

Old First Presbyterian Church



Christmas Eve
December 24, 2024

The Reverend Maggi Henderson, Pastor

Concert: Celebrating Christ's Birth

Organ Chorale Prelude on IN DULCI JUBILO Leo Abbott (born 1950)
Solo I Wonder as I Wander
Music and Text by John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)
Sergey Khalikulov, bass-baritone

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus, the Savior, had come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, t'was in a cow's stall
With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all,
But high in God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages, it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing
 A star in the sky or a bird on the wing
 Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing
 He surely could have it, for he was the king!

Duet "Fecit potentiam" from *Magnificat* Giacomo Puccini, Sr. (1712-1781)
 Chelsea Hollow, soprano
 Sergey Khalikulov, bass-baritone

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo; *He has shown strength with his arm;*
 Dispersit superbos mente cordis sui. *He has scattered the proud
 in the imagination of their hearts.*

Luke 1:51

Anthem When All the World's Asleep from *Ballads of a Bogman*
 John Milne (born 1952)

Brush the floor and clean the hearth, and set the fire to keep,
 they might visit us tonight when all the world's asleep.

Don't blow the tall white candle out, but leave it burning bright,
 so they will know they're welcome here, this holy Christmas night.

Joseph will be travel-tired and Mary pale and wan
 and they can sleep a little while, before they journey on.

They will be weary of the road and rest will comfort them.
 For it must be many a lonely mile from here to Bethlehem.

O long the road they have to go, the bad mile with the good,
 'Til the journey ends on Calvary, beneath a cross of wood.

So leave the door upon the latch, and set the fire to keep,
 and pray they'll rest with us tonight when all the world's asleep.

The Kerry Christmas Carol by Sigerson Clifford (1913-1985)

Duet "Laudamus te" from *Gloria* Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
 Chelsea Hollow, soprano
 Kirsten Fleischmann, mezzo-soprano

Laudamus te, benedicimus te, *We praise thee, we bless thee,*
 adoramus te, glorificamus te. *We adore thee, we glorify thee.*

From the Latin Liturgy

Solo Christbaum (The Christmas Tree), Op. 8
 Music and Text by Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)
 Kirsten Fleischmann, mezzo-soprano

Wie schön geschmückt der festliche Raum! *How gaily decked the scene doth appear!*
 die Lichter funkeln am Weihnachtsbaum! *How brightly burning the candles here!*
 o frohliche Zeit, o seliger Traum! *O rapturous time, o vision so dear.*

<p>Die Mutter sitzt in der Kinder Kreis; nun schweiget Alles auf ihr Geheiss: sie singet des Christkind's Lob und Preis.</p> <p>Und rings, vom Weinachts baum erhellt, ist schön in Bildern aufgestellt des heiligen Buches Parmenwelt.</p> <p>Die Kinder schauen der Bilder Pracht und haben wohl des Singens acht, das tönt so süß in der Weihenacht!</p> <p>o glücklicher Kreis im festlichen Raum! o gold'ne Lichter am Weihnachtsbaum! o fröhliche Zeit! o seliger Traum!</p>	<p>The mother sits with her children there, Who silent wait the expectant air The tale of the Christchild beyond compare.</p> <p>Around, displayed by candlelight, Are many colored pictures bright Of Biblical scenes that charm the sight.</p> <p>The children look at the scenes unrolled, And hear the tale so sweetly told, A wondrous tale of the times of old!</p> <p>O circle so bright, how glad all appear! O golden candlelight gleaming here! O rapturous time! O vision so dear!</p>
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Duet Still a Bach Christmas: Still, Still, Still &
Bach's 'Air' from Orchestral Suite in D Julia Fearon, soprano
Kirsten Fleischmann, mezzo-soprano

Silent is the night, and all the world is filled with joy.
Love is all around us ev'rywhere, and peace is with us in the air
on the night when we celebrate a baby boy.
Still, still, still on a night that is filled joy.
All my heart this night rejoices,
Soft and sweet the angel voices.
Still, still, still when we celebrate a baby boy.

Adapted and arranged by Janet Campbell

Anthem Carol of the Bells (Ukrainian Carol)
Mykola Dmytrovyč Leontovyč (1877-1921)
Arr. Peter J. Wilhousky (1902-1978)

Hark how the bells; Sweet silver bells,
All seem to say "Throw cares away."
Christmas is here Bringing good cheer
To young and old, Meek and the bold
Ding, dong, ding, dong, That is their song,
With joyful ring, All caroling.
One seems to hear, Words of good cheer,
From ev'rywhere, Filling the air.
O, how they pound, Raising the sound,
O'er hill and dale, Telling their tale,
Gaily they ring, While people sing
songs of good cheer, Christmas is here!
Merry, merry, merry, Merry Christmas!

