

Old First Presbyterian Church



Magnificat!

The Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2022

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 Piano and Organ Duets Arranged by Jonathan Scott (born 1979)
Jarron Carlson, pianist

Ave Maria Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

Gesù Bambino Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

Advent Wreath Claudia Garrison, Linda Reyder

Three candles on the Advent wreath are lit.

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

As we continue,
May we travel expectantly.

As we continue,
God of journeys, guide our footsteps.

**Welcome and
Church Life**

Pastor Henderson

Introit From *Christ Is Born! Glory to God!* John Dalles (born 1954)
Prophets speak tidings of hope
for all who dwell deep in darkness!
Prophets speak tidings of hope!
Lift up your heads! Light is coming!
Glory to God in the highest!

***Call to
Worship** Sally Spencer

Leader Our souls magnify the Lord!
People Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!
Leader The mighty One has done great things for us!
People Holy is God's name!
Leader Let us worship God.
**People For God is our Maker and our Redeemer;
from generation to generation God gives mercy.**

Based on Luke 1:46-50

***Hymn 105** People, Look East

1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able;
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled,
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east: Love, the Bird, is on the way.

4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who bring new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east: Love, the Lord is on the way.

**Prayer of
Confession**

Holy God, you promised to do great things for us,
yet we do not trust you.

Sally Spencer

You extend your mercy to us,
yet we do not trust you.
You lift up the humble and
you fill the hungry with good things,
yet we still do not trust you.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

**Forgive us, and help us to trust in the promises you have given us.
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader Even now—yes, even in this very moment, God comes to us,
bringing hope,
bringing forgiveness,
bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us.

People **May we open our hearts to the God who is with us,
and receive the gifts which have been offered to us.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

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

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

Anthem

From *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599
Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
Arranged by Jan Sandström (born 1954)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old hath sung.
It came a floweret bright amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Translated by Theodore Baker (1851-1934)

***Doxology**

GREENSLEEVES

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary. 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

Rick Wiebe

Prayer Partners Stephen and Betty Voris, Jian Wang, Virginia Webb-Pekelnicky and Bob Pekelnicky, Teddy and Eden, Kim Williams, Matt Wolka and family, Josephine Yee

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

Judges 13:2-7 and Luke 1:45-56

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 Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 134 Joy to the World**

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing...
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy...
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found...
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love...

***Charge and
Benediction**

Choir From *Christ Is Born! Glory to God!* John Dalles (born 1954)
Angels bring whispers of love
for all who wait and who listen!
Angels bring whispers of love
Stop! Hold your breath love is coming!
Glory to God in the highest!

Postlude From *Advent: First Religious Suite for Organ*
Toccata on “Creator alme siderum” 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

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Christmas Carols at Coffee Hour, Today and Next Sunday

Get your Christmas cheer on! Join us for Christmas caroling at coffee hour after worship today and next Sunday, December 18.

Communion, Next Sunday

Whether you join us for worship in person or on line, prepare to celebrate the Lord’s Supper next Sunday, December 18.

Christmas Joy Offering, Next Sunday

Next Sunday, December 18, we will receive the Christmas Joy Offering, one of the PC(USA)’s four annual special offerings. See the insert for more information and be generous on the day. Checks should be made payable to Old First Presbyterian Church with “Christmas Joy Offering” written on the memo line.

Readers Needed for Christmas Eve, December 24

Would you like to read one of the lessons on Christmas Eve, December 24? If so, speak to Pastor Maggi to sign up for this opportunity to lead worship on Christmas.

Christmas Eve Party, December 24, 4 pm to 6 pm

Steve and Sarah Taber once again invited members and friends of Old First to their annual Christmas Eve party, December 24 from 4 to 6 pm at 1170 Green Street (above Hyde St). They are starting early in hope that choir members can come too! Family members visiting you are welcome as well; however, the Tabers ask that attendees be fully vaccinated.

The Tabers will provide ham, turkey, scalloped potatoes, hot mulled cider, and Steve’s persimmon pudding! Guests are invited to bring appetizers, side dishes, desserts and/or beverages to share. Please let Sarah or Steve know if you can come and what you can bring: sarah@sstaber.com, steve@sstaber.com

Christmas Eve, December 24

6:30 pm Christmas Concert with Choir and Organ
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Note: Though there will be no service at Old First on Sunday, December 25, you are invited to worship with our neighbors, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, that day at 10:00 am.

Larkin Street Gift Drive

Help to share the celebration of Christ's birth with our neighbors at Larkin Street Youth Services. This year Larkin Street asks that gifts be purchased and delivered directly through their Amazon WishList. You can find it on-line by using the QR code below. Also, remember to use Amazon Smile to have a portion of each order donated to your charity of choice – including Old First!

Once you have purchased a gift or some gifts from the WishList, please, add star ornaments to the wooden Christmas tree. This will help us see the contribution our community is making, even though the gifts will not be arriving at the Church.



Coffee Hour Sponsorship

Looking for a Christmas gift for loved ones or your friends at Old First? 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.

The Reredos: Artwork for Advent

Walter Chalmers Smith's beloved hymn begins, "Immortal, invisible, God only wise. In light inaccessible hid from our eyes." We have been told that we cannot look upon the face of God and live. God works in mysterious ways, we are reminded, as we try to understand events that we don't foresee and can't control. When a dream comes true, it often feels as if we have experienced a miracle and how do you explain a miracle?

This Advent season, the Worship Committee has decided to explore the idea of surprise, the unexpected, perhaps even the unexplainable, in a new piece of art for the reredos. We asked artist Kurt Schwartzman to create a piece that conveys the beauty, mystery, and astonishment that we would feel if God held out a hand to us. This reredos art is for you to explore and discover. Any explanation of what it is about will have to come from you.

This Week at Old First

- Sunday December 11, Third Sunday of Advent**
After worship Coffee Hour and Carol Singing
4:00 pm O1C: Ragazzi Boys Chorus
7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall
- Monday December 12**
6:30 pm Mission Committee, On-Line
- Saturday December 17**
1:00 pm Presbyterian Women, On-Line
- Sunday December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent**
11:00 am Worship with Communion
After worship Coffee Hour and Carol Singing
4:00 pm O1C: Kitka, women's choral ensemble: "Wintersongs"
7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall
- Tuesday December 20**
7:00 pm Session Meeting via Zoom
- Friday December 23**
8:00 pm O1C: Golden Bough: Celtic Songs of Winter and Christmas Carols
- Saturday December 24, Christmas Eve**
6:30 pm Christmas Concert with Choir and Organ
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Old First Presbyterian Church Staff
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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