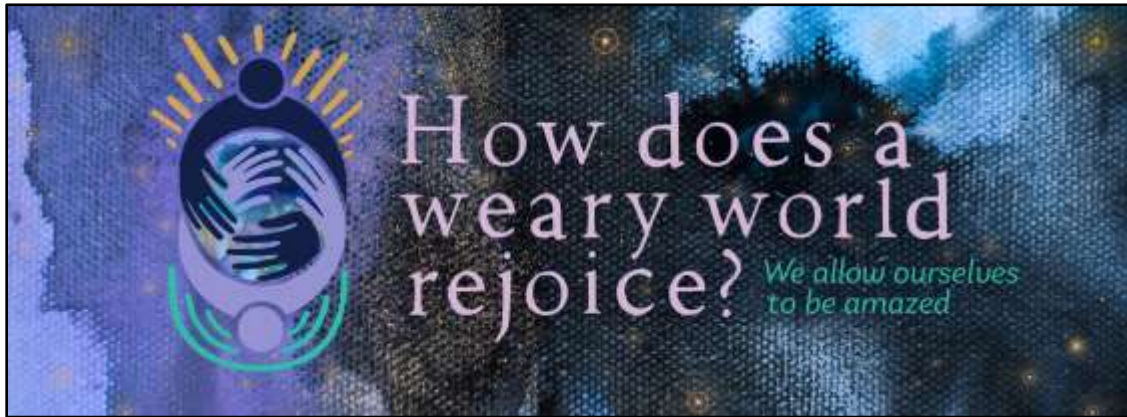


Old First Presbyterian Church



Sunday, December 10, 2023
Advent

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 Chorale Preludes on
FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME (VON HIMMEL HOCH)
Paul Manz (1919-2009)
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Advent Wreath Mary Russell

Leader How does a weary world practice joy?

People **By dancing, and throwing birthday parties.**

Leader By hanging Christmas lights, and celebrating sleepy babies.
By singing loudly, and looking for good news.

People **By telling the story of Jesus,
and showing up for our community.**

Leader There are a million ways to practice joy.
So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder and a charge.

People **With God's help, may we bring joy into a weary world.**

Three candles on the Advent wreath are lit.

**Welcome and
Church Life**

Introit

Erfurt *Enchiridion*, 1524 (second Lutheran Hymnal)
Harmonized by Sethus Calvisius (1556-1615)

Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Attributed to Ambrose of Milan (c. 339-397)
German paraphrase by Martin Luther (1483-1546)
Translation by William Morton Reynolds (1812-1876), alt.

***Call to Worship**

Pastor Henderson

Leader Our God can part the sea.
**People Our God can bring water from a rock,
and provide bread in the desert.**
Leader Our God can walk on water.
Our God sets the stars in the sky.
**People Our God hears our voice when we cry,
and is closer than our own breath.**
Leader There is nothing our God cannot do.
**People We will stand in awe.
Let us worship God with wonder.**

***Hymn 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1-3)**

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.**

2 **O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who ord'rest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.**

3 **O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.**

**Prayer of
Confession**

Pastor Henderson

**Holy God, somewhere in our childhood
we face pressure to outgrow awe.
We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts.
We praise those who have answers,
and assume that wonder is an answerless game.
We seem unable to honor mystery
and set aside that which we can't explain
with logic and rational experience.
Forgive us for closing that door to you.
Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children.
Teach us the ways of awe and wonder,
so that like Zechariah, when we find ourselves speechless,
our first words will be words of praise.
With hearts open wide, we pray. Amen.**

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader

Family of faith, just as we marvel
at mountains and newborns, at sunrises and sunsets,
God marvels at us.

There is nothing you could do or leave undone
that could prevent God from loving you.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

People

We are forgiven. We are loved. We belong to God.

***Hymn 113**

Refrain Only

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

Offering

Ushers will now receive the offering. You may also make your offering electronically using the kiosk in the narthex or this QR-code:



Anthem

John Joubert (1927-2019)

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu:
Alleluia. (praise the Lord)

For in this rose containèd was
Heav'n and earth in little space:
Res miranda. (wondrous thing)

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in Persons Three:
Pares forma. (equals in dignity)

Then leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyous birth:

Transeamus. (let us cross over)

Anonymous medieval text

***Hymn**

Sung to OLD HUNDREDTH, Hymn 606

**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

John and Carmen Josiah, Cynthia Kang, Sandra Keyes, Levi Knippel,
Nina Krietzman, Marne Krozek, Bobby Lane, Diane Lewis

**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.**

Anthem

Noel Nouvelet

Traditional French Tune
Arranged by Richard Zgodava

Now we sing of Christmas, Sing we here Noel!
Of our Lord and Savior We the tidings tell.
Sing we Noel! For Christ the King is born, Noel!
Sing we Noel, For Christ is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas,
Sing we here Noel!

