

Old First Presbyterian Church



The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 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	Two Noels and Variations Joseph est bien marié Où s'en vont ces gais bergers?	Claude Balbastre (1768-1743)
Advent Wreath	<i>All four candles on the Advent wreath are lit.</i> A candle burns, the fourth marker of our Advent journey. As we continue, may we travel joyfully. As we continue, God of journeys, draw us to our journey's end.	Lori Yamauchi and Jim Fagler
Welcome and Church Life		Pastor Henderson
Introit	From <i>Christ is Born! Glory to God!</i> Prophets speak tidings of hope for all who dwell deep in darkness! Prophets speak tidings of hope! Lift up your heads! Light is coming! Glory to God in the highest!	John Dalles (born 1954)

***Call to
Worship**

AnnieScott Rogers

Leader People of God, open your eyes!
Look around!

People **The presence of our Lord Jesus Christ is here—
among us and within us.**

Leader God's salvation is close at hand—
nearer than you know.

People **So we will open your hearts and minds to the Spirit,
and let's worship God together!**

***Hymn** Joseph Heard the Troubling News Sung to *Glory to God* Hymn 146
"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

1 Joseph heard the troubling news: Mary was expecting!
What should he, a just man, do? He sought God's directing.
Joseph thought to send her home — leave her, without blaming;
Then an angel in a dream spoke of joy, proclaiming:

2 "Go, take Mary as your wife; Joseph, don't you fear it —
God has formed a precious life by the Holy Spirit!
Mary soon will bear a son; you shall name him Jesus.
When the prophet spoke of him, he said, 'God is with us!'"

3 God of love, we too may face times of doubt and trouble.
May we know your daily grace, even when we struggle.
Just as Joseph answered, "Yes!" with new dedication,
We rejoice, for we've been blessed by your incarnation.

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**Prayer of
Confession**

AnnieScott Rogers

Lord, we confess that we are rushing headlong into Christmas.
It's only a week away and we still have so much to do.
Our preparations are far from complete, and we are exhausted.
We wish this whole thing were over so that we could rest.
We have laid aside awe for skepticism,
mystery for jadedness, numbness for joy.
Forgive our shortcomings and our short-sightedness.
You have poured upon us blessing after blessing,
daily reminding us of your love and presence;
yet we have chosen to jump onto this quick slide to Christmas.
Give us patience. Slow us down.
Remind us of the ways in which you are present with us—
not in the wrapped packages, the abundance of food,
but in the love and compassion that is brought to all.

Silence is kept.

Forgive us, we pray. Make us truly ready
to receive your love and the gift of the Christ Child. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader The light of God’s love shines upon each of us in the gift of God’s love,
Jesus Christ.

People **This is given to us all. Rejoice! We are loved by God, now and forever.
There is no greater gift than love!**

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

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

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

Anthem From *Messiah* G.F. Handel (16858-1759)

Recitative Behold! A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall call his name Emanuel: God with us.

Air O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
get thee up into the high mountain!
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jersusalem,
lift up thy voice with strength! Lift it up, be not afraid!
Say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God!
O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
arise, shine, for thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord risen upon thee.

***Doxology** GREENSLEEVES

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary. Amen.**

Time with Our Children

***The Peace**

Leader Peace be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Worship Through Hearing God’s Word

Scripture 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Matthew 1:18-25

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 Holy Communion

**Invitation to
the Lord's
Table**

Communion **Come to the Table of Grace**

Song *Please use Hymn 507 to focus your mind and heart on communion. We 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.**

**The Great
Thanksgiving**

Leader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Leader Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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 Words of
Institution**

The Bread *All are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.*
and the Cup *Simply follow the directions of the leaders.*

**Music During
Communion**

Reflections

Austin Chambers
composer and pianist

This work was commissioned by the Old First church choir.

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

**Sending Forth
John and Riley**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 4, 7-8

Leader For everything there is a season,
 and a time for every matter under heaven:
 a time to be born, and a time to die;
 a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...
 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
 a time to mourn, and a time to dance...

a time to rip, and a time to mend;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

People **So, too, there is a time for movement,
a time for new adventure,
a time for fields of service not yet touched.**

Leader John and Riley Kramar, who have been a part of this church, a part of us,
are now moving to Southern California.

