

# Old First Presbyterian Church



## The Second Sunday of Advent December 4, 2022

### 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** Partita on HYFRYDOL  
*Introduction and Chorale – Andante (Homage to JS Bach) – Adagio – Finale*  
Rowland H. Pritchard (1811-1887)  
Arranged by Charles Callahan (born 1951)

**Advent  
Wreath** John and Riley Kramar

*Two candles on the Advent wreath are lit.*

A candle burns,  
the second marker of our Advent journey.  
As we continue,  
may we travel faithfully.  
As we continue,  
God of Journeys, speak to us.

**Welcome and  
Church Life**

Pastor Henderson

**Introit**

PICARDY, medieval French carol  
Arranged by John Rutter (born 1945)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

From the Greek *Cherubic Hymn* for the Divine Liturgy of St. James (c. AD 275)  
Paraphrased Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885)

**\*Call to  
Worship**

Pastor Henderson

Leader

Come, let us gather before our God, our Rock,

**People**

**our Hope and our Salvation.**

Leader

Let us sing of God's mysterious ways.

**People**

**Let us tell of God's wondrous deeds.**

Leader

Things that we have heard and known,

**People**

**things our ancestors have told us,**

Leader

we will tell the coming generation.

**People**

**We will tell of God's glorious love and the wonders God has done.**

**\*Hymn 82**

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

1

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

2

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone:  
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

**Prayer of  
Confession**

Pastor Henderson

**Faithful and loving God, we confess that as the holidays ramp up,  
as the sadness of the world around us deepens,  
we are temped not to believe:  
not to believe that you exist or care;  
not to believe that we are valuable to you and to others;  
not to believe that your Spirit is stirring us to something new.**

*Silent prayers of confession may be offered.*

**Forgive us, and lighten our hearts.**

**Help us to see where you appear.**

**Help us to listen to your voice.**

**Give us energy and will to go where you lead us in this Advent time.**

**In the name of the Christ Child we pray.**

**Amen.**

**\*Assurance of  
Forgiveness**

Leader The angel said to Mary,  
**People “Nothing will be impossible with God.”**  
Leader Advent travelers, your sins are forgiven, your hopes will be realized.  
**People Christ is to be born!**  
**All Alleluia. Amen!**

**\*Gloria Angels We have Heard on High, Hymn 113, Refrain Only**

Refrain **Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Offering** *Ushers will receive the offering during the anthem. You may also make your offering electronically using the kiosk in the narthex.*

**Anthem** Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-55 William Crotch (1775-1847)  
Arranged by Robert Wetzler (born 1932)

My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoicèd in God my Savior,  
For He hath regarded the lowliness of His hand maiden.  
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessèd;  
For He that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is His name.  
And His mercy is on them that fear Him throughout all generations.  
He hath showed strength with His arm,  
He hath scatterèd the proud in the imagination of their hearts,  
He hath put down the mighty from their seats,  
and hath exalted the humble and meek;  
He hath fillèd the hungry with good things,  
and the rich He hath sent empty away.  
He, remembering His mercy, hath holpen His servant Israel;  
As He promisèd to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; world without end.  
Amen.

**\*Doxology** DUKE STREET by John Hatton (1710-1793)  
Arranged Hal Hopson (born 1933)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Time with  
Our Children**

**\*The Peace**

Leader Peace be with you.  
**People And also with you.**

**Worship Through Hearing God's Word**

**Prayers of the People**

Sam Cheng

Prayer Partners Sally Spencer, Mark Spicer and Sam, Rose Marie Springer, Stephen and Sarah Taber, Hugh Thatcher, Horngsheng Tu and Hsiaochien Chuang

**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**

Luke 1:39-45

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**

The Reverend Jana Childers

**Worship Through Responding to God's Word**

**\*Hymn 100 Canticle of the Turning**

**1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?**

**Refrain**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.**

**2 Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn.**

- 3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn.
- 4 Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around.

**\*Charge and  
Benediction**

The Reverend Jana Childers

**Choir**

PICARDY, medieval French carol  
Arranged by John Rutter (born 1945)

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture in the Body and the Blood –  
He will give to all the faithful his own Self for heavenly food.

From the Greek *Cherubic Hymn* for the Divine Liturgy of St. James (c. AD 275)  
Paraphrased by Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885)

**Postlude** God Rest Ye Merry

Alfred Fedak (born 1953)

**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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**Recognition Statement that We Gather on Indigenous Lands**

We acknowledge that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost, nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors, elders and relatives of the Ramaytush community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

**A Season of Stewardship: You Can Still Make Your Pledge for 2023**

You can still submit a pledge for 2023, even though we dedicated our pledges cards last Sunday. If you need a pledge card, you can get one from an usher.

**Christmas Carols at Coffee Hour, December 11 and 18**

Get your Christmas cheer on! Join us for Christmas caroling at coffee hour after worship on the coming two Sundays, December 11 and 18.

