

Old First Presbyterian Church



Third Sunday in Lent March 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	Trio No. 1, Op. 100	Gustav Merkel (1827-1885)
	Passacaglia in B minor	John E. West (1869-1929)
Welcome and Church Life		Pastor Henderson
Moment for Mission		Bill Campbell
Introit	O come, let us sing unto God. Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Sing and rejoice!	From Psalm 95

***Call to Worship**

Erwin Barron

Leader Worship is a place to rest.
People We breathe deeply here.
Leader We still our aching bones.
People We sit in the quiet.
Leader We surround ourselves with music.
People Worship is a place to rest.

Leader Worship is a place to grow.
People We listen for God's word.
Leader We invite it to challenge us.
People We lean in with curiosity.
Leader We ask questions.
People Worship is a place to grow.

Leader So come into this space.
People Come rest and grow here.
Leader For where two or more are gathered,
God is always there.
People Let us worship our renewing God.

***Hymn Beneath the Soil**
See insert for text and music.

**Prayer of
Confession**

Erwin Barron

**Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest.
We stretch ourselves too thin.
We say "yes" to every invitation.
We run a million miles a minute.
We ignore your command to rest.
There are also days when we fail to act.
We wait for someone else.
We take the easy road.
We are full of frustration and fear and so do nothing.
We find excuses and justify our inaction.
God, forgive our imbalance.**

Let us confess silently.

**Remind us that there is
a time for rest and renewal,
a time for growth and action,
a time to let go old ways go, and
a time to pick up a new vision.
Amen.**

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader Family of faith, I have good news!
Our God does not keep score.
Our God does not hold grudges.
Our God does not assume the worst about us.
No, our God offers grace,
and endless second chances,
and boundless love.

People So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel:
God's grace is deeper than the ocean.
God's love is wider than the sky.
We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven.
May this realization change and inspire us.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Hymn 466 Come and Fill Our Hearts**

To be sung three times by all.

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

Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Edited by Maynard Klein (1923-2016)

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens
usque ad mortem autem crucis.
Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum
et dedit illi nomen
Quod est super omne nomen.
*For us Christ was made obedient
even to death on a cross.
And for which God exalted him
and gave him a name
that is above every name.*

***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		Tom Culp
Prayer Partners	Linda Reyder, AnnieScott Rogers, Mary Russell, Amir Sadeghi, Kurt Schwartzmann, Pam Sebastian, Randy Smith and Andrea Segura Smith	
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.	
Solo		Edward Boatner (1898-1981) Michael Desnoyers, tenor
	I want Jesus to walk with me, All along my pilgrim's journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. In my trials, Lord, walk with me, When my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me, When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.	
Scripture	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (page 581) Luke 13:6-9 (page 71)	African-American Spiritual
Leader	The Word of God in scripture.	
People	Thanks be to God.	
Sermon		Pastor Henderson

Affirmation of Faith We believe in a God who loves and tends to us
like a gardener.
We believe that, like the trees,
some seasons are for growth,
and some seasons are for rest.
Some days require pruning,
and some require planting.
Fortunately, we believe that our green-thumbed God
sees us and cultivates the sweetest fruit.
So may we plant roots,
reach for the sky,
grow where we can,
and rest when we need,
for we believe there is holiness
in the pruning and in the planting.
We do not grow alone. Like a grove of redwoods,
our roots are connected and intertwined,
as we keep each other strong and supported
reaching towards God's love and light.
Thanks be to God.

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

- *Hymn 250 In the Bulb There is a Flower**
- 1 In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
 - 2 There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
 - 3 In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory.
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude Fantasy in A minor Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

During the postlude, you may either depart or take your seat to listen, as you wish.

However, do please join us in the fellowship hall downstairs for coffee hour and the following Conversation about Old First's Response to Youth and Children.

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 Flowers

Steve and Sarah Taber have given today's flowers in memory of Doris LaVerne Krauss (1914-2006), who served Old First Presbyterian Church for many years as Director of Christian Education and later as Director of Parish Life.

Today's Coffee Hour

Carolyn Asbury has given today's coffee hour in honor of Larry Marietta and the sound of Old First's organ.

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

As we continue our 175th anniversary celebration year, please join us, after coffee hour, for a conversation 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 and Bill Campbell will start the conversation and then open it up to discussion.

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.

Devotional Books for Lent

A limited number of *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals For A Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie are available for \$10.00. You can pay with cash on Sundays putting your money or check into the envelope found with the books in the narthex, or you can use the QR code at the right: remember to select “study book fund.”



They will be in the narthex on Sundays, pick on up at church during the week, or you can contact the church office and one can be sent to you.

Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, March 29

Volunteers from Old First Presbyterian Church and St. Luke’s Episcopal Church staff the pantry **this coming Saturday, March 29.**

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



New Members/Inquirers Class, March 30

Would you like to know about what it means to be a Presbyterian and about membership in Old First? We will hold a class **next Sunday, March 30**, following coffee hour. We will meet in the library and a light lunch will be served for those taking part. For more information, talk with Pastor Maggi and let her know if like to participate.

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 23: Third Sunday in Lent**
After Worship Coffee Hour
After Coffee Hour Conversation about Old First's Response to Youth and Children
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday March 25**
6:00 pm Session, On-Line
- Saturday March 29**
9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry
5:15 pm 4th Saturday Community Meal, Fellowship Hall
- Sunday March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent**
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship
After Worship Coffee Hour
After Coffee Hour New Members/Inquirers Class, Library
4:00 pm O1C: "Daydream" - Naama Liany, mezzo-soprano, and Christopher Koelzer, piano, perform works by Barber, Bernstein, and more
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