

Old First Presbyterian Church



The First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2022

**A Season of Stewardship: Connections
Connected to Each Other, Connected to God**

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

**Advent
Wreath**

Betty and Steve Voris

The first candle on the Advent wreath is lit.

A candle burns,
the first marker of our Advent journey.

As we set out,
may we travel hopefully.

As we set out,
God of Journeys, travel with us.

**Welcome and
Church Life**

Introit

Plainsong, Mode V

Of the Father's love begotten, e'er the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega; He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore. Amen.

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413)

***Call to
Worship**

Sandra Keyes

Leader November ends. Advent begins.

People We find our beginning and our ending in God.

Leader The past has been overwhelming, we are anxious of the future.

People But God is our future and says to us "Be not Afraid. I am with you."

Leader Month after month, our God attends us and supports us.

People For God's company, we offer thanks and praise.

Leader Let us worship the God who gives us Jesus Christ:

**People God who is the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end,
the Living One and our Redeemer, now and forever.**

***Hymn 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1-2 and 6-7)**

During the hymn, please bring your pledge cards and commitment cards forward and place them in the basket.

**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.**

**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.**

**Dedication of
Pledges**

**Prayer of
Confession**

Sandra Keyes

We watch for packages to arrive
and Christmas cards to be delivered,
but we do not keep our eyes open
for your coming, Approaching God.
We expect our Christmas 'wish list' to be filled,
and for the pile under the tree to grow and grow,
but we hope you do not expect
to transform our lives.
We notice where to find the best bargains,
and what decorations our neighbors have put on their houses,
but we do not notice
the little, the least, the lost, the last
walking down our streets.

We confess silently.

Forgive us, Saving God, for our misplaced priorities.
May we watch for your coming,
may we reach out to those in need,
may we wait for hope to come,
even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
arrives to live in our hearts. Amen.

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader The good news is made known to all people:
Christ Jesus was born to save us from our sins.

People **Glory and praise to the only wise God,
who fills us with healing and hope.**

***Gloria Angels We have Heard on High, Hymn 113, Refrain Only**

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

Offering *Usbers will receive the offering during the anthem. You may also make your offering electronically using the kiosk in the narthex.*

Anthem

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c.1458-1611)

Ne timeas Maria, *Fear not, Mary,*
invenisti enim gratiam apud Dominum: *for you have found favor with the Lord:*
ecce concipies in utero et paries filium, *Behold, you shall conceive and bring forth a son,*
et vocabitur Altissimi Filius. *and he shall be called the Son of the Most High.*

Luke 1:31-32

***Doxology**

DUKE STREET by John Hatton (1710-1793)

Arranged Hal Hopson (born 1933)

**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.

Scripture Luke 1:26-38

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

Pastor Henderson

Worship Through Holy Communion

**Invitation to
the Lord's
Table**

Communion Come to the Table of Grace

Song *Please use Hymn 507 to focus your mind and heart on communion. We sing Verse 1:*

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table. It's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

**The Great
Thanksgiving**

Leader The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Leader Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The leader continues the Great Thanksgiving...

**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.**

**The Words of
Institution**

**The Bread
and the Cup**

*All are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.
Simply follow the directions of the leaders.*

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 76 Do Not Be Afraid**

Refrain Do not be afraid, for I am with you.
Chosen and beloved, you are my own.
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you:
by your name I called you for my own.

- 1 Look up, a new thing I am doing;
it springs forth; look and see it grow.
Through wilderness I'll make a level highway;
through deserts, make streams and rivers flow.
- 2 I am God, who blots out your transgressions;
for my own sake I do not chide or blame.
Only this much I ask, that you love me
and seek me and honor my name.
- 3 The Lord, the holy One of Israel
has promised to lead us on our way,
and we who love and worship God Maker
will listen to hear the Spirit say:

***Charge and
Benediction**

Choir Rejoice! Rejoice! 9th century plainsong
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Postlude Improvisation on "Sleepers, Wake, for Night is Flying"
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

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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Recognition Statement that We Gather on Indigenous Lands

We acknowledge that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost, nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors, elders and relatives of the Ramaytush community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

A Season of Stewardship: Pledge Cards and Commitment Cards

Today we will dedicate our pledges and commitments for the year ahead. If you need a pledge card, you can get one from an usher. If you've already sent in your pledge card, you can participate today by filling out a commitment card with the ways you'll seek to be connected with God and the community of faith in 2023!

Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, This Saturday, December 3

We need your hands! Without your hands, Old First won't have enough hands for the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, **December 3**, but you can sign up so easily by visiting our website – www.oldfirst.org – and then clicking on the link in the sidebar column.

Advent Begins Today: Advent Devotionals

If you didn't get an Advent devotional last Sunday, you can pick up a copy of *A Surprising God: Advent Devotions for an Uncertain Time* from the ushers in the narthex.

SF/Marin Food Bank: The Barrel Returns Today

The SF/Marin Food Bank food barrel has returned today. You can renew your practice of gratefulness by picking up an extra item to donate when you go shopping and bringing it to our food barrel. Soup, peanut butter, cereal, and proteins in non-breakable packaging are always good choices.

Next Sunday's Guest Preacher: Jana Childers

Next Sunday, December 4, our guest preacher will be the Reverend Jana L. Childers, PhD, Professor of Homiletics and Speech Communication at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Dr. Childers joined the SFTS faculty in 1985, and has served as dean for the last 15 years. She holds the Almer Mayo Newhall Chair in Practical Theology. She is a Presbyterian minister who served congregations in Kansas and New Jersey before joining the seminary faculty.

Interests in the arts, spirituality, and worship supplement Jana's "central and great love" – preaching. Jana is the author and editor of a number of books and articles on preaching including *Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre* and the award winning, *Birthing the Sermon: Women Preachers and Creative Process*.

Coffee Hour Sponsorship

Looking for a Christmas gift for loved ones? Why not sponsor our coffee hour in their honor? It's only fifty dollars. The sign up sheet has returned to the bulletin board in the Sacramento Street lobby: We'll include your dedication in that Sunday's bulletin.

A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church

Over a year ago Erwin Barron, our parish associate, sent me information about a new resource: *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church* by Wilda Gafney, the Hulse Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University. Erwin and I have been preaching the same lectionary scriptures for over 30 years, so this sounded exciting. We are using it this Advent!

Gafney sets new combinations of the readings to refocus preaching and shift the conversation of the lectionary reading. She hopes to put spark in the hearts and minds of congregations with new issues regarding gender, who is out and who is in, and the gulf between more equitable practices for women and how the Church has tended to operate otherwise. Gafney pulls out the stories of those around the edges that don't come up in our yearly readings in the Revised Common Lectionary. This Advent, for example, focuses on the surprising ways God works in the lives of God's people-way back then and also now! –*Pastor Maggi Henderson*

This Week at Old First

Sunday November 27, First Sunday of Advent: The Church Year Begins

7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall

Thursday December 1

4:30 pm O1C: School of the Arts Winter Concert

Friday December 2

8:00 pm O1C: Sierra Quartet, music for strings by Mozart, Haydn, and Eleanor Alberga

Saturday December 3

9:00 am Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry: Social Hall and Sacramento St Sidewalk

Sunday December 4, Second Sunday of Advent

11:00 am Worship

7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall

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