

# Old First Presbyterian Church



## First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2024

### Worship Through Praising God

*Easy-to-use earphones to assist with hearing are available from the ushers.*

*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.*

<b>Prelude</b>	Improvisation on VENI EMMANUEL	Raymond Haan (born 1938)
<b>Advent Wreath</b>		Mary Russell, Linda Reyder
Leader	In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?	
People	<b>Let us begin with the good news!</b> <b>Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God.</b> <b>Let us begin with music and singing!</b> <b>Let us begin with warmth and welcome.</b> <b>Let us begin with hope.</b>	
Leader	Yes, let us begin with hope. Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.	
People	<b>May this be our foundation.</b> <b>May this be our fresh start.</b> <b>May this be our new beginning.</b>	
Leader	May hope flow forth from here. Amen!	

*The first candle on the Advent wreath is lit.*

Welcome and  
Church Life

Introit

15<sup>th</sup> Century Franciscan Processional  
Harmonized by Thomas Hellmore (1811-1890)

Veni, veni, Emmanuel,	<i>Come, come, Emmanuel,</i>
captivum solve Israel,	<i>release captive Israel,</i>
qui gemit in exilio	<i>who moans in exile,</i>
privatus Dei Filio.	<i>deprived of God's Son.</i>
Gaude, gaude! Emmanuel	<i>Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel</i>
nascetur pro te, Israel.	<i>will be born for you, Israel.</i>

\*Call to Worship

Eder and Sebastián Dueñas

Leader	God says,
People	<b>“Do not be afraid.”</b>
Leader	God says,
People	<b>“I have called you by name.”</b>
Leader	God says,
People	<b>“I will be with you.”</b>
Leader	God says,
People	<b>“You are precious and honored in my sight.”</b>
Leader	At the beginning of this season,
People	<b>at the start of this week,</b>
Leader	at the top of this hour,
People	<b>may we wrap ourselves in these words.</b>
Leader	May we begin again.
People	<b>Let us worship our God!</b>

\*Hymn

**In Case No One Ever Told You**

*Sung to the tune of Hymn 35 (“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”)*

- 1 In case no one ever told you or you have forgotten,  
You are a blessing and have been since you were begotten,  
Fashioned from love,  
Sent to the earth from above,  
You’re nothing short of a godsend.**
- 2 You are the masterpiece born of God’s imagination,  
Even the parts that are crying out for restoration.  
All that you are  
Born out of stardust and scars  
Reflects God’s perfect creation.**

3 You are uniquely created for love and belonging,  
Forcing yourself to be someone you're not is exhausting.  
You are a gift.  
There is no box you must fit.  
Let your belovedness blossom.

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Prayer of  
Confession

Eder and Sebastián Dueñas

**Affirming God,**  
your first words to creation were words of love.  
You looked at this earth and said, "It is good."  
You spoke affirmations through the prophets.  
You spoke blessings over Mary, and you bless us still.  
Yet, we hold on to your blessings as if they were just for us,  
and do not share them easily or freely with others.  
You spoke belonging through Christ.  
At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing,  
made in your image, held in your love,  
yet we act as if we weren't worth loving,  
as if our lives should not reflect your love.  
Forgive us for forgetting this truth.  
Forgive us for measuring our worth  
by society's measuring stick instead of yours.

*Let us confess silently....*

**In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

\*Assurance of  
Forgiveness

Leader Family of faith, I don't know the last time someone told you  
that you are good, just as you are.  
I don't know the last time you heard  
that you are loved and created in the image of God.  
I don't know the last time you trusted those words and  
truly believed that you are a blessing.  
However, in case it has been a while,  
hear these words from Isaiah: "God says,

**People Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name. You are mine."**

Leader We are forgiven. We are loved.  
Let this leave you awestruck.

**People Thanks be to God!  
May we believe it. Amen.**

**\*Response** VENITE ADOREMUS: *For tune, see refrain of Hymn 116.*  
**Venite adoremus Dominum.** *Come, let us adore the Lord.*  
**Venite adoremus Dominum!** *Come, let us adore the Lord!*

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



**Anthem** Mary's Song Lloyd Larson (born 1954)  
Chelsea Hollow, soprano, Kirsten Fleischmann, alto  
Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God!  
You will bear a child; you will birth a son.  
His name shall be called Jesus!  
He will be great and be called the Son of the Most High God!  
God will give him David's throne and his kingdom will never end!  
My soul magnifies the Lord!  
My spirit rejoices in God, my Savior!  
The Lord, my Savior!  
The Lord has done great things!  
Holy is the Lord! Magnify the Lord! Based on Luke 1:26-55

**\*Doxology** PUER NOBIS: *For tune, see Hymn 152.*  
**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!**

**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** Pastor Henderson  
Prayer Partners Virginia Webb-Pekelnicky and Bob Pekelnicky, Teddy and Eden, Rick and Ellen Wiebe, Kim Williams, Matt Wolka and family

**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** Isaiah 43:1-7 (pages 631-632)

Luke 1:26-38 (page 53)

