

Old First Presbyterian Church



Growing Season: Exploring Our Roots Sunday, August 6, 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 Three Quiet Preludes Frederick Jacobi (1891-1952)

Welcome and Church Life

*Call to Worship

Steve Taber

Leader

Hear this invitation from Jesus:

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me.

People

“Get away with me and you’ll recover your life.

I’ll show you how to take a real rest.

Leader “Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it.
Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.

People **“I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you.
Keep company with me,
and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”**

Matthew 11:28-30 from *The Message* by Eugene Peterson

***Hymn 182 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.
- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.
- 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say, “I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me , your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk till traveling days are done.

**Prayer of
Confession**

Steve Taber

Living One, we are your disciples –
your hands and feet in the world today.
In this time when we are staying apart from one another,
we sometimes feel extremely burdened,
as if under a great weight.
Truthfully, we have frequently been tempted
to turn to fear and doubt, not trusting in your presence.
We have narrowed our vision and
avoided our responsibility to continue to care for others,
in our communities and across the globe.
We have become easily angered
with the uncertainty and the changes we face.
We have narrowed our hearts,
and thought only of ourselves
and our desire for ease and certainty.
We have felt burdened and even overwhelmed.

Let us pray in Silence.

**In this time of emptiness and confusion,
fill us with the stability of faith and the clarity of discipleship.
Remind us that we are your beloved,
united by love and by the choice each of us has made
to follow Jesus, to do as Jesus would do. Amen**

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader God promises us life, grace, forgiveness, rest, and hope.
We don't have to reinvent the church or our lives.
We simply need to listen, to learn and to follow in the ways of Jesus.
God promises to be with us and God never goes back on any promises.
This, my friends, is our good news.

People **Thanks be to God, who never gives up on us,
who shares our burdens, who renews our spirits and
whose love is always wrapped around us.**

***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

Mein gläubiges Herze from Cantata No. 68

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Chelsea Hollow, soprano

Mein gläubiges Herze, frohlocke, sing', scherze, mein Jesu ist da! Weg Jammer, weg Klagen, ich will euch nur sagen: Mein Jesu ist nah'.	<i>O my faithful heart, Rejoice, sing, frolick; my Jesus is here. Away with wailing and crying. To you I will say: my Jesus is near.</i>
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***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**

Tom Culp

Prayer Partners Pierre Moyé, Lois Nason, Bryan Nichols and Robin Currier, Chuck and Emily Olson, Karyn Payne, Daniel Pearch, Donald Pender, Kim Pham

**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

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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**

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God

**Come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God,
for Jesus will never say no.**

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude

Allein Gott in der Höh'

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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Today's Liturgy

Today's prayer of confession was written by Ana Gobledale of the United Kingdom.

Thank You to Josie Iselin

This is the last week the banners by San Francisco artist Josie Iselin will hang in the church. Please take a moment to sign a thank you card for her. The card can be found in the narthex after worship and also later at coffee hour.

Iselin 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.

Help Make New Artwork for the Reredos, Today

The Worship Committee is creating new artwork for the reredos (wall behind the choir) to follow the kelp banners by Josie Iselin. Those banners inspired us to think about all the ways the oceans and aquatic life are featured in the biblical story.

This water theme will continue with a school of fish swimming across the reredos. Our fish will be varied and colorful, much like our congregation and our community of San Francisco. Why fish? Fisherfolk were the first people Jesus called as disciples. Jesus fed a multitude with just a few fish. Bodies of water were often the site of some of Jesus' greatest teaching and also places of rest and renewal for Jesus. Early Christians also adopted the fish as a symbol of their faith. The Greek word for fish is **ΙΧΘΥΣ** (ichthys) and forms an acronym for the phrase "Jesus Christ, God's Son, the Savior."

We will need your help with cutting out the fish. Come one, come all to coffee hour after worship today to cut out the fish! We'll have paper, scissors, and fish patterns ready for your use. We will enjoy fun and fellowship as we work together to create this art project.

This art project has inspired Pastor Maggi to preach a series of sermons this summer focusing on water and aquatic life and how these stories still bring us to places of learning today.

Pulpit Exchange, August 13

Next Sunday we will have a pulpit exchange with the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown. At Old First, we will look forward to hearing Chinatown's pastor, the Reverend Don Hammond – who is also our Committee on Ministry representative – and Chinatown will hear our Pastor Maggi Henderson preach. This exchange offers the pastors the opportunity of preaching in another pulpit and the congregations the chance to hear a voice from a sister church: a gift of refreshment for all.

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.

Steve Taber in Israel and Palestine, March 2024

Old First member Steve Taber is joining an immersive tour of Israel and Palestine March 3-16, 2024, through the Reformed Church in America. This tour will take a deep dive into the history and archeology of the bible and into the history and current realities of the Israel-Palestine conflict. To you hear more about the trip please talk directly to Steve or go to the flyer on the bulletin board.

Coffee Hour

Would you like to support our life together by sponsoring coffee hour after worship? There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Sacramento Street lobby. Simply choose a date, add your name and the dedication to appear in the bulletin, and make your contribution of \$50.

This Week at Old First

Sunday August 6

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Saturday August 12

9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry: Volunteer today! Visit Old First's website for a link to the sign-up page: www.oudfirst.org

Afternoon & Overnight Illini 4000: Cyclists from the University of Illinois, who will have ridden their bicycles across the United States to raise fund for cancer research stay overnight in Old First's Fellowship Hall.

Sunday August 13

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