

# Old First Presbyterian Church



**Second Sunday of Easter  
April 7, 2024**

## Worship Through Praising God

*Easy-to-use earphones to assist with hearing are available from the ushers.*

*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** Choral Song Samuel Wesley (1766-1837)

**Welcome and  
Church Life**

**\*Call to Worship** Carolyn Asbury

Leader Come, let us sing to Yahweh.

**People Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.**

Leader Let us come into the Divine presence with thanksgiving.

**People Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**

Leader It is good to give you thanks, O Yahweh,

**People to sing praises to your name, O Most High,**

Leader to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

**People and your faithfulness by night,**

Leader to the music of the lute and harp,

**People to the melody of the lyre.**

Leader For you, O God, have made us glad by your work.

**People At the works of your hands we sing for joy.**

**\*Hymn 230**

**Joyful Is the Dark**

- 1 Joyful is the dark, holy, hidden God,  
rolling cloud of night beyond all naming:  
majesty in darkness, energy of love,  
Word in flesh, the mystery proclaiming.
- 2 Joyful is the dark Spirit of the deep,  
winging wildly o'er the world's creation,  
silken sheen of midnight plumage black and bright,  
swooping with the beauty of a raven.
- 3 Joy full is the dark, shadowed stable floor;  
waiting for the wonder of the morning;  
as with exultation, Mary, giving birth,  
hails the infant cry of need and blessing.
- 4 Joyful is the dark coolness of the tomb,  
waiting for the wonder of the morning;  
never was that midnight touched by dread and gloom:  
darkness was the cradle of the dawning.
- 5 Joyful is the dark depth of love divine,  
roaring, looming thundercloud of glory,  
holy, haunting beauty, living, loving God.  
Hallelujah! Sing and tell the story!

**Prayer of  
Confession**

Carolyn Asbury

We use a lot of words, Gracious God,  
but do little to turn them into deeds.  
Instead of being of one heart and soul,  
we choose sides and form groups of folks just like us.  
Blessed with great grace,  
we have trouble sharing it with those who need it the most.

*Let us pray silently.*

Forgive us, God of love.  
Forgive us, as we step out of our shadows into your light.  
Restore us, as we reveal our brokenness.  
Hear us, as we proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and our God.  
Amen.

**\*Assurance of  
Forgiveness**

Leader

This is the good news we have to declare:  
God leads us out of the shadows to walk in the light of Christ.

People

**This is the word we have heard:**  
**Our faithful God forgives our sins and raises us to new life.**  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

**\*Sung Assurance**

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

**Live in charity and steadfast love.  
Live in charity; God will dwell with you.**

Latin, 8<sup>th</sup> Century

English translation: Taizé Community, 1991

**Offering**

*Ushers will now receive the offering. You may also make your offering electronically using the QR-code to the right.*



**Organ**

Elevation

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

**\*Doxology**

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing;  
tune my heart to send by grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of God's unchanging love!**

**Time with  
Our Children**

**\*The Peace**

Leader

Peace be with you.

People

**And also with you.**

<b>Worship Through Hearing God's Word</b>
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**Prayers of the  
People**

Pastor Henderson

Prayer  
Partners

Tom Culp and Charlie Wagner, Augusta Duncan and Dickson Adetuyi  
and Adeyinka, Jim Fagler and Lori Yamauchi, Jemma Fagler

**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** Psalm 95:1-7 (p. 520)  
Ephesians 5:18-20 (p. 183)  
Colossians 3:16-17 (p. 189)

**Sung Response** **Return to You**  
*We sing the response once.*  
**I have a wond'ring heart, and a fickle faith.  
Can you find me here, can I see your face?  
Help me return to you, help me return to you.**

**Hymn Sing** *Choose an Easter hymn to sing.  
See Glory to God, Hymns 229 through 257.*

<b>Worship Through Responding to God's Word</b>
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**\*Hymn 250** **In the Bulb There is a Flower**