**Leader** The Word of God in scripture.

**People** Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

Pastor Henderson

**Affirmation  
of Faith**

**We believe in a blessing God  
who calls us Beloved.**

**We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary,  
and also in the lives of**

**the lepers and Samaritans,**

**the poor in spirit,**

**the children,**

**the crowds,**

**the Jews,**

**the Gentiles,**

**the faithful and the doubting.**

**So in faith,**

**we trust that God's blessing, like ripples on the water,  
forever reaches toward us.**

**And with wild hope,**

**we believe that because of this blessing,  
we are covered in love.**

**We are more than enough.**

**Thanks be to God!**

<b>Worship Through Responding to God's Word</b>
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**\*Hymn 88** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**1** O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

- 2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
 who ord'rest all things mightily:  
 to us the path of knowledge show;  
 and teach us in her ways to go.
- 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
 who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
 in ancient times didst give the law  
 in cloud and majesty and awe.
- 4 O come, thou root of Jesse,  
 free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
 from depths of hell thy people save  
 and give them victory o'er the grave.
- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come,  
 and open wide our heavenly home;  
 make safe the way that leads on high,  
 and close the path to misery.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
 our spirits by thine advent here;  
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 all peoples in one heart and mind;  
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

**\*Charge and  
 Benediction**

**Choir**

Don Cason (born 1954)

While we are waiting, come;  
 while we are waiting, come.  
 Jesus, our Lord Emmanuel,  
 while we are waiting, come.  
 With power and glory, come...  
 Come, Savior, quickly come...

Claire Cloninger (1942-2019)

**Postlude**

Wachet Auf!

Sigrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

*You may depart or stay to listen to the postlude as you wish.  
 However, do please join us in the fellowship hall downstairs for coffee hour.*

## 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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### **Our Advent Theme: Words for the Beginning**

For me, this Advent series, “Words for the Beginning” from A Sanctified Art LLC, imparts a feeling just as much as a message. It feels like a warm blanket wrapped around us, giving us courage to face the increased anxiety and intensity that an election season brings. It feels like steady ground, a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown of a new year. It feels like a soft whisper in our ears, reminding each of us of who we are and whose we are. It feels like love. This season, may God’s all-embracing and steadying love be our companion. Read the paragraph below to hear the authors’ own words about the series.

Peace! –Pastor Maggi

We have crafted an Advent series filled with blessings, with the words we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season. We imagined the words Mary would speak to her newborn son. What scriptures and stories would she impart to him? What lessons would she teach him as he grew? And so, our weekly themes may feel like the lessons we teach to children, but in reality, these are lessons we continue to learn and relearn as adults. They may sound like the messages we impart to loved ones during special ceremonies or sacred rituals. We intentionally selected scriptures that may be frequently used in weddings, ordination services, or baptisms. And so, we invite you to enter this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead. As you journey through this season, may you find words for belovedness and hope. May you find words for beginning again. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, love is your beginning. – A Sanctified Art LLC

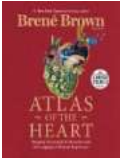
### **Today's Liturgy and Hymn: A Sanctified Art**

Today's liturgical texts are adapted from prayers by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. The opening hymn text is by Anna Strickland, commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

### **Devotionals, Advent Calendars**

Advent devotional booklets are available the narthex today – as are Advent Calendars to color for both children and the young at heart.

**Next Book Discussion, December 2**



The next session of our new book discussion of Brené Brown’s Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connections and Language of the Human Heart will take place via Zoom tomorrow, Monday, December 2, at 7:00 pm. At this session, we’ll cover Chapter 11 “Places We Go When Life Is Good.” Newcomers are always welcome!

If you’ve downloaded the Zoom App, use Meeting ID: 817 4408 7981 and Passcode: 460421. If not, simply click on the web address below or enter it into your computer’s browser. A live link to this web address also appears in Maggi’s weekly Saturday E-mail.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81744087981?pwd=TVVOUVptVldlMll1T2VFQ2ZMMWl0QT09>

**Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, December 7**

Members of Old First and St Luke’s combine to staff the Interfaith Food Pantry this Saturday, December 7. Mark your calendars now: We need your helping hands! To sign up simply use the QR-Code to the right.



**This Week at Old First**

- Sunday December 1: First Sunday of Advent**
- After Worship Coffee Hour
- 7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Monday December 2**
- 7:00 pm Book Discussion Group, On-Line
- Friday December 6**
- 3:30 pm Memorial for Hugh Thacher
- Saturday December 7**
- 9:00 am Old First Staffs the Food Pantry
- 7:30 pm O1C: Young Women’s Chorus of San Francisco – Carols by Candlelight
- Sunday December 8: Second Sunday of Advent**
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 am Worship
- After Worship Coffee Hour
- 2:00 pm Board of Deacons, On-Line
- 7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

**Old First Presbyterian Church**

- The Reverend Maggi Henderson Pastor
- The Reverend Erwin C. Barron Parish Associate
- Larry Marietta Music Director
- Jarron Carlson Composer-in-Residence
- Brad Peterson Church Office Administrator
- Kristi Hoerauf Wedding Coordinator