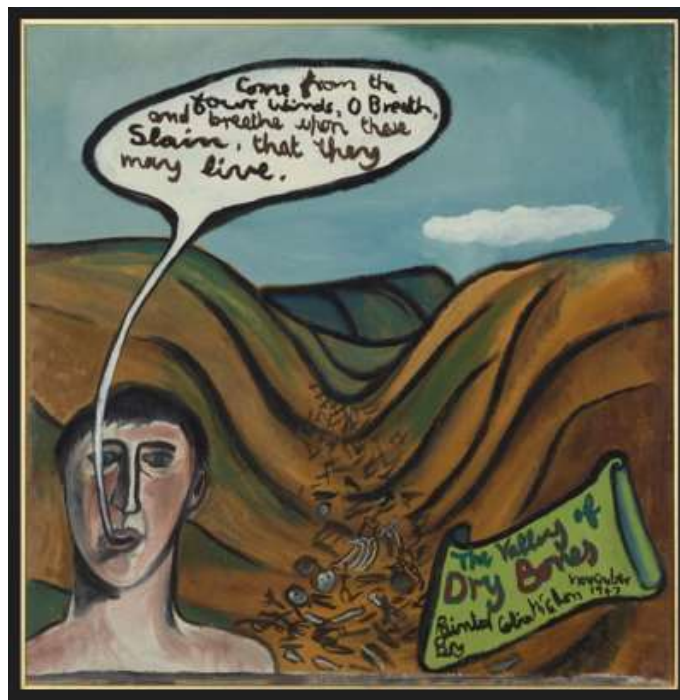


Old First
Presbyterian Church

seeking:

Can these bones live?



“the valley of dry bones” by Colin McCohon, 1938

**Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 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 Sicilienne (on a theme by Maria Theresa von Paradis, 1759-1824)

Arr. Charles Callahan (born 1951)

**Welcome and
Church Life**

Introit

H. Leroy Baumgartner (1891-1969)

O blessed Saviour, draw us;
draw us by the cords of thy love;
draw us by the sense of thy goodness;
draw us by the unspotted purity and beauty of thy example;
draw us by the merit of thy precious death
and by the power of thy Holy Spirit;
draw us, good Lord, and we shall run after thee;
for thy Name's sake. Amen.

***Call to
Worship**

Randy Smith

Leader Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?
People Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?
Leader Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?
People Have you ever wondered, "can these bones live?"
Leader If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.
People Hope lives here.
Leader So, come. Rest your weary bones.
People Let us worship Holy God.

***Hymn 215 What Wondrous Love Is This**

- 1 **What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!**
what wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
- 2 **When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,**
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!
- 3 **To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;**
to God and to the Lamb who is the great "I AM,"
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing!
- 4 **And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;**
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

**Prayer of
Confession**

Randy Smith

Jesus of Nazareth, we confess:
We forget that you know this feeling.
We forget that you, too, have wept.
We forget that you, too, have lost.
We forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb,
have grieved for a friend,
have felt the sting of humanity.
Forgive us for all the times we place blame on you.
Forgive us for all the times we create distance,
imagining that you could never feel what we feel.
Forgive us for allowing the valley of dry bones
to be a sea of space between us.

Silence is kept.

Jesus, pour yourself into the cracks in our hearts.
Bring these bones back to life.
Bring us closer to you.
With gratitude, we pray.
Amen.

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader Friends, we could spend our whole life ignoring God,
pushing God away,
trying to solve the world's problems all on our own,
and God would still love us all the same.
Even in our shortcomings, we are God's beloved.

People So hear and believe this good news:
We are saved by grace through faith.
We belong to God.
We are not alone

***Hymn 205**

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Ubi caritas et amor, *Where love and affection are -*
Ubi caritas Deo ibi est. *Where love is, God is there.*

Offering

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

Solo

Dry Bones Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by Livingston Gearhart (1916-1996)
Sergey Khalikulov, bass

Ezekiel cried, "Them dry bones!
Now hear the word of the Lord."
Ezekiel connected them dry bones,
now hear the word of the Lord.
Oh, when your toes bone connected to your foot bone,
Your foot bone connected to your heel bone,

Your heel bone connected to your ankle bone,
 Your ankle bone connected to your leg bone,
 Your leg bone connected to your knee bone,
 Your knee bone connected to your thigh bone,
 Your thigh bone connected to your hip bone,
 Your hip bone connected to your back bone,
 Your back bone connected to your shoulder bone,
 Your shoulder bone connected to your neck bone,
 Your neck bone connected to your head bone,
 Now hear the word of the Lord.
 Them bones gonna walk around, now hear the word of the Lord.
 Disconnect them bones, them dry bones, etc.
 Now hear the word of the Lord.

