

Old First Presbyterian Church



Growing Season: Exploring Our Roots Sunday, July 2, 2023

Worship Through Praising God

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 Mark My Alford

James Hewitt (1770-1823)

Welcome and Church Life

*Call to Worship

Leader What does the Lord require of us?
People **To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

Erwin Barron

Leader What does God command of us?
People **To love God with all our heart, and all our soul,
and all our mind, and all our strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

Leader God does not call us to ease or to comfort:
People **But to presence, and abundance,
and grace in our struggle.**

Leader Let us worship the God who believes in us,
and trusts in us, and abides with us.
People **Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,
but will be beside us every step of the way.**

***Hymn When Abraham Went Up**
Sung to the tune Leoni ("The God of Abraham Praise," *Glory to God* 49)

- 1 **When Abraham went up to offer you his son,
O God, we grieve to think of what he might have done.
And yet we know it's true: to follow has a price.
To do what we are called to do means sacrifice.**
- 2 **The sacrifice that day was not a father's boy,
But being willing to obey and bring you joy.
O Lord, what you desire won't rise to you above
In violent act or smoke or fire; it's found in love.**
- 3 **The way to worship you is with an open hand —
With willingness to gladly do what you have planned.
You call us to let go, to let you be our guide,
For when we do we'll surely know that you provide.**

Based on Genesis 22:1-19

Copyright © 2015 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

**Prayer of
Confession**

Erwin Barron

**Loving and sustaining God, you call us to obedience,
to follow you in all things, to give up the things we cling to,
and to give ourselves wholeheartedly to your purposes.
We confess that we don't always find this easy to do.
We confess that it is often very difficult
to let go of the things we love.
But we also know that you never ask more of us
than what is possible,
and that you stand ready, at all times,
to sustain us and to provide everything we need.**

Silence is kept.

Give us courage to faithfully follow your leading,
even when we cannot see the outcome,
even when the path to which you call us
seems impossible to comprehend.
Help us to trust you in all things,
to let go of everything that would stand in the way
of whole-hearted obedience to you.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.
Amen.

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader This is the Good News:
God does not go back on the promises made so long ago.
God does not reject us, God redeems us.
God does not withhold love, God pours it into our barren lives.

People **Forgiven of our sins, filled with hope,
living in relationship with God and one another,
we are a new people.
Thanks be to God. Amen!**

***Hymn 583**

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

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

Solo The Lord Is My Light (Psalm 27)

Frances Allitzen (1848-1912)

Michael Desnoyers, tenor

***Hymn 609**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**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**

Jeanne Kirkwood

Prayer Partners Claudia Garrison, Fernando González, David Griffith and Joe Sheffey, Jan Hammock, Eva and Branch, Soodeh Hedayati

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 Genesis 22:1-19
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 338** **O Beautiful for Spacious Skies**

- 1 **O beautiful for spaces skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plan!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!**
- 2 **O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating ting strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw;
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!**
- 3 **O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!**

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude Voluntary in A Major

William Selby (1738-1798)

Old First Presbyterian Church

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

www.oldfirst.org · 415-776-5552 · Find Us on Facebook and YouTube

On the Cover

The image on the cover is the 1966 painting *Sacrifice of Isaac* by Marc Chagall (1887-1985).

Today's Call to Worship

The author of today's call to worship, the Reverend Eliz Buchakjian-Tweedy, wrote it specifically "for this difficult text: the binding of Isaac." Buchakjian-Tweedy is pastor of First Church Congregational, Rochester, New Hampshire.

Today's Coffee Hour

Jim Fagler and Lori Yamauchi have given today's coffee hour in honor of their daughter, Jemma Fagler.

Reflections on the 4th of July

Independence Day, the 4th of July, can be tricky to navigate since, as Christians, our primary allegiance is to our Sovereign God first and foremost. As instructed by scripture (1 Timothy 2:1-3), we pray for our leaders and are good citizens of our country insofar as its policies and practices cohere with the Reign of Christ. When nations abuse their God-given power, however, we are to call them to accountability to the Reign of God as preached by Christ. Many people died to insure that we have the freedom to do this in our sanctuaries, too, and we do not want to minimize the sacrifices that have enabled our freedom, but the primary sacrifice we honor is that of Jesus Christ.

We are faithful to our country insofar as it coheres with the Reign of Christ. We are always led to remember the words Christ taught us "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." See our website for more reflections. —excerpted from *PCUSA.org*

Next Sunday's Guest Preacher: Bruce Reyes-Chow

Next Sunday the Reverend Bruce Reyes-Chow will preach and lead worship for us. Bruce is a graduate of the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo. He has served churches in the Presbytery of San Francisco, was elected Moderator of 218th General Assembly of the PCUSA, and has most recently been serving as a transitional pastor. Bruce is a writer, blogger, and visionary. Check out his website at <https://reyes-chow.com>

Memorial Service for Jack Rozzell, July 15

Old First member Jack Rozzell died in May of this year. Old First will hold a memorial service for Jack on Saturday, July 15, at 1:00 pm.

New Banners by Josie Iselin

As we move through ordinary time and summer, we celebrate God’s gift of life and growth with new banners by San Francisco artist Josie Iselin, which depict a kelp forest.

Josie Iselin is a photographer, author, and designer of many books. Her last few have focused on the world of seaweeds and kelp. Her most recent book, *The Curious World of Seaweed* (Heyday Books, 2019) is the basis for a traveling exhibition of prints by the same name.

Iselin is the co-director of a collaborative known as Above/Below, working to bring the recognition afforded the forests on land to the kelp forests below the ocean’s surface.

Above/Below will be releasing a web-based, comprehensive, story compendium about bull kelp this fall.

This Week at Old First

Sunday July 2

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday July 4

The church office will be closed in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Saturday July 8

9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry: Volunteer today!

Visit Old First’s website for a link to the sign-up page: www.oldfirst.org

Sunday July 9

11:00 am Worship with Guest Preacher Bruce Reyes-Chow

2:00 pm Board of Deacons, On-Line

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Old First Presbyterian Church Staff

The Reverend Maggi Henderson	Pastor
The Reverend Erwin C. Barron	Parish Associate
The Reverend Lisa Robeck	Parish Associate
Larry Marietta	Music Director
Jarron Carlson	Composer in Residence
Brad Peterson	Office Admin
Kristi Hoerauf	Wedding Coordinator