

# Old First Presbyterian Church



## Christmas Eve December 24, 2023

The Reverend Maggi Henderson, Pastor

Concert: Celebrating Christ's Birth

**Organ Solo** Two Chorale Preludes on *In dulci jubilo*

Johann Michael Bach (1648-1694)

Leo Abbott (born 1950)

**Choir**

Ding dong! merrily on high  
in heav'n the bells are ringing:  
Ding dong! verily the sky  
is riv'n with angel singing.

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,  
let steeple bells be swungen,  
And io, io, io,  
by priest and people sungen.

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

16<sup>th</sup> C. French Tune

Pray ye dutifully prime  
your matin chime, ye ringers;  
may ye beautifully rime  
your evetime song, ye singers.  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

G.R. Woodward (1848-1934)

**Solo**

Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995)  
Harmonized by Charles H. Webb  
Sergey Khalikulov, bass

Let there be peace on earth,  
and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth,  
the peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our Maker,  
all are family.  
Let us walk with each other  
in perfect harmony.  
  
Let peace begin with me;  
let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry step I take,  
let this be my solemn vow:  
to take each moment  
and live each moment  
in peace eternally  
Let there be peace on earth  
and let it begin with me

**Organ** OÙ s'en vont ces gais bergers?

Claude Balbastre (17127-1799)

**Duet** "Christe eleison" from Mass in B-minor, BWV 232

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)  
Chelsea Hollow, soprano  
Kirsten Fleischmann, alto

**Choir**

Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)

Love came down at Christmas, Love, all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas, Stars and angels gave the sign.  
Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign?  
Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine;  
Love to God and all people, Love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

**Organ** Carol Rhapsody

Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

**Duet**

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856), arranged by Carl Deis (1883-1960)  
Chelsea Hollow, soprano; Michael Desnoyers, tenor

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!  
Truly he taught us to love one another;  
His law is love, and his gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise his holy name.  
Christ is the Lord; then ever, ever praise we,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

**Worship: The People and Places of the Nativity**

*\*At the asterisks, please rise in body or spirit.*

**Welcome**

Pastor Henderson

**\*Call to**

**Worship**

Leader

On this holiest of nights,

**People**

**We come, joining the shepherds, who are stunned by wonder.**

Leader

On this most silent night,

**People**

**We come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.**

Leader

On this night of carols and candlelight,

**People**

**we come, our glad songs joining with those of the angels choirs above.**

**Narrator**

**\*Hymn 133**

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**The Prophecy**

**Narrator**

Pastor Henderson

**Old Testament**

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Fagler-Yamauchi Family

**New Testament**

Luke 1:39-56

**\*Hymn 83**

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

**Nazareth**

**Narrator**

Pastor Henderson

**Old Testament**

Isaiah 7:14

Roseanne Hoo

**New Testament**

Matthew 1:18-25

**Choir** Mary's Little Boy Child

Jester Hairston (1901-2000)  
Arranged by Ed Lojeski (1942-2020)

Hark now hear the angels sing,  
new King's born today.  
And we will live forevermore  
because of Christmas day.

Long time ago in Bethlehem –  
so the holy Bible say –  
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ,  
was born on Christmas day.

Hark now hear the angels sing,  
new King's born today.  
And we will live forevermore  
because of Christmas day.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
they saw a bright, new, shining star.  
And heard a choir from heaven sing:  
The music came from afar.

Hark now hear the angels sing,  
new King's born today.  
And we will live forevermore  
because of Christmas day.

While Joseph and his wife Mary  
came to Bethlehem that night.  
They found no place bear her child:  
Not a single room was in sight.

By and by they found a nook  
in a stable all forlorn,  
and in a manger cold and dark  
Mary's little child was born.

Trumpets sound and angels sing.  
Listen to what they say:  
that we will live forevermore  
because of Christmas day.

**Bethlehem**

**Narrator** Pastor Henderson

**Old Testament** Micah 5:2-5 Stephen Taber

**New Testament** Luke 2:1-7

**A Christmas Participation Story**

*All take part in the story.*

**\*Hymn 115** **Away in a Manger**

**Prayer** Pastor Henderson

**The Countryside of Judea**

**Narrator** Pastor Henderson

**Old Testament** Isaiah 52:6-7 Jan Hammock and Branch Bender

**New Testament** Luke 2:8-20

**\*Hymn 119** **Hark, the Herald Angels Sing**

**The Home of the Messiah**

**Narrator** Pastor Henderson

**Old Testament** Numbers 24:17-19 Kurt Schwartzmann

**New Testament** Matthew 2:1-12

**Offering** Pastor Henderson

*This Christmas Eve, our offering will support two hospitals in Gaza. For more information, see the announcements.*

