

Old First Presbyterian Church



Second Sunday after Christmas January 5, 2025

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 Improvisation on We Three Kings Donald Holden (1911-1992)

Welcome and Church Life

Introit Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.

Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to ev'ry heart.

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart.

Psalm 100:1, used by the Taizé Community

***Call to Worship** Mary Russell

Leader Light! Light, light and more light!
Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of God has risen upon you.

**People Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

Leader When Jesus was born in Bethlehem,
wise men came from the East, saying:
Where is he who is born king of the Jews?

**People For we have seen his star in the East,
and have come to worship him.**

Leader The wonderful light of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People And also with you.

- *Hymn 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are**
- 1** We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
- Refrain** O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.
- 2** Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign.
- 3** Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh,
prayer and praising gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High.
- 4** Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone cold tomb.
- 5** Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies.

**Prayer of
Confession**

Mary Russell

God of new beginnings, we confess
that sometimes we follow a path that only seeks our best,
one that meets our needs with no care
or awareness of those around us.
Sometimes we don't even move,
we are stuck in our own laziness or complacency,
and taking a step towards you
requires more than we want to give.
We admit that we often follow the well-worn path,
simply because others have been there before.
Sometimes this path is holy and humble,
but there are days when a new path needs to be trodden.
On those new-beginning days, O God,
give us the courage to follow your star.

**Give us the courage to go home by another way.
Give us the courage to kick up some dust
and walk in a new direction
for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor.
For when you are doing a new thing,
we want to have the courage to follow.
With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel. Amen.**

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader Dear travelers, no matter the roads we've taken,
the steps we've made, or the paths we've traveled,
there is nowhere we could go
that would land us outside of God's love.

People **We hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:
Regardless of the path we travel,
of how lost we may get, or
of the twists and turns along our way,
we do not walk alone.
We are loved.
We are forgiven.**

Leader We have every chance to begin again.

People **Thanks be to God for a love like that!**

***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.



Solo

The Kings, Op. 8, No. 3 Music and text by Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)
Three kings have journeyed from the eastern land,
A star has led them to Jordan's strand,
And in Judea, inquire the three,
Where the Newborn Infant King may be?
With gold and myrrh and incense sweet,
They bring the Holy Child an off'ring meet.

And brightly shineth the guiding star,
Unto the manger the kings repair,
With rapture fill'd on the Boy they gaze,
And bow before Him in joy and praise.
With gold and myrrh and incense sweet,
They bring the Holy Boy an off'ring meet.

O Child of all, hold Thee firm and true;
The kings came hither; O come Thou, too!
The star of mercy the star of love
Shall point Thee the pathway to heav'n above;
And fail thee gold and incense sweet,
Lay thou thy heart at the savior's feet,
Bring Him thy heart!

***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**

Prayer Tracy Clagett, Austin Coffee and Amanda Roncaglia, Tom Culp and
Partners Charlie Wagner, Eva DeLair, James Brown and Isaac Browndelair

Kurt Schwartzmann

**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

Matthew 2:1-12, Isaiah 43:16-21

Leader The Word of God in scripture.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastor Henderson

Star Words *After you have your new star word for 2025, turn to a person near you and tell them what your star word was for last year, and what your star word is for the new year.*

Prayer **Holy God who lights our way,**
we thank you for this moment of respite along the journey,
a moment to be filled with good things,
to be reminded of our belovedness and
to be sent out as your hands and feet in the world.
Though we'd often prefer a straightforward,
step-by-step plan for our lives,
you've instead given us an invitation
to wander,
to seek,
to take a different road,
to be guided by a star.
May these star words be a map to us,
guiding us to look under every rock and around every corner,
seeking you out everywhere,
because everywhere is exactly where you are.
And next year, when the road leads us back to this very place,
may we find that you were with us every step of the way.
With hope, we pray. Amen.

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 152** **What Star is This, With Beams so Bright?**

- 1 What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a new born king,
glad tidings of our God to bring.
- 2 'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed;"
and lo! the eastern sages stand
to read in heaven the Lord's command.
- 3 While outward signs the star displays,
an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might,
to seek the giver of the light.
- 4 O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of your light to use.

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude

The March of the Three Kings
("Farandole" from L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2)

George Bizet (1838-1875)

*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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On the Cover: Quilt Square



Look at the quilt squares here and on the cover. The triangles in this quilt square point to in multiple directions. Much like the magi's journey, the path that lies ahead isn't always clear or straight. Thankfully, we have the guidance of the Spirit to light our way.

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.

Star Words

Take an extra star to give to a friend or church member who isn't here today.

Poinsettias

Those who donated poinsettias may take them home today. Poinsettias do not like direct sunlight or heat, and they are thirsty. However, with good indirect light and regular watering they'll stay healthy and colorful for months.

Today's Coffee Hour

Gabby Beck-Engeser has given today's coffee hour in gratitude to Old First staff and members.

Christmas Eve Offering

You can still make your Christmas Eve offering to benefit 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.

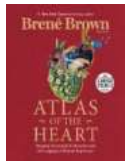
The events of recent years in Lebanon have left their mark on the whole society and on every institution in the country. N.E.S.T. too was adversely affected, especially through the loss of teaching faculty and the reduction of the student body to a third of its pre-war size. Nevertheless, the School 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.

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 have the Zoom App, use Meeting ID: 880 8961 5643 and Passcode: 222039. If not, simply click on the web address below or enter it into your computer's browser. **Note: These are new meeting ID, passcode, and link for the last two sessions in this series.** A live link to this web address also appears in Maggi's weekly Saturday E-mail.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88089615643?pwd=lyUTg0EjR8t0xuiCWxtd8KkeuvpucK.1>

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



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 20

The San Francisco Interfaith Council invites the public to join in the 2025 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Commemorations to be held on Monday, January 20. The 2025 March will begin promptly at 11:00 am (**arrive early!**) from the Caltrain Depot at 4th and Townsend. Once the march arrives at Yerba Buena Gardens Esplanade, the 15th Annual Interfaith Commemoration Ceremony will commence.

See Pastor Maggi, if you'd like to join other Old First folks for the march and commemoration.

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?

**This Week at Old First
Happy New Year!**

- Sunday January 5: Second Sunday after Christmas**
After Worship Coffee Hour
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Monday January 6: Epiphany**
7:00 pm Book Discussion Group, On-Line
- Saturday January 11**
9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry
11:30 am Finance Committee: Budget Reconciliation, Room A
- Sunday January 12**
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship
After Worship Coffee Hour
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Friday January 17**
8:00 pm O1C: Samantha Cho, piano: Mozart, Debussy, Takemitsu, and Jean Ahn
- Saturday January 18**
9:00 am Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry
- Sunday January 19**
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship
After Worship Coffee Hour
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Monday January 20**
11:00 am Martin Luther King, Jr. Day March and Commemoration: The march begins at the Caltrain Depot, 4th Street at Townsend.

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