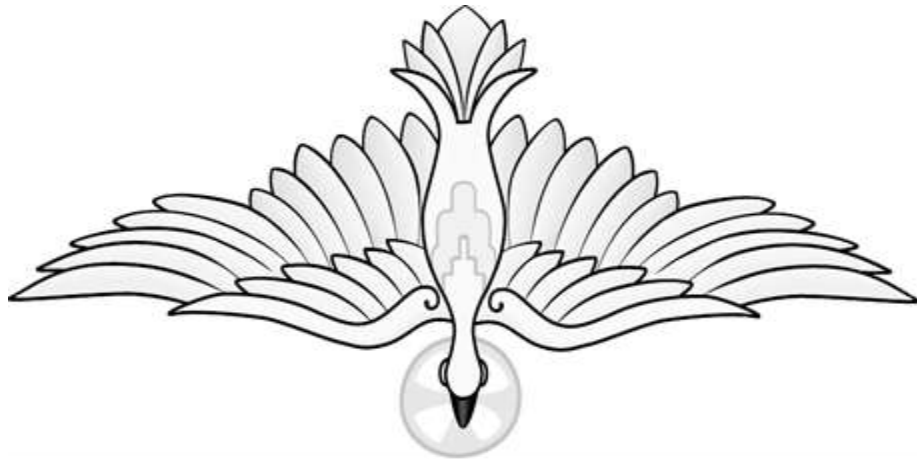


Old First Presbyterian Church



Eastertide

May 8, 2022

**The Reverend Maggi Henderson, Pastor
The Presbyterian Church (USA)**

Worship Through Praising God

*Please fill out a guest card found in the pew rack and
place it in the offering basket in the narthex when you exit the church building.*

Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.

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

Prelude Mothers of the Bible from Dedications: Miriam – Rachel
Jaromir Weinberger (1896-1967)
Prelude on RHYSOMEDRE
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

**Welcome and
Church Life**

Introit RHYSOMEDRE
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

In your great love, O God, full motherhood is known:
A mother grows her child; a mother's strength is shown.
Let mothers' faithful love unbind your love that through them
We might find Christ's deeper love for humankind.

Adapted from John D. Edwards (1806-1885)

***Call to
Worship**

AnnieScott Rogers

Leader The God of all the universe is much bigger than what we know.

People We worship the amazing, inexplicable God.

Leader The God we worship is strong.

People We worship a mother God.

Leader The God we worship is loving.

People We worship a father God.

Leader Come, let us worship God.

People We worship God: immortal, invisible, God only wise!

***Hymn 12 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious thy great name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.
- 4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

**Prayer of
Confession**

AnnieScott Rogers

O mysterious God,
forgive our misunderstandings of you.
We sometimes see you only as strong, judgmental, and cruel.
Forgive us for being cruel and for judging others in our own lives.
We sometimes see you only as soft, forgiving, and sweet.
Forgive us for giving in too easily
and not standing up to injustice in our world.
We see you only as a mother.
We see you only as a father.
We don't see you as GOD.
Forgive us, Amazing God, for not seeing the fullness of yourself
and for labeling you with our own inadequate categories.
You are bigger than we can ever know.

Silence is kept.

**Mother/Father God, come into our lives, challenge us, forgive us.
Help us to live our lives to honor all of you. Amen.**

**Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader God loves us like a mother hen who gathers her brood under her wings.
God challenges us like a mighty warrior for righteousness and justice.
But God always forgives!

People By God, in Christ, we are forgiven!

Offertory *Ushers will receive the offering at this time.*

The 23rd Psalm (Dedicated to My Mother) Bobby McFerrin (born 1950)

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters, She will lead.
She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.
Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said, She won't forsake me,
I'm in her hand.
She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,
She anoints my head with oil,
And my cup overflows.
Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me,
All the days of my life,
And I will dwell in Her house, forever and ever.
Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter,
And to the Holy of Holies.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

The Peace *Please remain seated for the Peace.*

Leader Peace be with you.

People And also with you.

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

**Time with
Our Children**

**Prayers of the
People**

Prayer Partners

Hsiaochien Chuang

Bob Fleming, Ed Frauenheim and Rowena Ritchie, Skyla and Julius, Pam and
Greg Free, Amberle Gallup, Claudia Garrison, Fernando González

Prayer Our mother, which art the earth,
 nurturing are thy ways,
 thy web of life be woven,
 thy way be found within,
 as it is all around.
 Thank you this day for our daily bread and work.
 And forgive us our misuse of you,
 as we forgive others their misuse of us.
 And lead us not into exploitation,
 but deliver us from lording it over you,
 and over each other,
 and over all our other fellow creatures.
 For thine are the waters of life,
 the hills, the valleys and the plains of home,
 the breeding, seeding, feeding ground,
 For now, and for as close to forever
 as we will ever come.
 Ah, woman!

By Karen Loveland, Minnesota Women's Press

Scripture Genesis 1:27
 Proverbs 8:1-6, 22-26
 Matthew 23:37

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 Our Non-Binary God

The Reverend Erwin Barron

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 169** Dear Lord, Creator Good and Kind

- 1 Dear Lord, Creator good and kind,
 forgive our foolish ways;
 re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
 in purer lives thy service find,
 in deeper reverence, praise.
- 2 In simple trust like theirs who heard
 beside the Syrian sea
 the gracious calling of the Lord,
 Let us, like them, without a word
 rise up and follow thee.
- 3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
 O calm of hills above,
 where Jesus knelt to share with thee
 the silence of eternity,
 interpreted by love!

- 4 Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.
- 5 Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still, small of calm!

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude Wedding March

Fanny Hensel Mendelssohn (1805-1847)

You may also place your offering in the basket as you leave the church or may make it using the electronic kiosk in the narthex or Old First's on-line giving page found on the right-side of our homepage: www.oldfirst.org.

Are you visiting today? Please fill in the contact tracing binder, if you have not already done so.

Ballot Review with Betty Voris, May 15

Betty Packard Voris, chair of San Francisco's Ballot Simplification Committee, will review the June 7 ballot with us next Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 pm via Zoom. To join the meeting, use this web address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87818209565?pwd=U0liMVJDUIJlUWU01TXJ1K01XZWhvUT09>

The invitation to the Zoom meeting is also found in this morning's E-mail from Pastor Maggi.

Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry, May 21

It's not too early to sign up to staff the Interfaith Food Pantry Saturday, May 21, when Old First and St Luke's staff the pantry. You can sign up easily by visiting Old First's website – www.oldfirst.org – and then clicking on the link in the sidebar column. The pantry coordinators will thank you! For more information, speak with Pastor Maggi.

We've Come this Far by Faith: Songs from the Black Experience, May 22

The **Racial Justice Task Force of Old First** is thrilled to present **Terence Elliott, Ed.D.** and **Nymani Music** in a journey through the history of the African American experience through music. Dr. Elliott, a professor of music and African-American history, will be giving a lecture and performance focusing on "Spirit, Rhythm, and Story: Community Building and Healing through Song" on Sunday, May 22 at 3:00 pm. Please join us for an uplifting journey through Black American music.

Venue: St Luke's Episcopal Church, Van Ness Avenue at Clay Street (just one block away from Old First). Suggested donation: \$20. Masks required.

AIDS LifeCycle 2022, June 5-11

This year **Pastor Maggi** has committed herself to being a roadie for the annual AIDS LifeCycle (ALC). Roadies are the 650+ hardworking individuals who volunteer their time all week to support the 2400+ ALC cyclists who will pedal their bikes from San Francisco to Los Angeles, June 5 through 11. Like the cyclists, roadies raise funds that benefit the work of the **San Francisco AIDS Foundation** and the **Los Angeles LGBT Center** in reducing new HIV infections and improving the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS.

To encourage Maggi and to promote the life-saving work of these two institutions, simply visit Maggi's ALC donation page - www.tofighthiv.org/goto/maggilu2022 - and be generous.

PS: "I'm delighted that so many have already made a contribution to this important cause. Let's keep the generosity going!" -Maggi

AV Streaming Crew Volunteers Needed

Would you like to try your hand at livestreaming our Sunday worship services? We're looking for volunteers to become part of our AV Streaming Crew that livestreams our worship services online. You don't have to have experience – we didn't! We'll provide you with all the training and detailed instructions you need. You'll be part of a team that will share the Sundays so everyone takes a part and no one gets overwhelmed.

E-mail us today and let us know you'd like to try it. We're looking forward to working with you!

Chris Burt – chris.burt@oldfirst.org

Kim Pham – kim.pham@oldfirst.org