

Old First Presbyterian Church



Growing Season: Exploring Our Roots Sunday, August 13, 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 “Nimrod” from *Variations on an Original Theme*
 (“Enigma Variations”) Opus 36, No. 9

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Welcome and Church Life

*Call to Worship

Leader We seek the face of our Creator;
People we turn our eyes to the glory of the heavens.

Leader We listen for the voice of Emmanuel;

People we incline our ears to symphony of all things living.

Chris Burt

Leader We desire to feel the fullness of the Spirit;
People **our lungs are filled with the Breath of Life.**
Leader We come joyful to our sanctuary,
All **for we are zealous for connection to our God**

Based on 1 Kings 10:9-15a

***Hymn 610 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace.
- 2 The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
- 3 Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive;
the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.
- 4 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.
- 5 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

**Prayer of
Confession**

Chris Burt

God of Grace, we often seek you with the zeal of Elijah.
We are pushing and rushing,
always in hurry to be in the right place at the right time.
Our lives so scheduled
that we make appointments to connect with you.
We are often on to the next thing before we have been restored.
When dramatic events blow by us we are desperate for you,
but in monotony of our daily routines we fall asleep.
Forgive us, O God, when we expect to meet you
only in the midst of spectacle
and forget to look for you in our humdrum moments.

Silence is kept.

Teach us to keep Sabbath with you O God,
and to delight in your soft and gentle grace. Amen.

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader While we may worry that our zeal to seek God may not be enough,
we need not doubt or worry.

All **God has already come to meet us were we are.
God's grace and God's peace are sufficient for all our needs.
We are forgiven and we are made whole.**

***Hymn 583**

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

Offering

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

Solo

Michael Desnoyers, tenor

***Hymn 609**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

***The Peace**

Leader

Peace be with you.

People

And also with you.

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

**Prayers of the
People**

Claudia Garrison

Prayer Partners

Gordon Phipps, Chloe Pollock, Phil Pollock, Spencer Pollock, Glen Potter,
Dortha Reade, Linda Reyder, Lisa Robeck, AnnieScott Rogers

**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

1 Kings 19:9-15a

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

Zealous Calm

The Reverend Don Hammond
Pastor, Presbyterian Church of Chinatown

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 851 Come, Bring Your Burdens to God**

We sing the English text three times through.

**Come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God,
for Jesus will never say no.**

***Charge and
Benediction**

Choir

God Be with You

William C. Tomer (1833-1896)

God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Jeremiah Eames Rankin (1828-1904)

Postlude

God of Grace, and God of Glory

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

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 Preacher: Don Hammond

Our guest preacher today is the Reverend Don Hammond, the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown. He is also our Committee on Ministry representative. Meanwhile, at Chinatown, our pastor, the Reverend Maggi Henderson, is the guest preacher. This exchange offers these two pastors the opportunity of preaching in another pulpit and the congregations the chance to hear a voice from a sister church: a gift of refreshment for all.

Today's Closing Hymn

We sing the South African hymn "Come, Bring Your Burdens to God" (Hymn 851) again today to learn the words and tune of this new hymn.

Today's Coffee Hour

Jim Fagler and Lori Yamauchi have given today's coffee hour in celebration of their 35th wedding anniversary.

New Artwork, New Preaching Series

Today is the last day the kelp forest banners by San Francisco artist Josie Iselin will hang in the church. Iselin is the co-director of Above/Below, a collaborative working to bring the recognition afforded the forests on land to the kelp forests below the ocean's surface.

The Worship Committee is creating new artwork for the reredos (wall behind the choir) to follow the kelp forest banners. Those banners inspired us to think about all the ways the oceans and aquatic life are featured in the biblical story. The aquatic theme will continue with a school of fish swimming across the reredos. Our fish will be varied and colorful, much like our congregation and our community.

Why fish? Fishing people were the first people Jesus called as disciples. Jesus fed a multitude with just a few fish, and water was often the place where his greatest teachings took place. Water was a place of rest and renewal for Jesus. Early Christians adopted the fish as a symbol of their faith. Further, the Greek word for fish, **ΙΧΘΥΣ** (ichthys), was used by early Christians as an acronym for the phrase *Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior*. Many folks helped create the fish last week.

Starting Sunday, August 20, and continuing through September, Pastor Maggi will preach a series of sermons focusing how bodies of water were the place of many of Jesus' teachings and how these stories can still offer us a place of learning today. She hopes the sermon series doesn't *make waves* but goes along *swimmingly*.

“Thanks!” from the Illini 4000

The Illini 4000 extend their thanks to Old First for staying the night in the fellowship hall last night. The Illini 4000 is a non-profit organization dedicated to documenting the American cancer experience through *The Portraits Project*, raising funds for cancer research and patient support services, as well as spreading awareness for the fight against cancer through annual cross-country bike rides. Every year, a team of students cycle across America to collect portraits and raise money for cancer research and patient support services. Yesterday seventeen University of Illinois student cyclists completed their ride from New York to San Francisco, and several of them rested well under Old First’s roof last night. The Illini 4000 have stayed at Old First three times before – 2017, 2018, and 2019 – but this was their first time back at Old First since the Covid-19 pandemic. For more information, visit: <https://www.illini4000.org/>

Reparations for African Americans Discussion, August 27

Please join us after worship on Sunday, August 27, for an in-person discussion of Reparations for African Americans, with the Reverend Teresa Chávez-Sauceda from the faculty of SFTS. Chávez-Sauceda co-authored a 2004 national PC(USA) report from the Task Force to Study Reparations. The discussion will take place in the Munro Room. Light snacks will be provided.

Old First Town Hall, September 17

Mark your calendars for a town hall/church hall meeting on Sunday, September 17 following coffee hour. This will be the first of many conversations as we begin to explore and dream about where and how God is calling us to share God’s love, to be faithful disciples of Jesus, and to offer welcome and justice on our corner, in our city, and in the world. Our whole community of members and friends is encouraged to attend in person, but plans for on-line participation are in the works. More details to follow.

This Week at Old First

Sunday August 13

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Friday August 18

8:00 pm O1C: SF International Piano Festival, Tanya Gabrielian, piano

Saturday August 19

9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry: Volunteer today! Visit Old First’s website for a link to the sign-up page: www.oudfirst.org

1:00 pm Presbyterian Women, On-Line

Sunday August 20

11:00 am Worship

4:00 pm O1C: SF International Piano Festival, Jeffrey LaDeur, piano

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Old First Presbyterian Church Staff
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The Reverend Maggi Henderson	Pastor
The Reverend Erwin C. Barron	Parish Associate
The Reverend Lisa Robeck	Parish Associate
Larry Marietta	Music Director
Jarron Carlson	Composer in Residence
Brad Peterson	Office Admin
Kristi Hoerauf	Wedding Coordinator