

Old First Presbyterian Church



Fourth Sunday in Lent March 10, 2024

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 Adoration
Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen Florence Price (1887-1953)

Welcome and Church Life

Introit Charles R. Cronham (1896-1969)

Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life,
Grant us that way to know, that truth to keep,
That like to win,
Whose joys eternal flow.

George W. Doane (1799-1859)

***Call to Worship** Jan Hammock

Leader On our worst days,

People God is good.

Leader On our best days,

People God is good.

Leader When life is consistent,

People God is good.

Leader And when life turns on its head,
People God is good.
 Leader Day and night, Monday through Sunday,
People God is good. God is here. God is love.
 Leader Hold tight to that good news.
People Let us worship God

***Hymn 618 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High**

- 1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
beyond all thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.
- 2 For us baptized, for us he bore
his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew,
for us, the tempter overthrew.
- 3 For us by wickedness betrayed,
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us gave up his dying breath.
- 4 For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent the Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 5 All glory to our Lord and God,
for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.

**Prayer of
Confession**

Jan Hammock

Holy God, we often find ourselves moving through a world
that does not make sense.
Like Peter, we want to yell out,
"This should not happen!"
When we read the papers, listen on the radio,
view media about what is going on in our city, in our world today,
we just want to yell out "What is happening!
How can get any worse? Where are you God?
We want to control scenarios beyond our reach.
We want to hold your world in our hands.

Forgive us for the moments
 when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity.
Forgive us for arguing
 when we could listen.
Forgive us for fixating on one truth,
 when we could open ourselves up to many.
Forgive us for giving up on ourselves, on the world.

Let us pray silently.

Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen.
With hope in our hearts we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of
 Forgiveness**

Leader Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in,
 no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God,
 no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged,
 or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change—
 we worship a God of grace.

People **Nothing can separate us from God’s love,**
not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart.

Leader We need to hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
 God’s love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine.

People **We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.**

Leader Now follow Peter, and go be the Church in the world.

***Sung Assurance**

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Live in charity and steadfast love.
Live in charity; God will dwell with you.

Latin, 8th Century

English translation: Taizé Community, 1991

Offering *Ushers will now receive the offering. You may also make your offering
 electronically using the QR-code to the right.*



Anthem

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1549-1611)

Vere languores nostros ipse tulit *Truly Christ bore our frailties,*
 et dolores nostros ipse portavit. *and Christ carried our sorrows.*
 Cujus livore sanati sumus. *By his bruises, we have been healed.*

Dulce lignum, Dulces clavos, *Sweet wood, sweet nails,*
 Dulcia ferens pondera, *bearing that sweet weight,*
 Quae sola fuisti digna sustinere *you alone were worthy to hold*
 Regem coelorum et Dominum *the King of Heaven, and our Lord.*

From the Latin Liturgy

***Doxology** Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
 tune my heart to send by grace;
 streams of mercy, never ceasing,
 call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
 sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
 Mount of God's unchanging love!

**Time with
Our Children**

***The Peace**
Leader
People

Peace be with you.
And also with you.

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

**Prayers of the
People**

Betty Voris

Prayer Partners

Gabriele Beck-Engeser, George Becker and Christo Bresnahan, Michael and Nina Berg, Lisa Bigley, Courtney Blake, Chris and Cindy Burt, Carol Carter, Mary Carter

**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 16:21-23

Sung Response

Return to You

We sing the response twice.

**I have a wond'ring heart, and a fickle faith.
Can you find me here, can I see your face?
Help me return to you, help me return to you.**

Sermon

Pastor Henderson

**Affirmation
of Faith**

Leader I believe in a God of second chances,
a God who sees through my stubbornness
and holds my fear with tenderness.

People **I believe that this God of second chances
uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.**

Leader Therefore, I believe and hope
that God can use me too.

People **I believe that from time to time,
God invites us to imagine the impossible.
I believe that from time to time,
God invites us to change our minds.
This change is holy and important work,
although challenging.
When fear and scarcity plague me,
or when the impossible feels out of reach,
I believe that God meets me with grace
and invites me to follow.**

Leader Thanks be to God for a love like that.