***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.**

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|-------------------------------------------|
| Worship Through Hearing God's Word |
|-------------------------------------------|

**Prayers of the
 People**

Sidney Hollar

Prayer Partners Diane Lewis, Heather Losee, Betsy Lutz, Alfred Martin and Harriet MacLean, Larry Marietta, Maryam, Dianne Middleton and Logan Donaldson, Cheryl Min

**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

Ezekiel 37:1-14
 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 We believe that God loves us—
 loves us enough to weep when we are gone.
 We believe that God does not give up on us—
 breathing new life into tired bones.
 We believe that God returns to us—
 always seeking us when we are lost.
 We believe that God holds hope for us—
 so we hold onto hope as well.
 We will believe. God, help our unbelief.
 In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

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|-------------------------------------------------|
| Worship Through Responding to God's Word |
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***Hymn** **When the Past is Dead and Buried**
Sung to LAUDA ANIMA ("Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven," Hymn 620)

- 1 **When the past is dead and buried,
 Lifeless in the barren ground,
 What good can emerge from ashes?
 Where can any life be found?
 Breathe in deep the rushing Spirit:
 Life is growing all around.**
- 2 **When our hearts are bowed in sorrow
 And the grief is newly wrought,
 Crying, "If you'd only been here,"
 Weeping for what we have lost,
 Resurrect our hearts and spirits,
 Living God, whom we exalt.**
- 3 **When our spirits feel so broken,
 Wrapped in linens and entombed,
 Without hope and without feeling,
 As the storm clouds 'round us loom,
 Hear the words of life from Jesus:
 "Come out, be unbound" and bloom.**

***Charge and
 Benediction**

Choir Japanese gagaku mode, Isao Koizumi (1907-1992)

Grant, O God, an age renewed, filled with deathless love;
 Help us where we work and pray;
 Send us from above truth and courage,
 Faith and power needed in our strife:
 Jesus, Savior, be our Way;
 Be our Truth, our Life.

Tokuo Yamaguchi (1900-1955)

Translated by Everett M. Stowe (1897-1979)

Postlude March (on a theme from Judas Maccabæus)
 George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)

Holy Week, 2023

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, April 2

11:00 am at Old First Presbyterian Church

Maundy Thursday, April 6

There will be no service at Old First,
so please join one of our sister churches for worship on Maundy Thursday:
4:00 pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1755 Clay Street at Van Ness Avenue, or
7:00 pm at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore Street at Jackson Street

Good Friday, April 7

7:00 pm at Old First Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday, April 9

10:30 am Choral Prelude and **11:00 am** Worship at Old First Presbyterian Church

Followed by an Easter Extravaganza Coffee Hour.

Please bring treats to share!

Flowers for Easter Sunday

Are you interested in sponsoring the flowers for Easter Sunday? For each fifteen dollar contribution you make, a dedication and your name will appear in the Easter bulletin. Please contact the church office **no later than Sunday, April 2**, and let Brad know the amount you're contributing and whom you'd like to remember or honor or for what blessing you'd like to give thanks. You can call Brad at 415-776-5552 or send him an E-mail: brad@oldfirst.org

Easter Extravaganza Coffee Hour

On Easter Sunday, April 9, we will plan for an Easter Extravaganza Coffee Hour. Please feel free to bring your favorite treats to share! Whether home-made or store-bought your contribution to the abundance will be welcome.

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 |

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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Today's Coffee Hour

Mary Russell has given today's coffee hour in honor of staff and friends of Old First.

Today's Liturgy: 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, affirmation of faith, and closing hymn are adapted from prayers by the Reverend Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | www.sanctifiedart.org

Today's Cover Art

Today's cover art is Colin McCahon's 1938 painting "the valley of dry bones." The figure in "the valley of dry bones" quotes the prophet Ezekiel, from the Old Testament. His words, and the bones strewn across the New Zealand landscape, are a plea for the revival of spirituality in a country broken by war.

Colin McCahon was not directly involved in World War II, but the conflict left him with a keen social conscience and a sense of mission. In response, he created a series of religious paintings in the late 1940s and early 1950s. This work clearly expresses McCahon's message of faith and tolerance.

Jazz Vespers at St Mark's, Today

Jazz Vespers: *An Evening Service of Prayer for Renewal* will be held today at **5:00 pm** at St Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street between Franklin and Gough. Pastor Lyle Beckman, vocalist Millicent Wood, and a quartet of piano, sax, bass and drums will lead the service. Learn more at St Mark's website: www.stmarks-sf.org

This Week at Old First

Sunday March 26, Fifth Sunday in Lent

4:00 pm O1C: Bernal Hill Players – "Forces of Nature," flutes, vihuela, saxophones, clarinets, piano, table, guitar

7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday March 28

7:00 pm Session Meeting, On-Line

Saturday April 1

9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry, Fellowship Hall

Sunday April 2, Passion Sunday/Palm Sunday

11:00 am Worship

7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall