

# Old First Presbyterian Church



**Sunday, August 14, 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.*

<b>Prelude</b>	Solemn Melody	Walford Davies (1869-1941)
<b>Welcome and Church Life</b>		Stephen Taber
<b>*Call to Worship</b>		
Leader	You are a consuming fire, O God!	
<b>People</b>	<b>You are our rock and our fortress.</b>	
Leader	You are our hope, the one we have trusted since childhood	
<b>People</b>	<b>Our praise is always about you and you alone.</b>	
<b>*Prayer</b>		
Leader	O God, our hope and trust, you form us and know us, consecrate us and appoint us to go and speak words of challenge and comfort; to pluck up and pull down selfishness and hatred; to destroy and overthrow systems of oppression and injustice; to build and plant hope and peace.	
	Fill us with your Spirit, and give us the words we need, for we are here in Jesus' name.	
<b>People</b>	<b>Amen.</b>	

**\*Hymn 100    Canticle of the Turning**

1    My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain    My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.

2    Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn.

3    From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn.

4    Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around.

**Prayer of  
Confession**

Stephen Taber

God of Life, you come to us  
as a consuming fire, the one who has consecrated us before time.  
You promise us a kingdom that cannot be shaken  
and call us to serve you with praise and thanksgiving.  
But we forget, and yield to fear.

**We trust in the tangible rewards of this world,  
and neglect your promises.  
We confess that we are a divided people;  
we foster separations and widen rifts  
in our families, our communities, and in the world.**

*Silence is kept. We share with God where we have fallen short of God's expectations.*

**Open us to your healing.  
Free us from all that distances us from your presence.  
Give us your grace and inspire us to serve you with courage;  
through Jesus Christ who comes to save. Amen.**

**Assurance of  
Forgiveness**

Leader Promising forgiveness and the sustenance we need to amend our lives,  
God rejoices in our longing for wholeness.

People **We give thanks that we have been known and forgiven –  
set free to live the resurrected life of faith. Thanks be to God!**

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

From Elijah, Op. 70 Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)  
Michael Desnoyers, tenor

Recitative Ye people, rend your hearts and not your garments for your transgressions:  
the prophet Elijah hath sealed the heavens through the word of God.  
I therefore say to ye: forsake your idols, return to God;  
for He is slow to anger, and merciful, and kind, and gracious,  
and repenteth Him of the evil. Joel 2:12-13

Aria "If with all your hearts ye truly seek Me,  
ye shall ever surely find Me." Thus saith our God. Deuteronomy 4:29  
Oh! that I knew where I might find Him,  
that I might even come before His presence! Job 23:3

The Peace *Please remain seated for 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 AnnieScott Rogers

Prayer Partners Doris Bebb, Gabriele Beck-Engeser, George Becker and Christo Bresnahan,  
Michael Bene, Michael and Nina Berg, Erin Berg, Patrick Berg, Lisa Bigley

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.

**Hymn 722** Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

- 1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone.  
As you have sought, so let me seek  
your erring children, lost and lone.
- 2 O lead me, Lord that I may lead  
the wandering and the wavering feet.  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
your hungering ones with manna sweet.
- 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
the precious truths which you impart.  
And wing my words that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.
- 4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.
- 5 O use me, Lord, use even me,  
just as you will, and when, and where  
until your blessed face I see,  
your rest, your joy; your glory share.

**Prayer**

Leader

Almighty God,  
    you know us better than we know ourselves.  
By your word, give us wisdom,  
    by your Spirit, grant us healing, and  
    set us free to serve you with love.  
We ask this through the One who heals in your name, Jesus Christ.

**People**

**Amen.**

**Scripture**

Jeremiah 1:4-10

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**

God Sees and Calls Us Out!

The Reverend Sarah Reyes Gibbs

**Worship Through Responding to God's Word**

**\*Hymn 720 Jesus Calls Us**

- 1 Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth  
saying, "Christian, follow me."
- 2 Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more."
- 3 In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."
- 4 Jesus calls us: by the mercies,  
Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thy obedience,  
serve and love thee best of all.

**\*Charge and  
Benediction**

**Postlude** Marche

Thomas Roseingrave (1690-1766)

*You may 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](http://www.oldfirst.org).*

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

**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 Facebook and YouTube

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: July Flooding**

Fill the GAP: Give, Act, Pray! Severe flooding has impacted Kentucky, Missouri and Virginia in late July. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is in communication with Presbyterian leadership in the affected presbyteries to offer resources, process grants and deploy National Response Team members when it is safe to do so.

For more information and the opportunity to give now, visit the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website ( <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/july-flooding/> ), give by phone (800-872-3283), or send a check with designation for "PDA: July Flooding" on the memo line and mail to:

Presbyterian Church (USA)  
PO Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

**Sabbatical 2022: July to October**

From July through October, Old First Presbyterian Church and our pastor, Maggi Henderson, are on sabbatical. Until Pastor Maggi returns to us at the beginning of November, please keep her and all our Old First community in your prayers. In case of the need for pastoral care, please contact your assigned deacon, the Board of Deacons moderator, Randy Smith, or the church office.

**Today's Guest Preacher: Sarah Reyes Gibbs**

Our guest preacher today is the Reverend Sarah Reyes-Gibbs, DMin. Dr. Reyes-Gibbs has just finished a three-year transitional/interim position with New Bridges, Hayward, after retiring in 2017 from her first call lasting nineteen years with Bethel Community Church, San Leandro. Not embracing retirement well, she continues to serve as a consultant with churches focused on transformation and with other presbyteries addressing ethnic concerns.

Before ordained ministry, Sarah served the Stockton Unified School District as an elementary and high school teacher for eight years, as a coordinator for a Drug Free School Zone at Edison High School, Stockton, and before that as a legislative assistant with the California legislature twenty years.

In addition to raising four children, Sarah also earned a bachelor at the age of 40, received her Masters of Arts in Education with an emphasis on administration, received her Master of Divinity at age 50, and received her Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis on parish redevelopment at age 60. Pastor Sarah's perspective on life and faith is shaped by her trust in God and her experience as a Filipina-American, pastor, wife, mother of four, *lola* (Filipino for grandmother) of fifteen, and much more!

**Remembering Lorraine Bellesi, Today**

Karen and Terri, daughters of our late member Lorraine Bellesi, have shared this wonderful information: "At the Giants game on August 14 (begins at 1:05 pm), the tribute to Mom will happen around the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning, up on the scoreboard. We'll be in Club Level section 228, making noise!"

**We Staff the Food Pantry, Saturday, August 27**

We need your hands! The City needs your hands! Jesus needs *your* hands! Without your hands, Old First won't have enough hands for the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, August 27.

But you can sign up so easily by visiting our website – [www.oldfirst.org](http://www.oldfirst.org) – and then clicking on the link in the sidebar column. The pantry coordinators will thank you! The clients will thank you. You'll have fun. You'll be part of the solution to food insecurity in our neighborhood. For more information, check with Riley or John Kramar. They will thank you.

**Holy Communion, August 28**

On Sunday, August 28, Old First will celebrate Holy Communion. Whether you join us in person or on line, prepare yourself for the nourishment and empowerment of the Lord's Supper.

**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
Brad Peterson	Office Admin
Kristi Hoerauf	Wedding Coordinator