

Old First Presbyterian Church



Sharing God's Love, Welcome, and Justice
On Our Corner, in Our City, And in the World

The Reverend Maggi Henderson, Pastor
The Presbyterian Church (USA)

November 21, 2021

A Season of Stewardship: Recovery and Resurgence

Worship through Praising God

*Please fill out a guest card found in the pew rack and
place it in the offering basket in the narthex when you exit the church building.*

Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.

** At the asterisk, please rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude Three Chorale Preludes on NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Originally composed by Johann Crüger (1595-1662)

Georg Friedrich Kaufmann (1679-1735)

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

**Welcome &
Church Life**

Pastor Henderson

**Stewardship
Moment**

Worship Committee

Introit

Henry Smith (born 1952)

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.
And now let the weak say, "We are strong!";
Let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"
Give thanks. Give thanks.

Based on 2 Corinthians 6:10; 12:10 and Psalm 126:3

***Call to
Worship**

AnnieScott Rogers

Leader

Called to be God's people,
we gather in joy-filled celebration of our Creating God

People

**We celebrate the Godly miracles of creation
we experience every day and night**

Leader

Called to be a people of faith,
we gather to praise our Eternal and Loving God.

People

**Faithful God, we gather to give our thanks
that your promises are totally reliable.**

Leader

Called to be a people of hope and trust,
we gather to give thanks for God's care and compassion
towards people who are vulnerable to life's fears and stresses.

People

**Justice-loving God, we give thanks
that your love and mercy are the source and power
behind your commitment to the created world
and towards all humanity –
especially the vulnerable, dispossessed and isolated in our midst.**

***Hymn 643**

Now Thank We All Our God Arranged by John Rutter (born 1945)

During the hymn, please bring your pledge card forward. Ushers have extra pledge cards or affirmation cards, if you've already submitted your pledge.

- 1 **Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices; who,
from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**
- 2 **O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

**Prayer of
Confession**

AnnieScott Rogers

If we were self-sufficient and
had all the answers,
we would not be here, all-wise God.
If our achievements matched our aims and
our deeds perfectly reflected our holiest vows,
we would not be so spiritually hungry,
God of truth and grace.
If we had cared for our neighbors with the love of Jesus Christ and
cherished our loved ones without selfishness or impatience,
we would not be seeking your mercy, redeeming God.
We bring to you our inept and evil ways,
and rest the troublesome load of frustration,
disappointment, regret, and guilt in your hands.
Please wash the grime and infection from our wounds
and anoint us with the salve of forgiveness.
Take us gently by the chin and lift up our faces,
so we can look up into the face of Christ Jesus
without shame or fear.

We keep silence.

With God, let us recover our authentic humanity and
face all coming challenges with quiet strength and optimism.
In God's name we so pray. Amen.

**Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader Family of God, lift up your spirits with thanksgiving to God,
whose nature is always to have mercy.

People All who have come clean and sought forgiveness
shall never need to revisit old shame again.
The untarnished future is God's
and it is now offered to us with open hands.
We are forgiven, all things have become new
through Christ Jesus, our Savior!
We give thanks to God, who is so good,
whose love goes on forever!

Anthem From *The Creation* Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
 Chelsea Hollow, soprano
 Michael Desnoyers, tenor
 Sergey Khalikulov, bass

Recitative In splendour bright is rising now the sun and darts his rays; a joyful, happy spouse, a giant proud and glad to run his measur'd course. With softer beams and milder light steps on the silver moon thro' silent night. The space immense of th'azure sky, a countless host of radiant orbs adorns, and the heirs of God announced the glorious day in chorus divine, proclaiming thus God's power:

John Milton, adapted

Chorus The heavens are telling the glory of God;
 the wonder of God's works displays the firmament.

Psalm 19:1

Trio To day that is coming speaks it the day;
 the night that is gone to following night.

Psalm 19:2

Chorus The heavens are telling the glory of God...

Trio In all the lands resounds the word,
 never unperceived, ever understood.

John Milton

Chorus The heavens are telling the glory of God...

The Peace *Please remain seated for the Peace.*

Leader Peace be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Worship through Hearing God's Word

**Time with
 Our Children**

Pastor Henderson

**Prayers of the
 People**

Kim Pham

Prayer Partners Doris Bebb, Gabriele Beck-Engeser, George Becker and Christo Bresnahan, Lorraine Bellesi and Tony Roman, Michael Bene, Michael and Nina Berg

**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 Psalm 146 *read responsively*
Colossians 3:15-17

Leader This is the word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastor Henderson

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Leader 1 Give praise to the LORD, proclaim God's name.
Make known among the nations what God has done.

