

Old First Presbyterian Church



*Full to the Brim:
Brazen Acts of Beauty*

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 3, 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 Adagio in E Major Frank Bridge (1879-1941)
Welcome and Church Life

Introit Silesian folk melody, *Schlesischer Volkslieder*, 1842

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God to earth come down,
Thee will we cherish, Thee will we honor,
Thou, our souls' glory, joy and crown.
Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations,
Song of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now evermore be Thine.

Münster Gesangbuch, 1677

Translated by Joseph August Seiss (1823-1904)

***Call to
Worship**

Randy Smith

Leader May we find courage here—

People courage to follow our call, courage to live out our faith.

Leader May we find hope here—

People hope for a better world, hope that refuses to let us go.

Leader May we find truth here—

**People truth that lives in sacred community,
truth that lives in ancient stories.**

Leader May we find what we seek here—

People and in our seeking, may we know God. Amen.

***Hymn 76 Do Not Be Afraid**

**Refrain Do not be afraid, for I am with you.
Chosen and beloved, you are my own.
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you:
by your name I called you for my own.**

**1 Look up, a new thing I am doing;
it springs forth; look and see it grow.
Through wilderness I'll make a level highway;
through deserts, make streams and rivers flow.**

**2 I am God, who blots out your transgressions;
for my own sake I do not chide or blame.
Only this much I ask, that you love me
and seek me and honor my name.**

**3 The Lord, the Holy One of Israel
has promised to lead us on our way,
and we who love and worship God our Maker
will listen to hear the Spirit say:**

Prayer of
Confession

Randy Smith

Jesus of Nazareth,
we admit that often we tuck our faith into our pockets,
hiding in a place of comfort rather than proudly declaring:
Yes, we are Christian, yes, we believe,
yes, this faith has changed us.
We are so afraid of offending others or of embarrassing ourselves
that we have established rules:
no faith at the dinner table, no faith in politics,
no faith around strangers or even our own family or friends.
Forgive us for whispering
when we could be singing.
Forgive us for staying quiet
when we could be rewriting the narrative of our world.

Silence is kept.

We long to be brave.
We want to pour out perfume over your feet.
Help us to be the people you yearn for us to be.
These things we pray. Amen.

Assurance of
Forgiveness

Leader Family of faith, hear this Good News:
Even in our silence, God loves us.
Even in our fear or shame, God chooses us.
Even when we sin, God wraps us in grace.

People **We are free—
free to be bold, free to be brazen,
free to be exactly who God calls us to be.
Thanks be to God!**

Offertory *Ushers will receive the offering at this time.*

“Come Sunday” from the musical *Black, Brown and Beige*

Duke Ellington (1899-1974)

Sergey Khalikulov, bass

Come Sunday, oh, come Sunday, that's the day.
Lord, Dear Lord above: God Almighty, God of Love,
Please look down and see your people through.
I believe that God put sun and moon up in the sky.
I don't mind the gray skies
'Cause they're just clouds passing by.
Heaven is a goodness time, a brighter light on high.
Do unto others as you would have them do to you:
And have a brighter by and by.
I believe God is now, was then, and always will be.
With God's blessing we can make it through eternity.

The 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

Anthem From Cantata *Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben*, BWV 147
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Jesu, joy of our desiring,
Holy Wisdom, love most bright;
Drawn by Thee our souls aspiring,
Soar to uncreated light.
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,
With the fire of life impassioned;
Striving still to truth unknown,
Soaring, dying round Thy throne.

Through the way where hope is guiding,
Hark, what peaceful music rings.
Where thy flock in Thee confiding,
Drink of joy from deathless springs.
Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure,
Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.
Thou dost ever lead Thine own,
In the love of joys unknown.

Prayers of the People

AnnieScott Rogers

Prayer Partners Erin Berg, Patrick Berg, Lisa Bigley, Courtney Blake, Chris and Cindy Burt,
Bill and Marilyn Campbell, Carol Carter, Mary Carter, Waldo Carter

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 43:18-19, John 8:1-8
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 When Mary Poured a Rich Perfume**

Sung to the tune FOREST GREEN: See Hymn 712.

- 1 **When Mary poured a rich perfume on Jesus' weary feet,
Her caring filled that humble room; the fragrance there was sweet.
But full of anger, Judas said, "We could have used this more!
Why was her gift not sold instead and given to the poor?"**
- 2 **The Lord replied, "Leave her alone! She bought it for this day.
This caring love that she has shown is faithful to God's way.
The poor will always be with you, but you will not have me."
He blessed her and he thanked her, too, for giving lavishly.**
- 3 **O Christ, what can your people bring to show you thanks and love?
You need no fragrant offering; for now you reign above.
Since there will never cease to be the poor throughout the land,
May we, your church, serve faithfully by offering them our hand.**

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Today we install new officers.

