

Old First Presbyterian Church



First Sunday in Lent March 9, 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 Three Choral Preludes on “Through Adam’s Fall”
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)
Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome and Church Life

Introit Glen Wissner (born 1954)

From earth, O praise God, ye depths and all below;
wild stormy winds that do God’s word,
ye clouds, fire, hail and snow;
Ye mountains high, ye cedars tall,
beasts great and small, and birds that fly.
Sing to God, all the earth!

From Psalm 148

***Call to Worship**

Pastor Henderson

Leader Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

People **Who is my neighbor?
How can I help?
What do I have to learn?
Where is God in it all?**

Leader Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

People **So may we listen.
May we learn.
May we stay curious, and
may we look for God.**

Leader This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our holy God

***Hymn God Plants the Seeds of Love**

Sung to the tune of Come Sing, O Church, in Joy, Hymn 305

This new hymn has been composed by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette for our congregation as a part of our 175th Anniversary celebration.

- 1 **God plants the seeds of love. God nurtures them by grace—
And so a loving church was started in this place.
God's garden grows.
God's harvest is a blessing as love overflows!**
- 2 **We've served one hundred years, and seventy, and five—
And here in San Francisco we've helped neighbors thrive.
We've sought to be
A justice-seeking voice in our community.**
- 3 **We've worked for freedom here, for LGBT rights,
for people who have no safe place to spend their nights—
We've seen the needs.
We've worked for love and justice, planting countless seeds.**
- 4 **We've heard God's steady call for racial justice, too.
We've marched and sung and prayed, for there is much to do.
'Mid hate and fear,
We seek to build a place of love and welcome here.**
- 5 **And in this loving place, we do what love inspires:
We sing of faith and hope and love in joyful choirs.
Each song reveals
The good news of the gospel, God— that your love heals.**
- 6 **The world is changing still; and God, it's by your grace:
We share your justice, love and welcome in this place.
Your garden grows!
Here, as we're nourished, as we plant, love overflows!**

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**Prayer of
Confession**

Pastor Henderson

**Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves,
but we get tripped up on logistics.
We want to know: who is our neighbor?
Do we have to love the stranger?
Must we have compassion for our enemy?
Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions
in the face of love.**

Pray in Silence

**Rewire our hearts so that we might see
the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass.
With hope, we pray. Amen.**

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader Family of faith, when we set limits on love,
People God loves extravagantly.
Leader When we forget that we are neighbors,
People God claims us as God's own.
Leader When we judge, hold back, or harm,
People God surrounds us with grace.
Leader There is nothing we can do or leave undone
that could separate us from the love of God.
**People This is the good news of the gospel.
Thanks be to God!**

***Hymn 466 Come and Fill Our Hearts** *We sing the English text.*

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia!**

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



Anthem Let This Mind Be in You, Op. 105

Amy Marcy Cheney Beach (1867-1944)

Chelsea Hollow, soprano; Sergey Khalikulov, bass

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
Who, being in the form of God,
thought it not robbery to be equal with God.
But made Himself of no reputation,
and took upon Him the form of a servant,
and was made in the likeness of men:

And being found in fashion as a man,
 He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death,
 even the death of the Cross.
 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him,
 and given Him a name which is above every name:
 That at the name of Jesus ev'ry knee should bow,
 of things in heaven, and things in earth,
 and things under the earth;
 And that ev'ry tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God almighty.

Philippians 2:5-8

***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**
 Prayer Partners

Pastor Henderson

Daniel Pearch, Donald Pender, Kim Pham, Gordon Phipps, Chloe
 Pollock, Phil Pollock, Spencer Pollock, Glen Potter

**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

Luke 10:25-37 (page 67)

Leader
 People

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

Sermon

Jeanne Choy Tate

Affirmation of Faith

Leader Church, if God asked you, “Who is your neighbor?”
what would you say?

People **We would say,**
every child, every person,
every weeping willow,
and every morning lark;
every freckled face,
every wrinkled pair of hands,
every tail-wagging dog,
and every crisp ripe apple.

We would say,
we are connected—
to one another, to all of God’s creation.
There are no strangers in God’s house.
We are all family here.

Leader God would delight in that answer, for it is said,
“You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your strength,
with all your mind.”