Let us join together in blessing them as they leave our community.

Loving God, accept our thanks
for John and Riley's friendship and partnership
in our life together at Old First Presbyterian Church.

People **Bless them, O God.**

Leader Provide them a new church home
that will welcome, know and love them,
as we have come to know and to love them.

People **Bless them, O God.**

Leader Lead them to respond to the love of Christ
in all that they do.

People **Bless them, O God.**

Leader Let your mercy, grace and peace be present with them
during their move and in their new home.

People **Bless them, O God.**

Leader John and Riley, go forth in the power of the Spirit,
rejoice in the love of Christ and the church, and
let God's mercy, grace and peace flow through you to all whom you meet;
in the name of Christ Jesus.

All **Amen.**

***Hymn 88** **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (verses 1, 6 and 7)

1 **O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

6 **O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

7 **O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

***Charge and
Benediction**

Choir From *Christ is Born! Glory to God!* John Dalles (born 1954)
Angels bring whispers of love
for all who wait and who listen!
Angels bring whispers of love
Stop! Hold your breath love is coming!
Glory to God in the highest!

Postlude Sussex Carol Dale Wood (1931-2005)
Please join us after worship for a coffee hour and reception in the Fellowship Hall: We'll get to wish John and Riley Kramar farewell, to assemble luminarias for Christmas Eve, and to sing more hymns and carols of the season.

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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Christmas Joy Offering, Today

Today Old First receives our Christmas Joy Offering – one of the PC(USA's) four annual special offerings. The Christmas Joy Offering honors God's gift of Jesus Christ by our gift to current and retired church workers in their time of need and to future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Though we'll receive and bless our Christmas Joy Offering this morning, you can still contribute to Old First's Christmas Joy Offering later. Simply visit Old First's on-line donation page: <https://dev.oldfirst.org/donations/>. Be sure to select "Christmas Joy Offering."

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. 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.



Today's Coffee Hour

Lori Yamauchi and Jim Fagler have given today's coffee hour.

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.

Christmas Eve Party, December 24, 4 pm to 6 pm

Steve and Sarah Taber once again invited members and friends of Old First to their annual Christmas Eve party, December 24 from 4 to 6 pm at 1170 Green Street (above Hyde St). They are starting early in hope that choir members can come too! Family members visiting you are welcome as well; however, the Tabers ask that attendees be fully vaccinated.

The Tabers will provide ham, turkey, scalloped potatoes, hot mulled cider, and Steve's persimmon pudding! Guests are invited to bring appetizers, side dishes, desserts and/or beverages to share. Please let Sarah or Steve know if you can come and what you can bring: sarah@sstaber.com, steve@sstaber.com

Christmas Eve, December 24

6:30 pm Christmas Concert with Choir and Organ

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Invite a Friend or Neighbor to Join Us!

*Note: Though there will be no service at Old First on Sunday, December 25, you are invited to worship with our neighbors at 10 am that day: either at **St. Luke's Episcopal Church**, Van Ness Avenue at Clay Street, or **Christ United Presbyterian Church**, Sutter Street at Laguna Street.*

Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, January 14

Make a New Year Resolution to support the Interfaith Food Pantry. Old First staffs the pantry on Saturday, January 14. Sign up now. You can find a link to sign up on Old First's homepage under the Interfaith Food Pantry heading: www.oldfirst.org

Coffee Hour Sponsorship

Looking for a gift for loved ones or 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.

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 are 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.

This Week at Old First

Sunday December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent
After worship Coffee Hour and Carol Singing
4:00 pm O1C: Kitka, women's choral ensemble: "Wintersongs"
7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall

Tuesday December 20
7:00 pm Session Meeting via Zoom

Friday December 23
8:00 pm O1C: Golden Bough: Celtic Songs of Winter and Christmas Carols

Saturday December 24, Christmas Eve
6:30 pm Christmas Concert with Choir and Organ
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday December 25
No worship service at Old First
7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall

Monday December 26
Church Office Closed

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