Elders: George Becker (Class of 2023) and Michael Berg, Eva DeLair, Jeanne Kirkwood (Class of 2025)

Deacons: Cindy Burt, Mary Russell, Sarah Taber (Class of 2025)

Questions are put to those to be installed. Then these questions are put to the people.

To the People

An Elder Do we, the members of the church, accept George, Michael, Eva, and Jeanne as ruling elders, and Cindy, Mary and Sarah as deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

People We do.

An Elder Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

People We do.

Prayer of Installation

Statement You are now deacons and ruling elders in the Church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

People Amen.

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude Toccata in C Major, BWV 553

Attributed to J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Most likely Johann Ludwig Krebs (1813-1880)

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.

Podcast Study Group, Starts April 6



Please join the Presbytery of San Francisco to explore and discuss critical issues of life and faith as we attempt to continue our Matthew 25 work in the presbytery. The series tells us about a wealthy town in Texas where issues of structural racism, diversity, local politics, and educational reform converged to foreshadow the national struggles that are being fought today, and how these are present in our context and affect our hopes for faith-based liberation.

Who: **The Reverend Kamal Hassan**, PC(USA) Minister of Word and Sacrament of Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church, Richmond, CA

When: **Eight consecutive Wednesdays starting April 6**, 5:00–6:30 pm Pacific Time

How: Register in Advance on Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/2p983dpy> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the study.

Six Readers Needed for Good Friday, April 15

For the Good Friday worship service, April 15, 7:00 pm at Old First, we need six readers to lead portions of the liturgy. Let Pastor Maggi know that you'd like to be one of the readers by send her an E-mail – maggi@oldfirst.org – or by calling the church office – 415-776-5552.

Holy Week and Easter 2022

Palm Sunday, April 10, 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7:00 pm, Joint Service at St Luke's Episcopal Church
(Van Ness Avenue at Clay Street)

Good Friday, April 15, 7:00 pm

Easter Day, April 17

Choral Prelude, 10:30 am Worship, 11:00 am

Easter Celebration Coffee Hour Following Worship

We are still keeping everyone safe with vaccinations and mask wearing in worship.

Flowers on Easter Sunday

Would you be interested in sponsoring the flowers on Easter Sunday? If so, please contact the church office. You can call Brad at 415-776-5552 or send him an E-mail: brad@oldfirst.org

Thank You, Old First Officers!

Old First thanks the elders and deacons who are rotating off service on the Session and Board of Deacons: elders Tom Culp and Lori Yamauchi and deacons Carolyn Asbury, Maryam, and Emily Olson.

New Deacons' Parishes

As new members of the Board of Deacons meet for the first time, they'll be assigning new deacons' parishes, watch for news about who your new deacon will be.

“Full to the Brim” from A Sanctified Art

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

Image on the Cover

The image on the cover “Brazen Beauty” (acrylic on raw canvas with digital drawing) is by the Reverend Lisle Gwynn Garrity and was inspired by John 12:1-8. The artist says the following:

In the chapter just before this, Lazarus dies and Jesus weeps. But after being laid in the tomb, Lazarus is raised and made well. This act solidifies for the chief priests and Pharisees that Jesus is a dangerous threat. In response, they order for his arrest and plot how they will kill him. Jesus retreats from public ministry, hiding out in the wilderness in Ephraim. As the Passover nears, people begin to wonder: “Will Jesus be here?”

Despite the threats mounting, Jesus does return. On his way to Jerusalem, he stops in Bethany, seeking refuge and comfort in the home of his friends. Martha cooks a feast, and Lazarus—healthy and alive—joins him at the table. In resistance to death, as an act of extravagant love, Mary anoints Jesus with a fragrance that fills the whole room. Her actions could appear impulsive, but if you were saying your last goodbye to someone you loved, how would you act?

This image began as a painting on raw canvas. With fluid strokes of paint, I allowed the colors to run and bleed into each other. As I drew Mary kneeling, I omitted the other details in the scene, removing Jesus’ feet, the other guests, the table full of food. I wanted to focus on Mary’s brazen act of pouring out the expensive perfume, a commodity valued at a year’s worth of wages. The luxurious liquid is expansive, flowing out toward us as the viewer. It bleeds into the red, foreshadowing the blood Jesus will soon shed. The vessel she holds is lined with gold, a reference to the ancient Japanese practice of kintsugi, of repairing broken pottery with gold lacquer. The art of kintsugi embellishes the cracks and transforms a shattered vessel into a new object of beauty. In this embodied act of worship, Mary is practicing kintsugi— boldly celebrating the beauty of life even as death approaches.

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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Church Staff

- The Reverend Maggi Henderson Pastor
- The Reverend Erwin C. Barron Parish Associate
- The Reverend Lisa Robeck Parish Associate
- Larry Marietta Music Director
- Brad Peterson Church Office Administrator