**Advent Devotionals**

If you didn't get an Advent devotional last Sunday, you can pick up a copy of *A Surprising God: Advent Devotions for an Uncertain Time* from the ushers in the narthex.

**Today's Guest Preacher: Jana Childers**

Our guest preacher today is the Reverend Jana L. Childers, PhD, Professor of Homiletics and Speech Communication at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Dr. Childers joined the SFTS faculty in 1985, and has served as dean for the last 15 years. She holds the Almer Mayo Newhall Chair in Practical Theology. She is a Presbyterian minister who served congregations in Kansas and New Jersey before joining the seminary faculty.

Interests in the arts, spirituality, and worship supplement Jana's "central and great love" – preaching. Jana is the author and editor of a number of books and articles on preaching including *Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre* and the award winning, *Birthing the Sermon: Women Preachers and Creative Process*.

**Today's Coffee Hour**

Chris and Cindy Burt have given today's coffee hour in honor of Old First's Worship Committee.

**The Reredos: Artwork for Advent**

Walter Chalmers Smith's beloved hymn begins, "Immortal, invisible, God only wise. In light inaccessible hid from our eyes." We have been told that we cannot look upon the face of God and live. God works in mysterious ways, we are reminded, as we try to understand events that we don't foresee and can't control. When a dream comes true, it often feels as if we have experienced a miracle and how do you explain a miracle?

This Advent season, the Worship Committee has decided to explore the idea of surprise, the unexpected, perhaps even the unexplainable, in a new piece of art for the reredos. We asked artist Kurt Schwartzman to create a piece that conveys the beauty, mystery, and astonishment that we would feel if God held out a hand to us. This reredos art is for you to explore and discover. Any explanation of what it is about will have to come from you.

**Larkin Street Gift Drive**

Help to share the celebration of Christ's birth with our neighbors at Larkin Street Youth Services. This year Larkin Street asks that gifts be purchased and delivered directly through their Amazon WishList. You can find it on-line by using the QR code below.

Also, remember to use Amazon Smile to have a portion of each order donated to your charity of choice – including Old First!

Once you have purchased a gift or some gifts from the WishList, please, add star ornaments to the wooden Christmas tree. This will help us see the contribution our community is making, even though the gifts will not be arriving at the Church.



**SF/Marin Food Bank: The Barrel Has Returned**

The SF/Marin Food Bank food barrel returned last week. You can now renew your practice of gratefulness by picking up an extra item to donate when you go shopping and bringing it to our food barrel. Soup, peanut butter, cereal, and proteins in non-breakable packaging are always good choices.

**Christmas Joy Offering, December 18**

On Sunday, December 18, we will receive the Christmas Joy Offering, one of the PC(USA)'s four annual special offerings. See the insert for more information and be generous on the day.

**Readers Needed for Christmas Eve, December 24**

Would you like to read one of the lessons on Christmas Eve, December 24? If so, speak to Pastor Maggi to sign up for this opportunity to lead worship on Christmas.

**Coffee Hour Sponsorship**

Looking for a Christmas gift for loved ones or your friends at Old First? Why not sponsor our coffee hour in their honor? It's only fifty dollars. The sign up sheet has returned to the bulletin board in the Sacramento Street lobby: We'll include your dedication in that Sunday's bulletin.

**A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church**

Over a year ago Erwin Barron, our parish associate, sent me information about a new resource: *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church* by Wilda Gafney, the Hulse Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University. Erwin and I have been preaching the same lectionary scriptures for over 30 years, so this sounded exciting. We are using it this Advent!

Gafney sets new combinations of the readings to refocus preaching and shift the conversation of the lectionary reading. She hopes to put spark in the hearts and minds of congregations with new issues regarding gender, who is out and who is in, and the gulf between more equitable practices for women and how the Church has tended to operate otherwise. Gafney pulls out the stories of those around the edges that don't come up in our yearly readings in the Revised Common Lectionary. This Advent, for example, focuses on the surprising ways God works in the lives of God's people-way back then and also now! —*Pastor Maggi Henderson*

**This Week at Old First**

**Sunday December 4, Second Sunday of Advent**

7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall

**Friday December 9**

8:00 pm O1C: Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco

**Saturday December 10**

8:00 pm O1C: Musae, women's choral ensemble

**Sunday December 11, Third Sunday of Advent**

11:00 am Worship

4:00 pm O1C: Ragazzi Boys Chorus

7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall

**Christmas Eve, December 24**

**6:30 pm Christmas Concert with Choir and Organ, Sanctuary**

**7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship**

*Note there will be no service on Sunday December 25.*

**Old First Presbyterian Church Staff**

The Reverend Maggi Henderson Pastor  
The Reverend Erwin C. Barron Parish Associate  
The Reverend Lisa Robecheck Parish Associate  
Larry Marietta Music Director  
Brad Peterson Office Admin  
Kristi Hoerauf Wedding Coordinator