Leader “And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

People **We believe. God, help our unbelief.**

Worship Through Responding to God’s Word

- *Hymn 771 What Is the World Like**
- 1 **What is the world like when God’s will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive;
roots thread the soil; branches reach or the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.**
 - 2 **What is the world like when God’s will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.**
 - 3 **What is the world like when God’s will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.**

- 4 **What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.**
- 5 **These are the stories what Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.**

***Charge and
Benediction**

Choir

The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.
Then grant that we like them be true,
consumed in fast and prayer like you;
our spirits strengthen with your grace,
and give us joy to see your face.

Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543
Harm. J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Gregory the Great (c.540-604)
Trans. Maurice Bell (1862-1947)

Postlude

Finale

Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

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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Lent 2025: Everything (in) Between

This year's series for Lent is "Everything (in) Between." The theme of this series are an invitation to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed.

Each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like "faith & works" or "rest & growth," or "grief & hope." We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity. We find that these dichotomies are false. We might begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white. We might find that God is present in between. And so, this season, we invite you to look beyond black and white binaries and easy answers. We encourage you to notice the dichotomies that define our lives, but also imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. This theme may resonate with anyone who is in discernment or trying to find their way through an undefined space. It will may speak to anyone who feels as if they are living in a divided world. It is for those who seek a spiritual life that engages with complexity instead of avoiding it. This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between. –A Sanctified Art

Today's liturgy is adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Today's Preacher: Jeanne Choy Tate

Jeanne Choy Tate, a former member and leader at Old First is our guest preacher today in our series featuring former pastors, interim pastors and seminary interns as we celebrate our anniversary and 175 years of ministry "on our corner, in our city, and in the world."

Today's Coffee Hour

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

Devotional Cards for Lent

We have devotional cards for Lent focusing on the theme *Everything (in) Between: Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes*. The theme is an invitation to navigate the polarities in our midst with more faith, intention and openness to be transformed.

Fish-Boxes for OGHS

Again this year we join others across the Presbyterian Church (USA) in making our offering for **One Great Hour of Sharing**, one the four annual special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This offering goes ending hunger, making repair after disasters, and promoting the self-development of all people. Pick up your own fish-box in the narthex today and feed it well all through Lent. Then, on Easter Day, April 20, bring your fish-box to add to the abundance Old First will offer to share with those in need.

Conversation about Old First's Response to Youth and Children, March 23

Continuing in our 175th anniversary celebration year, please join Old First for a conversation after worship on Sunday, March 23, about Old First's response to youth and children's needs, past and future. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall following a light meal, which will be provided. Mary Russell (deacon) and Bill Campbell (former member of Old First and elder) will start the conversation and then open it up to discussion.

New Members/Inquirers Class

Would you like to know about what it means to be a Presbyterian and about membership in Old First? We are looking to hold a class following coffee hour on either **Sunday, March 30, or Sunday, April 6**. For more information, talk with Pastor Maggi and let her know if either of these times work for you.

Red Cards: Know Your Rights

Old First Presbyterian is investing in "Red Cards," small wallet size cards to share the people who fear ICE coming into their homes and lives. These cards have five simple statements that affirm that all people in the United States, regardless of immigration status, have certain rights and protections under the U.S. Constitution.

These cards are created by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (<https://www.ilrc.org>) out of an increasingly complex legal and social challenges faced by immigrants, which created a growing need for expert assistance and training in immigration law and policy. Bill Ong Hing, a well-known immigrant rights attorney, recognized this need and founded the Golden Gate Immigration Clinic in 1979, which later became the ILRC. The center seeks to improve immigration law and policy, expand the capacity of legal service providers, and advance immigrant rights. The ILRC trains attorneys, paralegals, and community-based advocates who work with immigrants around the country. We inform the media, elected officials, and public to shape effective and just immigration policy and law. Our staff works with grassroots immigrant organizations to promote civic engagement and social change.

You can pick up cards to share with the community in the narthex or by contacting the church office.

This Week at Old First

Sunday March 9: First Sunday in Lent

- After Worship Coffee Hour
- 2:00 pm Board of Deacons, On-Line
- 4:00 pm O1C: Utsav Lal, piano, and George Brooks, saxophone fuse Indian classical music and American jazz with contemporary minimalism.
- 7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Saturday March 15

- 9:00 am Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry
- 1:00 pm Presbyterian Women, On-Line

Sunday March 16: Second Sunday in Lent

- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 am Worship
- After Worship Coffee Hour
- After Coffee Hour New Officers Class
- 4:00 pm O1C: Junior Bach Festival Association: the Bay Area's Best Music Students
- 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