

Old First Presbyterian Church

seeking: who will you listen to?



“Tune In” by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

**First Sunday in Lent
February 26, 2023**

Worship Through Praising God

Please fill out a guest card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.

Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.

** At the asterisk, please rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude Two Choral Preludes Arranged by Herbert Colvin (1923-2011)
 My Jesus, I Love Thee
 How Can I Keep from Singing?

**Welcome and
Church Life**

Introit That Is the Message That We Preach Jeremy Rawson (born 1954)
God's message is on your lips and in your heart;
that is the message we preach.
If you confess that Jesus is Lord,
that God raised Him from death, you will be saved
This is the truth for everyone, for ev'ry race;
all who call out to the Lord, all who call out will be saved.
Paraphrase of Romans 10

***Call to
Worship** Andy Cheng

Leader Listen!
People **There is hope to be found here.**
Leader Listen!
People **God calls you by name here.**
Leader Listen!
People **There is love that abides here.**
Leader This world is full of chatter, so may we do our best to listen.
People **God is speaking. Let us worship.**

***Hymn 166** **Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days**

- 1 **Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins
and close by you to stay.**
- 2 **As you with Satan did contend
and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere,
in you to conquer sin.**
- 3 **And through these days of penitence,
and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore in life and death,
O Lord , with us abide.**
- 4 **Abide with us, till when this life
of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.**

**Prayer of
Confession** Andy Cheng

**Holy One, too often we treat your Word like a radio station—
something we can tune in and out of
when it's convenient.
Our minds are full of ads, E-mails, news updates, and texts.**

In the midst of this clutter,
we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—
easily ignoring the voices being silenced,
easily ignoring your voice.

Forgive us for failing to listen.
Forgive us for getting caught in distractions.
Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like.
Drain the distractions from our minds
and help us turn once again toward you.

Silence is kept.

With earnest hearts, we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader Friends, even when we tune God out,
even when we prioritize other voices,
even when we do all the talking and fail to listen,
we are still held by God.

Our sins are forgiven.
Nothing can ever separate us from God's love.
So with joy in our hearts, let us say:

People I am loved!
I am held in grace!
I belong to God.

***Hymn 205**

**Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas Deo ibi est.**

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)
*Where love and affection are -
Where love is, God is there.*

Offering

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

Anthem

When I survey the Wondrous Cross

Gilbert Martin (born 1941)

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

***Doxology**

DUKE STREET

Arranged by Hal H. 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**

Jeanne Kirkwood

Prayer Partners Amberle Gallup, Claudia Garrison, Fernando González, David Griffith and
Joe Sheffey, Jan Hammock, Eva and Branch, Maggi Henderson, Soodeh
Hedayati

**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

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Matthew 4:1-11

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

Affirmation of Faith In a world full of noise,
 we believe that God is speaking.
 In a world full of chaos,
 we believe that God is singing.
 In a world full of temptation,
 we believe that God is healing.
 Church, who will you listen to?
 We will listen to God—our Creator, Friend, and Guide.
 Church, what will you listen for?
 We will listen for water in the desert,
 for the wind of the Spirit,
 for the laughter of children,
 for the sound of open doors,
 and for God’s voice, who calls us beloved.
 Amen.

Worship Through Responding to God’s Word

***Hymn Who Are You Seeking?**
 Sung to LEONI (“The God of Abraham Praise,” *Glory to God*, Hymn 49)

- 1 **The voices from the past
 That echo through our minds
 Like noisy ghosts haunt and harass
 With words unkind.
 Who will we listen to?
 Lies that bind and abase?
 Or God who counters words untrue
 With words of grace?**

- 2 **Society demands
 We always strive for more
 Accumulating wealth and land
 And leave the poor.
 Who will we listen to?
 The tempter’s jealousy?
 Or God’s provision and pursuit
 Of equity?**

- 3 **A rushing flood of hate
 In news we often see
 Conceals God’s kingdom in a great
 Cacophony.
 Who will we listen to?
 The chaos all around?
 Or God’s dream of a world made new
 Where love abounds?**

***Charge and
Benediction**

Choir

Swee Hong Lim (born 1963)

May the love of God rest upon your soul.

