

Old First Presbyterian Church



**Sunday
February 23, 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	Passacaglia	John West
Welcome and Church Life		
Introit	I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.	Glen Wissner (born 1955) Psalm 122:1

***Call to Worship**

Michael Berg

Leader Friends of God, believe this –
God loved the world,
God loves the world,
we are the beloved!

**People May the truth of this great love story,
shine through our worship today,
and renew our sense of calling.**

Leader So come, with your tiredness,
your frustrations, and your discouragements;
come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings;
come, to discover yet again
how Jesus reveals God's love and mercy.

**People Come, in friendship to God
and to each other,
and in friendship to the world,
to listen for God's Word to us,
to offer our prayers,
and to renew our calling.**

Leader Friends of God,
let us worship!

***Hymn 667 When Morning Gilds the Skies**

- 1 **When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair;
may Jesus Christ be praised!**
- 2 **Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this;
may Jesus Christ be praised!**
- 3 **Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**
- 4 **Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

Prayer of
Confession
People

Michael Berg

The words we speak all too often do not show you in our lives,
God of our pilgrimage.
We spend so much time boasting to others,
they imagine we have no need for you.
We grumble impatiently
when you don't respond immediately to our requests,
but are slow to sing your praises.
We mutter under our breath
about the behavior of those around us,
when we could be asking them
if there is some way we could serve them.

Silence is kept.

People It is on our journey to the cross and the tomb
that you fill us with the riches of your mercy, Steadfast Love!
You do so, not because of anything we have done,
but because of the compassion
which flows from your heart wounded by our failings.
As we open our lives to receive your forgiveness,
may we turn to the Light which brings us life,
following Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
every step of the way. Amen.

*Assurance of
Forgiveness

Leader

How much does God love us?
Enough to send the divine heart, hope, and spirit to us,
not to condemn us, but to save us.

People

Not by our speaking or doing,
but by God's good and precious grace are we saved.
Thanks be to God!

*Response

HYMN TO JOY: *For tune, see 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.



Anthem

John Stainer (1840-1901)

God so loved the world, that He gave
his only begotten Son,
that who-so believeth in Him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 3:16-17

***Doxology**

DUKE STREET: *For tune, see Hymn 265.*
Arranged by Hal H. Hopson (born 1933)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, 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**

Rick Wiebe

Prayer Partners Cynthia Kang, Sandra Keyes, Nina Krietzman, Marne Krozek, Bobby Lane, Jeanne Kirkwood, Betsy Lutz

**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.**

Anthem Eucaristica Pablo Casals (1876-1973)

Deep in my heart I bear my Lord;
My heart is a sacred host to Jesus;
Therefore in my heart that gives serenity
Is ever glorious.

Deep in my heart I bear my Lord;
And my heart leaps joyfully within me.
Goodness today makes sorrow light,
And I have angels for my companions.

Deep in my heart I bear my Lord,
And ever see the light of heaven
That keeps me always from the ways of darkness
And evil doing.

Deep in my heart I bear my Lord,
And all my life He will be with me.
I want my voice to speak of love
As does the seraph that proclaims Him.
My way shall be a path of lilies,
The path on which I walk beside Him.

Scripture John 3:1-21 (page 88)

Leader The Word of God in scripture.

People Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Henderson

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn Nicodemus Sought Out Jesus**

Sung to the tune of Hymn 475: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

- 1 **Nicodemus sought out Jesus at a lonely, quiet hour.
He said, "Teacher, God is with you! For in you we see God's power."
Jesus turned and gave an answer filled with challenge and with love:
"You can never see God's kingdom till you're born from heav'n above."**
- 2 **"Born again!" said Nicodemus. "Is that something one can do?"
Jesus said, "Don't be surprised now that you must be born anew.
And it's not by your own doing; wind and Spirit will blow free!
They are not for your controlling; trust in God for what will be."**
- 3 **God, your Spirit still surprises like an ever-changing wind,
Bringing life and love and justice where despair and death have been.
May we see your Spirit working as a gift from heav'n above.
Blest, may we then be a blessing to this world that you so love.**

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***Charge and
Benediction**

Choir

Thew Elliot

Since you moved upon our waters,
 since you spoke and set us free,
We have yearned for this communion,
 for your fire inside of us.
Now your love defines our longing,
 now your love shines through our pain.
Now we dance in endless union,
 singing out creation's name.

Postlude Tuba Tune in D Major, Opus 15 Craig Seller Lang (1891-1971)

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 and
for the following Conversation about Our Response to Racism and Poverty.*

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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Today's Liturgy

Today's Call to Worship was written by Ann Siddall, originally posted on the website of the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre in Australia. The Confession is the work of Presbyterian Pastor Thom Shuman.

4th Sunday Flowers

Cindy and Chris Burt have given today's flowers in memory of Ken Matthews, music director and organist of Old First during the 1990s and 2000s.

Today's Coffee Hour

Suyang Shao has given today's coffee hour in gratitude for everyone he has met at Old First.

Conversation about Our Response to Racism and Poverty, Today

Please join Old First for a conversation after worship today about Old First's response to racism and poverty, past and future. The conversation will be held in the Fellowship Hall following a light lunch, which will be provided. Steve Taber, church historian, and Lori Yamauchi will start the conversation and open it up to discussion.

Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, March 1

Old First staffs the pantry on Saturday, March 1. Sign up to volunteer 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



Lent Begins: Ash Wednesday, March 5, 1:00 pm

Lent is just around the corner and begins with **Ash Wednesday, March 5**, with a worship service at Old First at **1:00 pm**.

Be a Guest of Cindy Burt at Fromm Institute Classes, March 3 to 6

The Fromm Institute, a program of lifelong learning for those over age 50, is offering free classes March 3 to 6 for guests. Anyone over 50 can come to classes on those dates as Cynthia (Cindy) Burt's guest. The institute is located in Fromm Hall on the University of San Francisco campus and is easily accessible via Muni. For more information, speak with Cindy and visit the institute's website: <https://www.fromminstitute.org/>

This Week at Old First

Sunday February 23

After Worship Coffee Hour followed by
Conversation about Our Response to Racism and Poverty
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday February 25

6:00 pm Session, On-Line

Friday February 28

7:00 pm O1C: Sixth Station Trio perform "Spirited Away;" Anju Goto, violin,
Federico Strand Ramirez, cello, Katelyn Tan, piano

Saturday March 1

9:00 am Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry
8:00 pm O1C: Pro Arte Quartet: David Perry, violin, Suzanne Beia, violin, Sally
Chisholm, viola, Parry Karp, violoncello

Sunday March 2

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship
After Worship Coffee Hour
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday March 5 Ash Wednesday

1:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

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