

Old First Presbyterian Church



Eastertide

April 24, 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	"Berceuse" from <i>24 pièces en style libre</i>	Louis Vierne (1870-1937)
Welcome and Church Life		
*Call to Worship		Sandra Keyes
Leader	Though we know hardship and pain, and life does not always turn out as we hope, we will stand firm in our faith and say:	
People	God's steadfast love endures forever!	

Leader Though life becomes more complex,
the deepest questions remain unanswered,
and the mystery of faith deepens,
we will stand in our faith and say:

People God's steadfast love endures forever!

Leader Though the pain of the world
often seems more than we can bear or address,
we will stand firm in our faith and say:

People God's steadfast love endures forever!

***Hymn 250 Hymn of Promise**

**1 In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**2 There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**3 In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**Prayer of
Confession**

Saundra Keyes

**Prayer of
Confession**

**Creator God,
we confess that at times we are skeptics.
At times we doubt that you exist
because of the evil we see in the world.
Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate
still plague our world,
and it is hard to see your love and light.
Sometimes, even we who bear your name
do not walk in your ways.**

Silence is kept.

**Help us to know your love in our lives.
Help us to see your goodness in this world.
And fill us with both your love and your goodness
that we might love one another
and lift up one another in faith. Amen.**

**Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader The psalmist says,
"I am sure I shall see the goodness of our God in the land of the living.

People Wait for the Lord!

Leader "Be strong, and let your heart take courage.

People Wait for the Lord!"

Psalm 27:13-14

Leader Know that we do not wait alone,
for Christ is with us.

Know that we do not wait alone,
for God has given us one another
for this journey of faith, to help one another.

**People Therefore, let us be encouraged,
encourage one another,
and share the Good News.**

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

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

Scripture John 20:19-23

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.

Hymn Sing *Choose an Easter hymn to sing. See Glory to God, Hymns 229 through 257.*

Worship Through Holy Communion

Leader It is the Risen Lord, who welcomes us to in this meal.

People We come to feast on life and peace.

Leader Here, the Gardener of life plants seeds of hope and wonder.

People We nourish them to produce bouquets of grace for others.

Leader Here, the Singer of lyrics of goodness teaches us new songs:

People Songs of how death has no more power over us.

The leader continues the Great Thanksgiving.

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.

The Lord's Supper *All are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.
Simply follow the directions of the pastor.*

Music During Communion **Come to the Table of Grace**
Please use Hymn 507 to focus your mind and heart on communion.

Before you receive communion sing Verse 1:

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table. It's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

Then partake in communion, and afterward sing Verses 4 and 5:

Come to the table of hope...

Come to the table of joy...

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 230 Joyful is the Dark**

- 1 Joyful is the dark, holy, hidden God,
rolling cloud of might beyond all naming:
majesty in darkness, energy of love,
Word-in-flesh, the mystery proclaiming.
- 2 Joyful is the dark, Spirit of the deep,
winging wildly o'er the world's creation,
silken sheen of midnight plumage black and bright,
swooping with the beauty of a raven.
- 3 Joyful is the dark, shadowed stable floor;
angels flicker, God on earth confessing,
as with exultation, Mary, giving birth,
hails the infant cry of need and blessing.
- 4 Joyful is the dark coolness of the tomb,
waiting for the wonder of the morning;
never was that midnight touched by dread and gloom:
darkness was the cradle of the dawning.
- 5 Joyful is the dark depth of love divine,
roaring, looming thundercloud of glory,
holy, haunting beauty, living, loving God.
Hallelujah! Sing and tell the story!

***Charge and
Benediction**

Pastor Henderson

Postlude Fugue in G Major, BWV 884/2

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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.ouldfirst.org.

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

Guest Musicians: Michael Desnoyers, Sam Cheng

We thank Michael Desnoyers, today's music director, and Sam Cheng, today's organist, for leading our music in worship.

One Great Hour of Sharing

You can still make your offering toward the annual One Great Hour of Sharing special offering - the offering that enables Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to respond quickly to catastrophic events. If you were "feeding" a fish-box, please place it in the offering basket in the narthex.

Remembering Joe Ballard, Today

After worship today, we will gather to remember the life of Joe Ballard who died early this year in Florida. Bring your favorite memories as we honor a man who added such a presence to our community through the years.

We've Come this Far by Faith: Songs from the Black Experience, May 22

The **Racial Justice Task Force of Old First** is thrilled to present **Terence Elliott, Ed.D.** and **Nymani Music** in a journey through the history of the African American experience through music. Dr. Elliott, a professor of music and African-American history, will be giving a lecture and performance focusing on "Spirit, Rhythm, and Story: Community Building and Healing through Song" on Sunday, May 22 at 3:00 pm. Please join us for an uplifting journey through Black American music.

Venue: St Luke's Episcopal Church, Van Ness Avenue at Clay Street (just one block away from Old First). Suggested donation: \$20. Masks required.