May you overflow with love for those around you.
May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.
And in all of your living, and breathing, and being,
may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit,
and may it change your life.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—
go in peace, full to the brim.

People Amen.

You may also place your offering in the basket as you leave the church or may make it using the electronic kiosk in the narthex or Old First's on-line giving page found on the right-side of our homepage: www.oldfirst.org.

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

Relief for Ukraine



The Presbyterian Church USA has a link posted on its website to fund emergency relief for those fleeing violence in Ukraine. Join Presbyterians already mobilizing to provide assistance with basic items for survival. **“God administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing.”** - Deuteronomy 10:18

To learn more and give, visit the homepage of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):
<https://www.pcusa.org/>

Book Study for Lent, Today

Our book study for Lent continues today. We meet in the Fellowship Hall thirty minutes after the end of worship. For next Sunday, March 27, please read Chapters 5 and 6 – if your time is short, you can skim Chapter 6.

Virtual Event by Museum of the African Diaspora, March 22

The **Old First Racial Justice Task Force** and the Presbytery West Bay's Grace and Restoration Project would like to invite you to join eight other churches in the region at a virtual educational event by the **Museum of the African Diaspora**, on Tuesday, March 22, 4:00 to 5:00 pm. The event will focus on the art and music of the **Harlem Renaissance** of the early 20th century. Please register in advance by using this link:

<https://moadsf-org.zoom.us/j/85010077108?pwd=TkN4bTVhZlZlYlY5cV2NU9wUmZ0d309>

Note you can also find a link to this website on Old First's homepage: www.oldfirst.org

Memorial Service for John Sebastian, March 26

A memorial service for Old First member John Sebastian will be held at Calvary Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 26, at 11:00 am. Please remember Pam, his wife, and his whole family in your prayers.

Communion, March 27

Next Sunday, March 27, we will celebrate communion, the Lord’s Supper.

“Full to the Brim” from A Sanctified Art

Devotional, Bulletin, Website

This Lent we are following “Full to the Brim,” a devotional for Lent by the authors and artists of A Sanctified Art, LLC. Watch for the installments of the devotional in each Sunday’s E-mail from Pastor Maggi and for words and artwork in our bulletins and on our website.

Liturgy and Image

The call to worship, confession, assurance, and affirmation of faith are adapted from prayers by the Reverend Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

The image on the cover is *You Are Worthy* (block print with oil-based ink) by the Reverend Lauren Wright Pittman and was inspired by Luke 13:1-9: A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Pittman says this about the work:

How often does society wish us to feel like we are wasting soil? The whole capitalist system lurches forward, powered by our collective sense of unworthiness and our searching for worth based on what we produce. This parable upends the notion that we are what we produce, and speaks truth: you are worthy. You deserve rest and care simply for existing. What a gift!

In this image, I wanted the fig tree to look unremarkable, surrounded by the hands of the Gardener reaching down to lovingly massage the soil. The sleeves contain patterning of simplified visual references to everything a plant needs to not only survive, but to thrive. Starting close to the roots and moving upward, the patterns include water, air, sunlight, nutrients, and space. The emphasis in this image is on what is happening below the surface, in the depths of the dirt. The roots stretch toward the hands of the Gardener as the specks of dirt seem to also image the stars of the vast universe. Within us, despite what we produce, despite what can be seen at the surface, we contain multitudes. We bear the image of God, and our mere existence makes us worthy of Sabbath and the loving arms of the Gardener reaching out to provide us with everything we need.

On a personal note, the Full to the Brim theme keeps bringing me back to the image of resting while God reaches to embrace us. Lately I’ve spent so much time and energy fighting so hard to get some kind of tangible grasp of God, all the while feeling so empty. I’m realizing that I need to practice surrender, allowing God to find me where I am, and to receive God’s care and love, filling me to the brim so I can then be full to pour out once again.

—the Reverend Lauren Wright Pittman

Old First Presbyterian Church

Sharing God’s Love, Welcome, and Justice

On Our Corner, in Our City, and in the World

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