On, on they send, on without end
their joyful tone to ev'ry home.
Ding, dong, ding, dong. Bohm!

Solo Cantique de Noël

Adophe Adam (1803-1856)
Michael Desnoyers, tenor

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine.

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is Love and his gospel is Peace;
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease,
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his holy name!
Christ is the Lord, then ever! ever praise we!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!

Organ Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Christopher Uehlein (1931-2019)

Solo Laylat al-Milad (On the Night of Christmas)

Music and text by Mansour Labaki
Chelsea Hollow, pianist & soprano
Arranged by Chelsea Hollow

On the night of Christmas, hatred will vanish
On the night of Christmas, the earth blooms
On the night of Christmas, war is buried
On the night of Christmas, love is born

When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person, we are in Christmas
When we clothe a naked person with a gown of love, we are in Christmas
When we wipe the tears from weeping eyes, we are in Christmas
When we cushion a hopeless heart with love, we are in Christmas

On the night of Christmas, hatred will vanish
On the night of Christmas, the earth blooms
On the night of Christmas, war is buried
On the night of Christmas, love is born

Worship: The People and Places of the Nativity

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

Welcome Pastor Henderson

Introit Two Songs of Christmas Sebastián Dueñas Mayor, vocalist & pianist

***Call to
Worship**

Leader On this holiest of nights,
**People We come, joining the shepherds,
 who are stunned by wonder.**

Leader On this most silent night,
**People We come, our hopes and dreams
 joining those of Mary and Joseph.**

Leader On this night of carols and candlelight,
**People we come, our glad songs
 joining with those of the angels choirs above.**

Narrator

***Hymn 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

The Prophecy

Narrator Pastor Henderson

Old Testament 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Camryn Hollarsmith, Sidney Hollar

New Testament Luke 1:39-56

***Hymn 83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Nazareth

Narrator Pastor Henderson

Old Testament Isaiah 7:14 Virginia Webb-Pekelnicky and Teddy Pekelnicky

New Testament Matthew 1:18-25

Anthem “In Dulce Jubilo” from *Musae Sioniae*, Part II, (1607)
Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

In dulci júbilo, nun singet und seid froh, Unsers Herzens Wonne, leit in praesepio Und leuchtet wie die Sonne. Alpha est et O!	<i>In sweetest jubilee, now sing we cheerfully. Christ, our consolation lies in humility. For us he brings salvation. First and last is he.</i>
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Bethlehem

Narrator		Pastor Henderson
Old Testament	Micah 5:2-5	Kurt Schwartzmann
New Testament	Luke 2:1-7	
Time with Our Children		
Hymn 115	Away in a Manger <i>Verses 1 and 2 are sung by the children.</i> <i>Verse 3 is sung by the whole congregation.</i>	Sergey Khalikulov, piano
Prayer		Pastor Henderson

The Countryside of Judea

Narrator		Pastor Henderson
Old Testament	Isaiah 52:6-7	Hal Christianson
New Testament	Luke 2:8-20	
*Hymn 119	Hark, the Herald Angels Sing	

The Home of the Messiah

Narrator		Pastor Henderson
Old Testament	Numbers 24:17-19	Jemma Fagler
New Testament	Matthew 2:1-12	
Offering		Pastor Henderson
	<i>This Christmas Eve, our offering will support the Near East School of Theology in Lebanon, Beirut. For more information about the school, see the announcements.</i>	
	<i>To donate electronically, you may visit Old First's on-line donations page using the QR-Code here. Select Christmas Eve Offering.</i>	
*Hymn 151	We Three Kings of Orient Are <i>Verse 1 and Refrain: all</i> <i>Verses 2 to 4: soloists; Refrain: all</i> <i>Verse 5 and Refrain: all</i>	

To the Ends of the Earth

Narrator		Pastor Henderson
Old Testament	Isaiah 60:1-5	Jeanne Kirkwood
New Testament	John 1:1-5, 14	
A Christmas Blessing		Pastor Henderson
*Hymn	Silent Night	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Take your bulletin and candle – as well as your personal items – with you, as we form a ring around the perimeter of the sanctuary.</i>• <i>Please keep silence until we begin singing.</i>• <i>The words to Silent Night are found on the back page of this bulletin</i>	
*Charge and Benediction		
Postlude	The First Nowell	

Poinsettias
Advent and Christmas 2024-2025

Poinsettias have been given by the following:

Carolyn Asbury

in honor of Dee Bernhard

Gabby Beck-Engeser

in memory of her father Oskar Beck

in memory of her mother Ilse Beck

Nina and Michael Berg

in memory of Betty Berg

in memory of Burnita and Joe Burton

in memory of Marguerite and Jerome Faller

Diane Brenum

in gratitude for Larry Marietta's music ministry

Cindy and Chris Burt

in memory of Elwyn, Arline, and Debbie Bryan

in memory of Charles and Violet Burt

Tracy Clagett

in memory of Barry Clagett

in honor of the 175th Anniversary Committee

Thomas F. Culp

in memory of Frank and Mary Culp

in gratitude for Fred, Christine, Jim, John, Darlene and Families

Kirsten Fleischmann

in memory of her grandmother Sophie Otten

in memory of her father Walter Fleischmann

Sidney Hollar and Camryn Hollarsmith

in honor of Janet Heitsmith, 90-year-old mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

Don and Sandy Oliver

in memory of their parents

Linda Reyder

in memory of Howard and Norma Reyder
in memory of Barbara Reyder DeSesso
in honor of Glenn and Florian Reyder
in honor of Luke Reyder

Mary Russell

in honor of the deacons
in memory of two friends' sisters
in gratitude for Old First's staff and volunteers

Randy Smith and Andrea Segura Smith

in gratitude and love for our children

Steve and Betty Voris

in gratitude for our children and grandchildren in Indiana, Utah, Texas and
California

The Webb-Pekelnicky Family

in gratitude for all who support the children's ministry at Old First Presbyterian
Church

Lori Yamauchi and Jim Fagler

in gratitude for the 175th Anniversary of Old First Presbyterian Church
in honor of the Reverend Maggi Henderson, pastor, and the Reverend Dr. Erwin
Barron, parish associate

You may take your poinsettia home after worship on Sunday, January 5.

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

Art on the Cover: The Nativity

The Nativity scene on the cover is courtesy of Freepik.com. Note that the shepherds have come and gone and three wise men from the East have not yet made it to Bethlehem. They're in the distance. We call their visit to the Christ Child the Epiphany – Greek for “revelation.” Join us at Old First on Sunday, January 7, at 11:00 am, when we will celebrate Epiphany.

Tonight's Offering

Tonight's offering will go to the Near East School of Theology (N.E.S.T) in Lebanon Beirut. The school has roots back to 1835. It has become a lifeline for Protestant churches all around the Middle East. It is the only place in the Middle East where a women can receive theological and seminary education. N.E.S.T. welcomes women and men candidates from other Middle Eastern churches, as well as any person seeking to learn about Protestant theology and faith, irrespective of his or her religious affiliation.

The events of recent years in Lebanon have left their mark on the whole society and on every institution in the country. N.E.S.T. too was adversely affected, especially through the loss of teaching faculty and the reduction of the student body to a third of its pre-war size. Nevertheless, the School was able to keep its doors open all through the troubles and is now attempting to rebuild its student body and to reach out in new directions.

The funds collected tonight will help students, workers, and faculty of the school.

Our offering is a hand's on way to get funds where they are needed and reminds all those affiliated with the school that they are not forgotten. For more information visit: <https://www.theonest.edu.lb/en/Home>



You can make your Christmas Eve offering using the QR-code on the right.

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; E-mail:

4thsaturdaydinner@oldfirst.org

Christmas Hymn Sing, December 29

Join us for worship and a Christmas Hymn Sing on Sunday, December 29, at 11:00 am. If you've missed your favorite Christmas carol or hymn, join us for worship and request the music you'd like to sing. See Hymns 108 through 156 in Glory to God for the hymns of Christmas.

Cookies for Coffee Hour, December 29

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

All Hands! Interfaith Food Pantry, January 4

Sign up now to pitch in when members of all the faith communities combine to staff the Interfaith Food Pantry on January 4.

Of course, you can sign up for any or for every Saturday: Simply visit the sign up page by using the QR-code to the right or by visiting Old First’s homepage: www.oldfirst.org and following the link in the sidebar column.



Interfaith Concert: Aid for Syria and World Central Kitchen, January 25

Mark you calendars for an interfaith concert at Old First to benefit aid for Syria and World Central Kitchen: Saturday, January 25, 3:00 pm. While the concert is free, it is a fundraiser for these two causes. Invite your family, friends and neighbors!

World Central Kitchen brings good food to hungry people all over the world, especially the dangerous, war-torn parts of the world. For more information about World Central Kitchen, visit <https://www.wck.org/>.

This Week at Old First

Wednesday December 25: Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

Thursday December 26: Second Day of Christmas

Church Office Closed

Saturday December 28

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

Sunday December 29: First Sunday after Christmas

11:00 am Worship with Hymn-Sing

After Worship Coffee Hour

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday December 31: New Year’s Eve

Church office closes at 1:00 pm

Wednesday January 1, 2025: New Year’s Day

Church Office Closed

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

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

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.

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.