May God's love dwell in you, through-out every day.

May God's countenance shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.

May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

Maria Ling (born 1961)

Postlude

Paeon

Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Old First Presbyterian Church

Sharing God’s Love, Welcome, and Justice on Our Corner, in Our City, and in the World

www.oldfirst.org · 415-776-5552 · Find Us on Facebook and YouTube

A Sanctified Art

This Lent we are using “Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith,” creative resources for Lent and Easter from A Sanctified Art, a collaborative offering support to worshiping communities in integrating art and creativity into their spiritual practices.

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

“Tune In,” the image on the cover, is by the Reverend Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | www.sanctifiedart.org. A silk painting with digital drawing and collage, it was inspired by Matthew 4:1-11. Of the image, Garrity says:

In this image, the words of the Tempter hover in the background. The Tempter’s voice lingers like a ringing in Jesus’ ears, saying: “Take charge. Hoard your power. Dominate. Control.”

Somehow, Jesus has deciphered that these words are simply background noise. He closes his eyes and goes inward, wrapping himself in a posture of self-embrace. From this introspective perspective, Jesus essentially says, “Get behind me, Satan.”

The backdrop of this piece resembles the dust of the desert. Like sand washing along a beach, the sediment shifts into water in the top left, hinting at what bolsters Jesus in his ministry: his belonging to God. His belovedness washes over him, giving him the courage to defy the deception of the Tempter and tune into his inner wisdom. In this way, he is given a new song to carry with him, a lullaby from God that goes, “You, my child, in you, I am well-pleased.” This is a melody for singing, a song for dancing.

What are the voices that linger with you like a ringing in your ears? What are the messages that try to deceive or devour you? Let those voices buzz and fade into the background. Close your eyes, tune in, and embrace yourself. From your belovedness, what song will you sing?

Devotionals for Lent, Fishboxes for OGHS

Devotionals for Lent and fishboxes for Easter’s One Great Hour of Sharing annual offering are available in the narthex.

4th Saturday Community Dinner, February 25

The 4th Saturday Community Dinner this month falls on this coming Saturday, February 25. Can you help serve the meal and feast with our guests at the dinner? Volunteers are welcomed from 4:30 pm on. Let us know you can help: 4thsaturdaydinners@oldfirst.org

New Deacons and Elders, March 5

On Sunday, March 5, we will ordain and install the newly elected deacons and elders.

We Staff the Food Pantry, Saturday, March 18

We need your hands! Without your hands, Old First won't have enough hands for the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, March 18, but you can sign up so easily by visiting our website – www.oldfirst.org – and then clicking on the link in the sidebar column.

Concert for Turkey/Syria Earthquake Relief, March 25

A concert to raise funds for relief in the earthquake-stricken regions of Turkey and Syria will be held at Old First on Saturday, March 25, at 3:00 pm. Plan to hear the many voices – choirs, soloists, ensembles from various San Francisco houses of worship – and to support relief efforts in the regions of Turkey and Syria hit by two earthquakes in a row.

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.

This Week at Old First

Sunday February 26

- 4:00 pm O1C: Daniela Mineva "Transfigured Voices," piano
- 7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall

Tuesday February 28

- 7:00 pm Session, On-Line

Saturday March 4

- 9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry, Social Hall

Sunday March 5

- 11:00 am Worship with Ordination and Installation of Officers
- 12:30 pm Officers Workshop with Maggie Harmon, Presbyterian Foundation
- 7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall

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
- Jarron Carlson Composer in Residence
- Brad Peterson Office Admin
- Kiristi Hoerauf Wedding Coordinator