People **Amen.**

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn Faithfully I Learned to Follow**
Sung to the tune RATHBUN, Hymn 213

1 **Faithfully I learned to follow
Step by step and not to stray
Marching on with proud bravado
Claiming Jesus as the way**

2 **Life was easy, faith was stable
Then the pathway climbed uphill
Life got harder past the cradle
Jesus Christ I followed still**

3 **Thread by thread my faith unraveled
When the way became unknown
Solid ground gave way to gravel
So I cling to Christ alone**

4 **Though the way leads through steep canyons
I surrender my control
Christ is still my sure companion
As the path before unfolds**

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Today we install new officers.

*Elders: Lori Yamauchi (Class of 2026), Sam Cheng, Sidney Hollar,
Virginia Webb-Pekelnicky (Class of 2027)*

Deacon: Eder Dueñas (Class of 2027)

*The constitutional questions are asked of those to be installed.
Then these questions are asked of the people.*

To the People

An Elder Do we, the members of the church, accept Lori, Sam, Sidney and Virginia as ruling elders and Eder as deacon, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

People We do.

An Elder Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

People We do.

Prayer of Installation

Statement You are now deacons and ruling elders in the Church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

People Amen.

***Charge and Benediction**

Choir

William Billings (1746-1800)

When Jesus wept, the falling tear
in mercy flowed beyond all bound.
When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear
Seized all the guilty world around.

Perez Morton (1751-1837)

Postlude Fughetta No. 2

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

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

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Lent 2024

Wandering Heart: Figuring Out Faith with Peter

The graphic designs here and on the cover are by the Reverend Lauren Wright Pittman; the background painting and photography are by the Reverend Lisle Gwynn Garrity; and today’s liturgy is adapted from Rev. Sarah A. Speed with music by Can Olgun, all of A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Today’s Coffee Hour

Cindy Burt has given today’s coffee hour in honor of Chris Burt’s birthday.

Help Color Butterflies at Coffee Hour

The Worship Committee is featuring butterflies on Easter. Butterflies represent transformation, change, and resurrection. Just as a caterpillar enters its chrysalis to be transformed into a butterfly, Jesus was laid in a tomb to be raised to new life three days later.

So we need your help coloring paper butterflies. Please take few minutes during coffee hour to create some fanciful butterflies for the reredos.

Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry, March 16

Members of Old First and St Luke’s combine to staff the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, **March 16**. Mark your calendars now. To sign up simply use the QR-Code to the right.



Officers Retreat, Saturday, March 23

The pastor, elders and deacons will meet with the Reverend Grace Suzuki for an officers retreat on Saturday, March 23, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Mark your calendars!

4th Saturday Community Dinner, March 23

This month’s 4th Saturday Community Dinner falls on Saturday, March 23. Can you help serve the meal and feast with our guests at the dinner? Volunteers are welcomed from 4:30 pm on. Let us know you can help: 4thsaturdaydinner@oldfirst.org

Holy Week and Easter 2024

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24

11:00 am Worship at Old First Presbyterian Church

We will receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing** special offering this Sunday.
Bring your fish-boxes and your generosity.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28

6:00 pm at Old First Presbyterian Church: Note Time!

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

7:00 pm at Old First Presbyterian Church

EASTER DAY, MARCH 31

10:30 am Choral Prelude and **11:00 am** Worship at Old First Presbyterian Church
We will close worship by singing the “Hallelujah” chorus from G.F. Handel’s *Messiah*.
An **Easter Extravaganza Coffee Hour** will follow worship.
Please bring treats to share!

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 7

11:00 am Worship with Hymn-Sing at Old First Presbyterian Church

This Week at Old First

Sunday March 10

2:00 pm Board of Deacons Meeting, On-Line

4:00 pm O1C: Wooden Fish Ensemble, Violin, Cello and Piano, Music by
Women Composers for International Women’s Day

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Friday March 15

8:00 pm O1C: The Yale Spizzwinks, the world’s oldest underclassmen *a cappella*
vocal group, founded 1914, brings their diverse repertoire of over 600
arrangements to San Francisco.

Saturday March 16

1:00 pm Presbyterian Women, On-Line

9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry: Simply use the QR-code to the right
to sign up!

Sunday March 17

11:00 am Worship with
Children’s Sunday School

4:00 pm O1C: Junior Bach Festival: “a new generation of superbly talented and
virtuosic young soloists and ensembles... expressing the genius of
Bach’s timeless music”

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