Angels did say, O shepherds come and see,
Born in Bethlehem, A blessed Lamb for thee.
Sing we Noel...

In the manger bed, The shepherds found the Child.
Joseph was there, And Mother, Mary mild.
Sing we Noel...

Magi oriental journeyed from a far.
They did come to greet him 'Neath the shining star.
Sing we Noel...

Now together sing, Let our voices ring,
Thanks to God on high.
Sing we here Noel!

Traditional French Text
English by Richard Zgodava

Scripture	Psalm 126, Luke 1:57-66
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 Brook Scott
Affirmation of Faith	We believe in a God who knows our names, who counts the hairs on our heads, and carries the dreams in our hearts. We believe that God's fingerprints are all over creation, and that God is forever speaking to us in a million different ways. We believe that awe and wonder, goosebumps and laughter, telling stories and paying attention, are all ways that we can say thank you to our creating, sustaining, and loving God. Therefore we commit ourselves to moving through this world with eyes wide open, with porous hearts, and with grateful spirits. We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude, trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper into God's loving arms. We believe. We stand in awe. Thanks be to God!

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 88** **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (verses 5-7)

5 **O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path misery.**

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

Don Cason (born 1954)

While we are waiting, come;
While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

Claire Cloninger (1942-2019)

Postlude **Finale from Advent Suite (CREATOR OF THE STARRY HEIGHTS)**

Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

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 Meta/Facebook and YouTube

Today's Guest Preacher: Brook Scott

This morning we welcome the Reverend Brook Scott to the pulpit. Brook undertook her seminary internship at Old First, and has served various Marin County churches in the Presbytery of the Redwoods.

Today's Coffee Hour

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

The New Church Year: Advent

Our theme for this Advent this year is "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?"

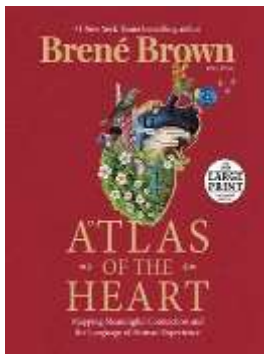


Advent devotionals based on this theme are available today. We have four different opportunities for you to deepen your Advent experience this year. Copies are available for you in the narthex.

Want to Learn More About Old First?

If you're interested in getting to know or to learn more about the community of Old First Presbyterian Church, talk with Pastor Maggi. She's passionate about our people, our Christian faith, our Presbyterian heritage, and our mission "on our corner, in our city, and in the world."

New Book for 2024: *Atlas of the Heart*



Pastor Maggi has spoken about joy using Brené Brown's book *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connections and Language of the Human Heart*. In 2024 we will be offering learning opportunities using Brown's book. Brown's book is insightful, thoughtful, and engaging.

There are copies available in the church office for \$15.00 – half the retail cost! You can make payment for the book in cash or electronically using the kiosk in the narthex or by visiting Old First's donation page: visit <https://dev.oldfirst.org/donations//> or use this QR-code.



Today's Liturgy and Artwork: A Sanctified Art

Today's liturgy at the Advent Wreath, Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Forgiveness and Prayers of the People are adapted from prayers by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC. The art on the cover is by the Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC: <https://sanctifiedart.org/>

Christmas at Old First

On Christmas Eve, December 24, there will be no morning service, but we will celebrate Christmas that evening. So join us on:

Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve Concert at 6:30 pm
Christmas Eve Worship at 7:00 pm.

This Week at Old First

- Sunday December 10, Advent**
2:00 pm Board of Deacons, On-Line
4:00 pm O1C: Ragazzi Boys Chorus Concert
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Friday December 15**
8:00 pm O1C: Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco
- Saturday December 16**
9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry: Volunteer today!
Simply use the QR-code to the right.
- Sunday December 17, Advent**
11:00 am Worship
4:00 pm O1C: Kitka, women's vocal ensemble
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