Reader 2 Sing to God, sing praise to God.
Tell of all God's wonderful acts.

People **Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good!**

Reader 3 Glory in God's holy name.
Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Reader 4 Look to the LORD and the LORD's strength.
Seek God's face always.

Reader 2 Remember the wonders God has done,
God's miracles and the judgements God has pronounced,
you God's servants, the descendants of Israel,
you God's chosen ones, the children of Jacob.

People **Give thanks to the LORD,
for God has made God's self known to us!**

Reader 1 God is the LORD our God.
God's judgments are in all the earth.

Reader 3 God remembers God's covenant forever,

Reader 2 the promise God made, for a thousand generations,

Reader 4 the covenant God made with Abraham and Sarah,

Reader 1 the oath God swore to Isaac.

Reader 3 God confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant:

Reader 2 “To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit.”

**People Give thanks to the LORD
for God’s faithfulness from generation to generation!**

Reader 4 When we were but few in number,
few indeed, and strangers in it,
we wandered from nation to nation,
from one kingdom to another.

Reader 1 God allowed no one to oppress us.
For our sake God rebuked kings:
“Do not touch my anointed ones;
do my prophets no harm.”

People Give thanks to the LORD for God’s protection!

Reader 3 Sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Proclaim God’s salvation day after day.

Reader 2 Declare God’s glory among the nations,
God’s marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Reader 1 For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise.
God is to be feared above all gods.

Reader 4 For all the gods of the nations are idols,
But the LORD made the heavens.

Reader 3 Splendor and majesty are before God.
Strength and joy are in God’s dwelling place.

People We sing with joy before the LORD!

Reader 2 Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations.
Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Reader 3 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God’s name.
Bring an offering and come before God.

Reader 4 Worship the LORD in the splendor of God’s holiness.
Tremble before God, all the earth!
The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.

People We worship the LORD with thanksgiving!

Reader 1 Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
Let them say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!”

Reader 3 Let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

Reader 4 Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them!

Reader 2 Let the trees of the forest sing,
let them sing for joy before the LORD,
for God comes to judge the earth.

**People Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God's love endures forever.**

Reader 1 Cry out, "Save us, God our Savior;
gather us and deliver us from the nations,

Reader 4 that we may give thanks to your holy name,
and glory in your praise."

**People Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.**

Worship through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**

- 1 **Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come:
raise the song of harvest home.**
- 2 **All the world is God's own field,
fruit in thankful praise to yield,
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.**
- 3 **For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
From each field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
give the angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in God's garner evermore.**

4 Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there forever purified,
in thy presence to abide:
come, with all thine angels, come;
raise the glorious harvest home.

***Charge and
Benediction**

Pastor Henderson

You can place your offering in the basket when you leave the church.

Are you visiting today? Please fill in the contact tracing binder, if you have not already done so.

Please follow the pastor outside and greet one another in the open air.

A Season of Stewardship: Recovery and Resurgence

Today we conclude our Season of Stewardship and gather our pledge cards for the year ahead. However, Old First continues hoping, visioning and planning for 2022. If you haven't received a pledge card, please get one from the ushers today.

Advent Begins, Baptism, Communion, Next Sunday

Today is the last Sunday of the church year. Next Sunday, November 28, is the first Sunday of Advent and we begin a new church year. Old First will also celebrate both a baptism – baby Isaac – and communion.

Inquirers and New Members Classes, December

Pastor Maggi is planning to hold an Inquirers and New-Members Class on either December 5 or 12. Please contact Pastor Maggi, if you're interested, and let her know what date might work for you. Use the button below to E-mail her.

Old First On-Line: Info, Worship, Bulletin, Giving

Want links to Sunday worship? Want to find the bulletin in advance of Sunday worship? Want to revisit earlier on-line worship services? Want to make a donation, pay your pledge, or find out more about Old First? Easy!

You can find Old First on-line at our website www.olfirst.org, on **Facebook**, and on our **YouTube** channel. On Old First's website – www.olfirst.org – look for “On-Line Worship at Old First” in the right-hand sidebar column for links to Sunday's livestream, to the bulletin in “pdf” format for downloading or printing, and to Old First's YouTube channel playlist. And you can always make your offering on-line at <https://donations.olfirst.org>

On the Cover: A Crown

Did you notice the image on the first page? If it seems familiar, it should: Our office admin, Brad Peterson, has been taking photos of architectural elements and artwork in our church for use in the bulletin. Can you find the element featured today? Any guesses why he featured this today, on the last Sunday of the church year?