*To donate electronically, you may use the kiosk in the narthex or visit Old First's on-line donations page using the QR-Code here*



**\*Hymn 151** **We Three Kings of Orient Are**

*Verse 1 and Refrain: all*

*Verses 2 to 4: soloists; **Refrain: all***

*Verse 5 and Refrain: all*

**To the Ends of the Earth**

**Narrator** Pastor Henderson

**Old Testament** Isaiah 60:1-5 Lisa Robeck

**New Testament** John 1:1-5, 14

**A Christmas Blessing** Pastor Henderson

**\*Hymn** **Silent Night**

- *Take your bulletin and candle – as well as your personal items – with you, as we form a ring around the perimeter of the sanctuary.*
- *Please keep silence until we begin singing.*
- *The words to Silent Night are found on the back page of this bulletin*

**\*Charge and  
Benediction**

**Postlude** Go Tell It on the Mountain

<b>Poinsettia Garden</b>
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Poinsettias have been given by the following:

**Carolyn Asbury**

in gratitude for Pastor Maggi  
in gratitude for Larry Marietta

**Gabby Beck-Engeser**

in memory of her parents Oskar and Ilse Beck

**Diane Brenum**

in gratitude for Larry Marietta's music ministry

**Tracy Clagett**

in memory of Barry Clagett  
in honor of Michael and Nina Berg

**Thomas F. Culp**

in memory of Frank and Mary Culp  
in gratitude for the extended Wagner and Culp families

**Kirsten Fleischmann**

in memory of her grandmother Sophie Otten  
in memory of her father Walter Fleischmann

**Larry Marietta**

in memory of Marion and Dr. Leslie Marietta  
in memory of Elsie and John Smith  
in memory of Priscilla and Hugh Flanagan  
in gratitude for present and past members of the Old First music ministry

**Linda Reyder**

in honor of Tracy Clagett

**Mary Russell**

in honor of Old First staff  
in memory of Jack Rozzell  
in gratitude for her Old First family

**Lori Yamauchi and Jim Fagler**

in gratitude for Mary Russell  
in gratitude for Old First deacons

**Old First Presbyterian Church**

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



[www.oldfirst.org](http://www.oldfirst.org)

415-776-5552

Find Us on Meta/Facebook and YouTube

**Tonight’s Offering**

Our offering this evening will go to relief efforts amid the war in Gaza. As violence escalates in and around Israel/Palestine, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing humanitarian assistance through partners on the ground and through ACT Alliance – an association of over 140 faith-based organizations. PDA’s efforts encompass a wide array of vital humanitarian interventions including medical supplies, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, food and psychosocial support.



Please give generously. Remember to write “Christmas Eve Offering” on your check or envelope. To donate electronically, you may use the kiosk in the narthex or visit Old First’s on-line donations page using the QR-Code here; choose “PDA: Israel/Palestine.”

**All Hands! Interfaith Food Pantry, December 30**

Sign up now to pitch in when members of all the faith communities combine to staff the Interfaith Food Pantry on December 30.



Of course, you can sign up for any or for every Saturday: Simply visit the sign up page by using the QR-code to the right or by visiting Old First’s homepage: [www.oldfirst.org](http://www.oldfirst.org) and following the link in the sidebar column.

**Christmas Hymn Sing, December 31**

Join us for worship and a Christmas Hymn Sing on Sunday, December 31, at 11:00 am. If you’ve missed your favorite Christmas carol or hymn, join us for worship and request the music you’d like to sing. See Hymns 108 through 156 in Glory to God for the hymns of Christmas.

**Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, January 13**

Make a New Year Resolution to support the Interfaith Food Pantry. Old First staffs the pantry on Saturday, January 13. Sign up now. You can find a link to sign up by using either this QR-Code or the link under the Interfaith Food Pantry heading on Old First’s homepage: [www.oldfirst.org](http://www.oldfirst.org)



**Art on the Cover: The Nativity**

The Nativity scene on the cover is courtesy of Freepik.com. Note that the shepherds have come and gone and three wise men from the East have not yet made it to Bethlehem. They’re in the distance. We call their visit to the Christ Child the Epiphany – Greek for “revelation.” Join us at Old First on Sunday, January 7, at 11:00 am, when we will celebrate Epiphany.

**This Week at Old First**

**Monday December 25, Christmas Day**

Church Office Closed

**Friday December 29**

Church Office Closed

**Sunday December 31, the Sunday of Christmas**

11:00 am Worship: We Sing Our Favorite Christmas Hymns

7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall

**Monday January 1, 2024, New Year’s Day**

Church Office Closed

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant, beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born.