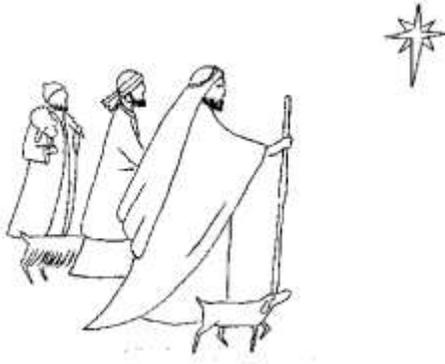


Old First Presbyterian Church



The Sunday of Christmas January 1, 2023

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	“Prière à Notre-Dame” from <i>Suite Gothique</i>	Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)
Welcome and Church Life		Pastor Henderson
*Call to Worship		Roseanne Hoo
Leader	We waited	
People	And imagined a savior.	
Leader	We imagined power,	
People	One like the world but strong and on our side.	
Leader	We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.	
People	We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.	
Leader	We imagined the work done for us through the destruction of our enemies.	
People	We receive a baby who will teach us our calling to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.	
Leader	Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.	
People	Praise to the wisdom of love. Amen.	

***Hymn 121**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

- 1 **O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!**
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- 2 **For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,**
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
- 3 **How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!**
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 **O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;**
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**Prayer of
Confession**

Roseanne Hoo

We could offer welcome,
but we often choose judgment.
We could choose action,
but we often choose silence.
We could choose advocacy,
but we often choose comfort.
We could choose truth,
but we often choose ignorance.
We could choose God,
but we often choose ourselves.
Forgive us, gracious God,
for the moments when we chose poorly.

Silence is kept.

Open our hearts to choose you,
to choose community, to choose love.
Gratefully we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader

Family of faith, no matter how we choose, we cannot lose God's love.
It is undeserved, overwhelming, ever-present, and always with us.
So may we accept God's grace, and use it as fuel for better days.

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

People

No matter how many times we walk away,
God always welcomes us home.
We are loved.
We are forgiven.
We are invited.
Thanks be to God.

***Gloria** Angels We have Heard on High, Hymn 113, Refrain Only

Refrain **Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Offering *Ushers will now receive the offering. You may also make your offering electronically using the kiosk in the narthex.*

Mazurka in A Minor, Op. 59 No. 1

Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

***Doxology**

GREENSLEEVES

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

This, this is Christ the King,

whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud,

the babe, the son of Mary. Amen.

**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**

Jeanne Kirkwood

Prayer Partners

Rick and Mary Wiebe, Pat Amdur, Alison Armstrong and Ken Kiplinger and Julia, Beth Arnaoot and Liny Adams, Carolyn Asbury, Erwin Barron and Coy Abellano, Doris Bebb

**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

Luke 2:1-20

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.

**We Sing Our
Faith**

Please choose a Christmas hymn found in the hymnal:

See Hymns 108 through 156 in Glory to God.

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

**A New Year
Litany**

Leader Lord, in the beginning when all was very dark, you said:
"Let there be light."

All **And there was light and life throughout the universe.**

**And when our human race was exhausted, tired and weary,
in the darkness of anxiety, confusion and sin,
into that darkness you came as light in Christ Jesus.
You became a human being among us all.**

Once again it is dark.

**Not just dark at midnight but dark in ourselves:
dark with doubt, dark with fear and uncertainty,
dark with confusing and conflicting voices in our ears.**

**Come, Light of life,
lighten the darkness in our lives with your mighty word of love.
Lighten our hearts with the joy of your promised coming.
Lighten our world with the hope that faith in you still brings.**

**We go out into this new year in your peace, Christ Jesus.
May your peace that lightens the soul with faith
lift our spirits with hope, leaven the world with love, and
remain with us and in us now and always.**

**May your blessing –
Eternal God, Incarnate Christ, and Holy Spirit –
go with us and abide with us now and always.
Amen.**

Adapted from John Harvey

***Hymn 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain**

**Refrain Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled when - lo! - above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.**

**3 Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude "Aria" from Keyboard Partita in D Major, BWV 828 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 Guest Organist, Sam Cheng

Today we welcome Old First member, Sam Cheng, as our guest organist.

Cutting Out Star Words at Coffee Hour, Today

Join us at coffee hour after worship today to cut out the "star words" which we will distribute next Sunday, January 8, when we will remember the Star of Bethlehem and the Magi's visit to the Christ Child.

Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, January 14

Make a New Year Resolution to support the Interfaith Food Pantry. Old First staffs the pantry on Saturday, January 14. Sign up now. You can find a link to sign up on Old First's homepage under the Interfaith Food Pantry heading: www.oldfirst.org

Coffee Hour Sponsorship

Looking for a gift for loved ones or friends at Old First? Why not sponsor our coffee hour in their honor? It's only fifty dollars. The sign up sheet has returned to the bulletin board in the Sacramento Street lobby. We'll include your dedication in that Sunday's bulletin.

This Week at Old First

- Sunday January 1, New Year's Day**
7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall
- Monday January 2**
Church Office Closed
- Friday January 6, The Epiphany**
8:00 pm O1C: Sarah Cahill, piano: including four world premieres
- Saturday January 7**
9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry, Social Hall and Sidewalk
- Sunday January 8**
11:00 am Worship
1:00 pm Board of Deacons, On-Line
7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall

Old First Presbyterian Church Staff

The Reverend Maggi Henderson	Pastor
The Reverend Erwin C. Barron	Parish Associate
The Reverend Lisa Robecheck	Parish Associate
Larry Marietta	Music Director
Brad Peterson	Office Administrator
Kristi Hoerauf	Wedding Coordinator