

Old First Presbyterian Church



Growing Season: Exploring Our Roots Sunday, July 30, 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 Aria and Variation 1 from the Goldberg Variations, BWV 988

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome and Church Life

*Call to Worship

Betty Voris

Leader We gather here in anticipation,
seeking an encounter with our Holy God,

People **who comes among us when we least expect it,**
who invites us to wrestle with our questions and doubts,

Leader who richly blesses us, and
who calls us each by name.

People **Let us worship God together!**

***Hymn 33 Praise the Lord! God's Glory Show**

- 1 Praise the Lord! God's glories show, Alleluia!
saints within God's courts below, Alleluia!
angels round the throne above, Alleluia!
all who see and share God's love, Alleluia!
- 2 Earth to heaven exalt the strain, Alleluia!
Send it, heaven, to earth again, Alleluia!
Age to age, God's mercies trace, Alleluia!
Praise God's confidence and grace! Alleluia!
- 3 Strings and voices, hands and hearts, Alleluia!
in the concert, bear your parts, Alleluia!
All that breathes, your Lord adore, Alleluia!
singing praise for evermore, Alleluia!

**Prayer of
Confession**

Betty Voris

Merciful God, the story of Jacob shows your willingness
to enter into the messiness of our human struggles—
into fractured relationships, family differences,
un-reconciled situations with people we care about.
Yet we confess that too often we hold on
because we do not want to loosen our grip
on our possessions and our selfish desires.
Often we fear that our very lives will be dislocated
by your kingdom's values of justice, mercy and peace.
Help us to wrestle with the conflicting values,
desires and pressures that confront us daily
so that we can unclench our fists and open ourselves
to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Silence is kept.

**Only then can we fully embrace others in their pain
and be embraced in ours;
in the name of Christ. Amen**

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader In this place we find God's word, God's way, God's love,
and God's forgiveness.

What more do we need to sustain us
as we continue as pilgrims along the Way?

People **In every wilderness, on every road,
in every wrestling of our mind and heart,**

in every moment, in every life,
in every journey, in every heart,
we receive the daily bread we need:
God's hope, God's mercy, God's joy!

***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 Lost in the Stars

Kurt Weill (1900-1950)

Sergey Khalikulov, bass

***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**

Written by AnnieScott Rogers

Read by Hsiaochien Chuang

Prayer Partners Sandra Keyes, Diane Lewis, Betsy Lutz, Alfred Martin and Harriet MacLean,
Larry Marietta, Maryam, Dianne Middleton and Logan Donaldson, Cheryl Min

**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 Excerpts from Genesis 32 and 33

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 373** O Day of Peace

- 1 O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
our hearts from envy find release,
till by God's grace our warring world
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.
- 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
a little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
all creatures find their true accord;
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
for all the earth shall know the Lord.

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude Fugue in C Major BWV 870/2 from the *Well Tempered Clavier, Book II*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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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Today’s Liturgy and Art

Today’s prayer of confession is from the Church of Scotland’s “Starters for Sunday” website. The art on the cover is “Jacob Wrestling with the Angel,” 1963, by Marc Chagall.

Today’s Organist: Sam Cheng

Sam Cheng served as our organist last Sunday and will do so again today. We extend thanks to Sam for sharing his musical gift with us in worship.

Today’s Coffee Hour

Mary Russell has given today’s coffee hour in gratitude for the Old First Staff.

Last Sunday’s Music

Last Sunday’s solo was “Love Bade Me Welcome” – text by English priest George Herbert (1593-1632), music by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). Jarron Carlson, baritone, was the soloist. As prelude and postlude, guest organist Sam Cheng played two works by J.S. Bach (1685-1750): Prelude and Fugue in F minor, BWV 881, and Fugue in E-flat major, BWV 876/2.

Banners by Josie Iselin

The banners hanging in the church are by San Francisco artist Josie Iselin. She is the co-director of Above/Below, a collaborative working to bring the recognition afforded the forests on land to the kelp forests below the ocean’s surface. The banners depict a kelp forest.

Giants vs. Rockies, September 10

Would you like to see the San Francisco Giants play the Colorado Rockies? Our sister church, St. John’s Presbyterian, has invited us to join them for the Giants baseball game on September 10 at 1:00 pm.

Tickets are only \$27.00, but you’ll need to purchase them by August 11! Simply visit <https://fevogm.com/event/Stjohns5> or St John’s own website stjohnssf.org. Pastor Maggi is sure to preach a short sermon that day because she’s going to the game too!

Old First Town Hall, September 17

Mark your calendars for a town hall/church hall meeting on Sunday, September 17 following coffee hour. This will be the first of many conversations as we begin to explore and dream about where and how God is calling us to share God’s love, to be faithful disciples of Jesus, and to offer welcome and justice on our corner, in our city, and in the world. Our whole community of members and friends is encouraged to attend in person, but plans for on-line participation are in the works. More details to follow.

Recognition Statement that We Gather on Indigenous Lands

Old First Presbyterian Church acknowledges that we live and gather for worship on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone, the original inhabitants of the San Francisco peninsula and an integral and active community in the Bay Area and beyond. 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 people 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.

This Week at Old First

Sunday July 30

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Saturday August 5

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 August 6

11:00 am Worship

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