

Old First Presbyterian Church



Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 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.*

- Prelude** Two Chorale Preludes
Puer natus in Bethlehem Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
Nun komm der heiden Heiland Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
- Advent Wreath** Andrea Segura Smith, Randy Smith
Leader In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?
Where do we start?
- People** **Let us begin together.**
Let us begin arm in arm.
Let us begin by holding each other up,
instead of tearing each other down.
Let us begin with words of peace.
- Leader Yes, let us begin with peace.
Today we light the candles of hope and peace.
- People** **May these lights remind us of what could be.**
May these lights mark a new beginning.
May peace flow like a river,
and may it start with us.
- Leader Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side.
May we begin again. Amen.

Two candles on the Advent wreath are lit.

Welcome and Church Life

Introit Christ is Born! Glory to God! No. 1
Prophets speak tidings of hope
for all who dwell in deep darkness!
Prophets speak tidings of hope!
Lift up your heads! Light is coming!
Glory to God in the highest!

John A. Dalles (born 1954)

***Call to Worship**

Bill Feister

Leader In a world that is lonely,
People we will save a seat for you.
Leader In a world that is anxious,
People we will light candles against the gloom.
Leader In a world that is weary,
People we will sing songs of joy and truth.
Leader I am not alone.
People We are not alone.
Leader For here in this place, God is weaving us together.
People Light the candles! Sing with joy!
We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

***Hymn To Be Known**

©2024 Anna Strickland

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by John Baptiste Calkin, 1872

Re - call the truth that we once knew: We were not made for sol - i - tude
For in the gar - den God de - clared That our brief lives on earth be shared
In ev - ery age hu - man - i - ty Re - lied on mu - tu - al - i - ty
Both you and I are in - ter - twined The warp and weft of hu - man - kind

We need comm - u - ni - ties of faith Where we can feel God's warm em - brace
With part - ners, friends, and fam - i - ly Who hold us in our joy and grief
Our God - breathed spi - rits weren't de - signed To be di - vi - ded and con - fined
So please don't try to go a - lone Your hu - man heart needs to be known

***Prayer of
Confession and
Assurance**

Bill Feister

Leader I have tried to make my own way.
I have tried to lace my own shoes, to heal my own self,
to kindle my own faith.
I have said a thousand times, “turn back, leave me alone”
as if I am fine on my own.
But the days are long and I am forgetful.
I need your help. Can you remind me?

**People We will remind you of this everlasting truth:
You are not alone. Where you go, God goes.
You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.**

Leader Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

**People Now we need your help.
We, too, have tried to make our own way.
We have tried to lace our own shoes, to heal our selves,
to kindle our own faith.
We have said a thousand times, “turn back, leave me alone”
as if we are fine on our own.
But the days are long and we are forgetful.
We need your help. Can you remind us?**

Leader I will remind you of this everlasting truth:
You are not alone. Where you go, God goes.
You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.

**People Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe.
Alleluia! 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 *Ushers will now receive the offering. You may also make your offering electronically using the QR-code at the right.*



Anthem E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come
Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord.
The Lord, Almighty God.
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing holy, holy, Lord!

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
 Rejoice on earth ye saints below,
 for Christ is coming soon!
 E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
 And night shall be no more;
 They need nor light nor lamp nor sun,
 For Christ will be their All!

Revelation 22; adapted by Ruth Manz (1919-2008)

***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**

Carolyn Asbury

Prayer Partners Pat Amdur, Alison Armstrong and Julia, Beth Arnaoot and Liny Adams,
 Carolyn Asbury, Erwin Barron and Coy Abellano, Gabriele Beck-Engeser

**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.**

Solo

Entreat Me Not to Leave Thee Charles Gounod (1818-1893)
 Kirsten Fleischmann, mezzo-soprano

And Ruth said: Entreat me not to leave thee,
 or to return from following after thee,
 for whither thou goest I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge.
 Thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God.
 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried.
 The Lord do so to me, and more also,
 if aught but death part thee and me.

Ruth 1:16-17

Scripture Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (page 582)
Ruth (pages 230-233)

Leader The Word of God in scripture.

People Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Henderson

Affirmation of Faith We believe in a with-us God:
a God who walks with us in the valley,
dances with us on the mountaintop,
sings with us through the night and
rejoices in the morning.
We believe that this with-us God
wired us for relationship,
saying to creation on the very first week,
“Humans should not be alone.”
Therefore, in an effort to be who God called us to be,
we strive to live like the Trinity—
connected, united, and centered.
We believe in the power of community.
We commit to learning each other’s names.
We choose to journey with each other,
like Ruth with Naomi.
And we remember that no one can go through life alone.
Thanks be to God, for lighting our way.

Worship Through Responding to God’s Word

- *Hymn 105** People, Look East
- 1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able;
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 - 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east: Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 - 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled,
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east: Love, the Bird, is on the way.

- 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
 one more light the bowl shall brim,
 shining beyond the frosty weather,
 bright as sun and moon together.
 People, look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.
- 5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
 Christ who bring new life to earth.
 Set every peak and valley humming
 with the word, the Lord is coming.
 People, look east: Love, the Lord is on the way.

***Charge and
 Benediction**

Choir

Christ is Born! Glory to God! No. 2
 Angels bring whispers of love
 for all who wait and who listen!
 Angels bring whispers of love...Stop!
 Hold your breath, love is coming!
 Glory to God in the highest! John A. Dallas (born 1954)

Postlude

Voluntary on FROM HEAVEN ON HIGH TO EARTH I COME
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

*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

www.oldfirst.org • 415-776-5552

Find Us on Meta/Facebook and YouTube



On the Cover: Log Cabin Quilt Square



The quilt squares on each end of the banner on the cover are in the log cabin pattern, which symbolizes that together we can hold one another up and make something greater.

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.

Today's Coffee Hour

Erwin Barron has given today's coffee hour in memory of his mother, whose birthday would have been this week.

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 Sunday's Guest Preacher: Betty Delaney

Next Sunday, December 15, Elder Betty Delany from Ocean Ave Presbyterian Church will offer us a sermon filled with Christmas hymns, scripture, and reflections.

Building Walk-Thru: Dreaming Our Future, December 15

After coffee hour next Sunday, December 15, the congregation is invited to join a walk-thru of Old First's historic building to consider our dreams for maintaining and improving the building for our ministry "On our Corner, in Our City, and in the World."

Christmas Eve at Old First, December 24

6:30 pm Choral Prelude
7:00 pm Worship, Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Party at the Tabers, December 24

Steve and Sarah Taber will host their annual Christmas Eve potluck dinner for members and friends of Old First Presbyterian Church from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at 1170 Green Street above Hyde Street. You are invited and, if you have a few family members in town, bring them too.

The Tabers will provide ham, turkey, scalloped potatoes, hot mulled cider, and Steve's persimmon pudding! Guests are invited to bring appetizers, side dishes, deserts and/or beverages to share. Please let Sarah or Steve know if you can come and what you can bring: Sarah@sstaber.com or Steve@sstaber.com

Christmas Joy Special Offering, December 22

Old First will receive the Christmas Joy Special Offering on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22. However, you can make your Joy Gift offering earlier by using Old First's donations page (<https://new.oldfirst.org/donations/>) or the QR-code on today's insert.

4th Saturday Community Dinner, December 27

A wonderful way to say thank you to God is to join us for the 4th Saturday Community Dinner with our neighbors and friends. The next dinner falls on December 27, the third day of Christmas. 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; simply E-mail: 4thsaturdaydinner@oldfirst.org

This Week at Old First

Sunday December 8: Second Sunday of Advent

After Worship Coffee Hour
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Monday December 9

11:00 am Finance Committee, On-Line

Tuesday December 10

7:00 pm Worship Committee, On-Line

Friday December 13

8:00 pm O1C: Golden Bough

Saturday December 14

9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry

Sunday December 15: Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

11:00 am Worship

After Worship Coffee Hour

After Coffee Hour Building Walk-Thru

1:00 pm Board of Deacons Meeting and Lunch, Munro Room

4:00 pm O1C: Ragazzi Boys Chorus Concert

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