

Old First Presbyterian Church



Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 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 Noël “Votre bonté Grand Dieu” Claude Balbastre (1724-1799)

Advent Wreath Roseanne Hoo, Betty Vaughan

Leader In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?
Where do we start?

People **Let us start small.**
Let us begin with what is right in front of us.

Leader **Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!**

Yes, let us begin with joy.
Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

People **May these lights remind us of what could be.**
May these lights inspire action.

Leader **May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.**

May it be so! Amen.

Three candles on the Advent wreath are lit.

**Welcome and
Church Life**

Introit

***Call to Worship**

Pastor Henderson

Leader Dear Lord, during Advent we focus on the themes
of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

People We gather today to hear about your love and grace.

Leader May this service be a reminder
of the fact that your love knows no bounds,

People that your love is a source of comfort and strength,

Leader that we are cherished beyond measure,

People and that your love is the foundation upon which we stand.

***Hymn 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful, verses 1 and 2**

1 O come, all ye faithful joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

2 True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

***Prayer of
Confession**

Pastor Henderson

Liberating God,
there are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling.
There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference.
I ask myself,
What could these two hands do?
What could this one voice say?
Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt.
Remind me that I am not called to fix everything.
Remind me that you always journey with us, that we are not alone,
for we are stronger together.

Please pray silently.

I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do.
With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray. Amen.

**Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader Friends, no matter how many times
we lose momentum,
doubt our own ability,
or tell ourselves that the problems of the world are simply too big,
God sees what we cannot.

God calls us by name,
surrounds us in grace,
and invites us to begin again.

Trusting in this good news,
join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

People **We are loved. We are forgiven.**
We are invited to do the good that is ours to do.
Thanks be to God for this new beginning. 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 In the Beginning Was the Word Paul Sjolund (born 1935)

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

The same was in the beginning with God.
All things were made by him;
and without him was not any thing made that was made.
In him was life;
and the life was the light of men.
And the light shineth in darkness;
and the darkness comprehended it not.
That was the true Light,
which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
But as many as received him,
to them gave he power to become the sons of God.

John 1:1-5,9,12a

***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

Advent Message From Creation to Heaven: Reflecting on God's Plan

Elder Betty Delaney
Ingleside Presbyterian Church

CREATION

Solo Creator of the Stars of Night
 Creator of the stars of night,
 your people's everlasting light,
 O Christ, redeemer, of us all,
 we pray you, hear us when we call.

 When this old world drew on toward night,
 you came; but not in splendor bright,
 not as a monarch, but the child
 of Mary, blameless mother mild.

 At your great name, O Jesus, now
 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
 all things on earth with one accord,
 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

 To God the Father, God the Son,
 And God the Spirit, Three in One,
 praise, honor, might, and glory be,
 from age to age eternally. Amen.

Scripture John 1:1
 Genesis 1:26

Message

GOD'S COVENANTS

Hymn 147 The First Nowell, verse 6

**Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the king of Israel.**

Apostle's Creed **I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven and sitteth
on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Message

HOPE: THE PROMISE OF A MESSIAH

Hymn 88 **O Come, O Come Emmanuel, verse 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.**

Scripture Isaiah 9:6-7

Message

CHRIST, THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Hymn 119 **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, verse 3
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"**

Scripture Romans 5:1

Message

SEEKING AND EXPERIENCING JOY

Hymn 134 Joy to the World, verse 1
**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing...**

Scripture John 3:16

Message

GOD'S LOVE: DO THE GOOD THAT IS YOURS TO DO

Hymn 122 Silent Night, verse 3
**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant, beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Scripture 1 John 4:10

Message

SUMMARY: THE PLAN

Hymn 123 It Came Upon A Midnight Clear, verse 5
**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

Scripture Isaiah 46:9-10, 11b

Message

<p>Worship Through Holy Communion</p>
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**Invitation to the
Lord's Table**

**The Great
Thanksgiving**

Leader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Leader Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks praise.**

The leader continues the prayer.

Leader God in Community, now we pray the prayer your son taught us:

**The Lord's
Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Words of
Institution**

**The Bread
and the Cup**

All are invited to come forward to share in the Lord's Supper.

Receive the bread from the pastor, then dip it in the wine or grape juice.

There is wine in the chalice and grape juice in the cup.

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful, verses 3 and 4

3

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**

**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

4

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!**

**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude

Finale. Toccata on the Gregorian Hymn "Conditor alme siderum"
from *First Religious Suite for Organ* Pietro A. Yon (1886-1943)

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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This Week at Old First

Sunday December 15: Third Sunday of Advent

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

Tuesday December 17

7:00 pm Session, On-Line

Saturday December 21

9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry
1:00 pm Presbyterian Women, On-Line

Sunday December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship
After Worship Coffee Hour
4:00 pm O1C: Kitka "Wintersongs – Supra: A Seasonal Feast of Song"
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday December 24: Christmas Eve

6:30 pm Choral Prelude
7:00 pm Worship with Candlelight

Wednesday December 25: Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

Saturday December 28

5:15 pm 4th Saturday Community Meal, Fellowship Hall

Sunday December 29: First Sunday of Christmas

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship with Hymn-Sing
After Worship Coffee Hour
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

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On the Cover: Quilt Square



The quilt squares on the bulletin cover reflect the theme “Do the good that is yours to do.” We are each uniquely gifted, called, and equipped for the good that is ours to do in the world. In the center is the cross, symbolizing Christ’s light, and surrounding it are individuals reaching out and shining their particular light in the world.

Today’s Liturgy: A Sanctified Art

Today’s candle-lighting liturgy, and confession and assurance are adapted from texts by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Today’s Guest Preacher: Betty Delaney

Today we welcome Betty Delaney, an elder at Ingleside Presbyterian Church, who will offer us a sermon filled with Christmas hymns, scripture, and reflections.

Devotionals, Advent Calendars

Devotional booklets for Advent and Christmas are still available in the narthex – as are Advent Calendars to color for both children and the young at heart.

Today’s Coffee Hour

Andrea Segura Smith has given today’s coffee hour in memory of her father, Tom, and of her brother, Taylor.

Building Walk-Thru: Dreaming Our Future, Today After Coffee Hour

After coffee hour today, 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 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 by reading the QR-code on today’s insert or by writing a check payable to “Old First Presbyterian Church” with “Christmas Joy” on the memo line.

Longest Night, December 22

Last week's theme of We Can't Go Alone powerfully reminded us that we need each other. Acknowledging that this season can be a mix of joy and sadness you are invited to participate in a service for the Longest Night with our friends at Calvary Presbyterian Church.

THE (UN)EXILED LIGHT
A Service for The Longest Night (Solstice)
Sunday, December 22 at 5:00 pm
Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore Street

When the sun sets on December 22, the winter solstice, the light will begin to come out of exile. We will gather for our annual service of music, poetry, stillness and candlelight prayer. Email Miland, cellist, will be our special guest.

If you like to sing, you are invited to preview the service music in the chapel beginning at 4:00 pm. A fireside reception will follow the service.

Christmas Eve at Old First, December 24

6:30 pm Choral Prelude
7:00 pm Worship with Candlelight

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

4th Saturday Community Dinner, December 28

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 28, the fourth 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

Cookies for Coffee Hour, December 29

Please bring your leftover Christmas goodies to share at coffee hour on Sunday, December 29. Cookies, bars, and candies are all welcome and great for sharing

Pledging for 2025

Have you sent in your pledge card for 2025? If not, you can find a pledge card in the pew racks or pick one up in the narthex. Your pledge helps Old First plan our ministry "On our Corner, in Our City, and in the World" in the coming year.