

Old First Presbyterian Church



**Sunday after Christmas
December 29, 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

**Welcome and
Church Life**

***Call to Worship**

Leader We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear—

People **God is in our joy.**

Leader God is in this room.

People **We have reason to celebrate.**

Leader We have a reason to sing.

People **Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.**

Kurt Schwartzmann

***Hymn 347 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

Chosen by Chris Burt

In our previous hymnal, this hymn was located in the Advent section. In our current hymnal, it is in the Christ's return and judgment section. Which section do you think it fits in?

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.
- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the shadows clear away.
- 4 At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord most high!"

Prayer of
Confession
People

Kurt Schwartzmann

Jesus, you told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven,
we must be like children.
Did you mean that like children,
we must practice unhindered joy?
Did you mean that like children,
we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism,
and open ourselves to delight?
In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit,
this often seems easier said than done.
Forgive us, patient God, for the moments
when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.

Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy.
Forgive us for not seeing the face of your son in every face we see and for forgetting that all were once joyful, free, cherished children.

Let us confess silently.

People We know that even now you are sowing delight in our lives.
Open our hearts up to it. With gratitude, we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

People **We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.**

Leader That is news worth celebrating!

That is news that should make us want to cheer, laugh, cry with relief, dance, and sing all at the same time!

So in response to God's goodness, I invite you to rise in body or spirit and join me in shouting and then singing:

People **Let us make a joyful noise to God!**

***Response Hymn to Joy (Hymn 611)**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of Glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

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



***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**

Jeanne Kirkwood

Prayer Partners Waldo Carter, Andy and Yvonne Cheng, Samuel, Joshua and Annie, Ted
and Betsy Chiao, Buddy Tate Choy and Jeanne Choy Tate

**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.**

Isaiah 9:2-3

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest.

Psalms 126:1-3

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Luke 2:10

But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid; for see—
I am bringing you good news of great joy
for all the people."

Matthew 2:10

When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.

**Leader
People**

The Word of God in scripture.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn Sing

*Choose a Christmas hymn to sing.
See Glory to God, Hymns 109 through 156.*

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|---|
| Worship Through Responding to God's Word |
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***Hymn 108**
Verses 1-4

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Chosen by Lori Yamauchi

- 1 **Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**
- 2 **By his word was all created;
he commanded; it was done:
heav'n and earth and depths of ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft shining,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.**
- 3 **O, that birth forever blessed
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.**
- 4 **This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected.
Let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore.**

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude

*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.*

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

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On the Cover: Quilt Square



Look at the quilt squares here and on the cover. From a center point, tulip-like flowers stretch and bloom, referencing the Emerson quote, “the earth laughs in flowers.”

Today's Liturgy: A Sanctified Art

Today's liturgical texts are adapted from prayers by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Today's Organist: Sam Cheng

This morning we welcome Sam Cheng as our guest organist while Larry Marietta, our music director has a Sunday off.

Today's Coffee Hour

Don and Sandy Oliver have given today's coffee hour in thanks to Old First for the warmth and friendliness and especially to Pastor Maggi for her spiritual guidance and lessons from the pulpit.

Christmas Joy Special Offering

You can still make your Christmas Joy Special Offering. If you write a check, make it payable to “Old First Presbyterian Church” and write “Christmas Joy” on the memo line.



You can also make your Joy Gift offering by using Old First's donations page: either use this E-mail address – <https://new.oldfirst.org/donations/> – or use the QR-code on the right.

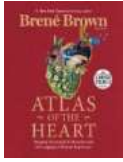
“All Hands” Staff the Food Pantry, January 4

Join us for an “all hands” day at the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, January 4, when members of all five participating congregations staff the pantry. To sign up use the QR-code to the right or visit the website below.



<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/667004851505698018/false#/invitation>

Next Book Discussion, January 6



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 on Monday, January 6, at 7:00 pm. At this session, we'll cover Chapter 12 "Places We Go When We Feel Wronged" 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, January 18

Make a New Year Resolution to support the Interfaith Food Pantry. Old First staffs the pantry on Saturday, January 13. Sign up now. You can find a link to sign up by using either this QR-Code or the link under the Interfaith Food Pantry heading on Old First's homepage: www.oldfirst.org



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

Mark your 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/>.

New Year: New Deacons and Elders!

As we move into a new year, we will be looking for new deacons and elders to serve the church and to lead us in faithfulness and compassion as we seek to follow God's call. Would you please pray for new church leaders and consider if God might be calling you?

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This Week at Old First

Sunday December 29: First Sunday after Christmas

After Worship Coffee Hour

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday December 31

Church office closes at 1:00 pm.

Wednesday January 1: New Year's Day

Church Office Closed

Saturday January 4

9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry

Sunday January 5: Second Sunday after Christmas

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

11:00 am Worship

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