- 1 **In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**
- 2 **There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**
- 3 **In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory.  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**\*Charge and  
Benediction**

**Postlude** Festival Postlude Gilbert Martin (born 1941)

*You are invited to leave or to stay for the postlude as you desire.  
Please join us for coffee hour in the fellowship hall downstairs.*

## Old First Presbyterian Church

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



[www.oldfirst.org](http://www.oldfirst.org)

415-776-5552

Find Us on Meta/Facebook and YouTube

### OLD FIRST TOWN HALL MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 21

During coffee hour on April 21, Old First will hold a Town Hall Meeting, at which we will share the results of what the elders and deacons have been working on in response to our fall Town Hall, when we shared our concerns and hopes for Old First. We have two projects we would like to tell you about! And we are looking forward to your in-put and support.

### World Central Kitchen Offering

On Good Friday, March 29, Old First took up an offering for World Central Kitchens (WCK), a world-wide feeding program serving in many places of need including Gaza. This week we've been shocked and saddened by the death of seven of WCK's volunteers and understand the need for WCK to suspend its work in Gaza for the present. This organization does amazing work around the world and still needs our help.

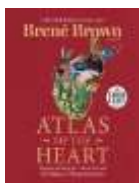
You can contribute to WCK's efforts by visiting Old First's donations page using this the QR code to the right or using this URL: <https://dev.oldfirst.org/donations//>

For more information visit WCK's website: <https://wck.org/>

May God bring peace and food to Gaza!



### Next Book Discussion Session, Tomorrow, April 8



The third session of our new book discussion will take place via Zoom on Monday, April 8, at 7:00 pm. At this session we're covering Chapter 3 of Brené Brown's *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connections and Language of the Human Heart*. Please let Maggi, know if you plan to attend. Below is the Zoom link to the Monday night sessions. The link can also be found in Maggi's weekly E-mail on Saturdays.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81744087981?pwd=TVVOUVptVldlMll1T2VFQ2ZMMWl0QT09>

**Future of Ghost Ranch with Tim Hart-Andersen  
Calvary Presbyterian Church, April 13**

The Reverend Tim Hart-Andersen, Board Chair of the National Ghost Ranch Foundation, and Ghost Ranch invite you to a special gathering to meet Dave Evans, Ghost Ranch's new CEO, to hear updates and to preview an exciting new project!

The gathering will be start at 10:30 am, Saturday, April 13, at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore Street at Jackson Street. Snacks will be provided.

Tim is a former pastor of our own Old First Presbyterian Church and has recently retired from Westminster Presbyterian Church of Minneapolis.

**Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry, April 20**

Members of Old First and St Luke's combine to staff the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, **March 20**. Mark your calendars now. To sign up simply use the QR-Code to the right.



**4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Community Dinner, April 27**

This month's 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Community Dinner falls on Saturday, April 27. 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: [4thsaturdaydinner@oldfirst.org](mailto:4thsaturdaydinner@oldfirst.org)

**Inquirer and Membership Classes**

Want to know more about Old First? Curious about the Presbyterian Church (USA)? Wondering about joining the church? If so, Pastor Maggi would like to talk with you: She's thinking about holding Inquirer and Membership Classes for folks interested in life and membership at Old First Presbyterian Church. Speak with her at coffee hour, call her at the church office, or send her an E-mail: [maggi@oldfirst.org](mailto:maggi@oldfirst.org)

**Easter 2024  
Wandering Heart: Figuring Out Faith with Peter**

The graphic designs here and on the cover are by the Reverend Lauren Wright Pittman of A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

**This Week at Old First**

- Sunday April 7**  
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Monday April 8**  
7:00 pm Book Discussion via Zoom
- Saturday April 13**  
9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry, Fellowship Hall  
7:00 pm O1C: Ali Akbar Khan Tribute Concert
- Sunday April 14**  
11:00 am Worship  
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall