

Old First Presbyterian Church



January 4, 2025
The Second Sunday of Christmas

Fear doesn't stop us

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 Noel Basque Paul Marie-Joseph Benoit (1893-1979)

Welcome and Church Life Betty Voris

*Call to Worship

Leader In the dark of morning,
People the stars still shine.
Leader In the depth of winter,
People the birds still climb.
Leader At the start of the year, tender and new,
People God is here. God is near.
Leader Do not rest in your fear.
People God is here.
Leader So like the stars and the birds,
People let us worship God.

- *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**

Betty Voris

Ever-loving God,
 we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy.
 However, we know that is not how the world works.
 Even just days after Christmas,
 we find ourselves face to face with fear once again.
 So today we pray—
 Forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks.
 Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your call.
 Forgive us when fear shuts down our sense of wonder and surprise
 Forgive us when fear is louder than love.
 Show us how to turn our fear into action.
 Show us how to live like the magi,
 who searched for you in a fearful world.
 With hope we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader

Family of Faith,
whether you are brave and courageous or fearful and timid,
God's love for you knows no end.

So join me in these words of forgiveness:

All

**Whether fear inspires us to action, or stops us dead in our tracks,
God's love for us is boundless.
We are seen. We are surrounded with grace. We are sent to serve.
Thanks be to God!**

***Response**

In God's Sight

Luscombe/Gaine

We sing the phrase three times.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the response, with lyrics 'In God's sight we are made whole-' and chords F, em, and am. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'full of God's love- Al- le- lu- ia, A- men! (In God's)' and chords dm, C/E, dm, G7, and C.

Offering

Ushers will now receive the offering. You may also make your offering electronically using the QR-code to the right or this URL:
<https://new.oldfirst.org/donations/>



Organ Voluntary

Noel and Variations: Joseph and Mary, Where Are You Going?
Claude Balbastre (1724-1799)

***Doxology**

GREENSLEEVES: For tune, see Hymn145

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the Son of Mary.**

Time with Our Children

***The Peace**

Leader
People

Peace be with you.
And also with you.

Star Words

The children – with assistance of the ushers – will pass the baskets with star words through the congregation. After you have your new star word for 2026, 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.

Worship Through Hearing God’s Word

Prayers of the People

Claudia Garrison

Prayer Partners

Jian Wang, Virginia Webb Pekelnicky and Bob Pekelnicky, Teddy and Eden, Rick and Ellen Wiebe, Matt Wolka and family

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 2:41-52 (pages 55-56)

Response

Refrain from *Christ, Be Our Light!* Hymn 314

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

Sermon

The Reverend Brook Scott

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 Guest Preacher: Brook Scott

Old First welcomes the Reverend Brook Scott as our guest preacher today. Brook is a Presbyterian Church (USA) minister who earned a Master of Divinity degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo. She is Parish Associate at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon. Formerly, she was the interim pastor at Two Rock Valley and Tomales Presbyterian Churches, a chaplain at University of California San Francisco, and seminary intern at Old First. Brook preached for us last, just one year ago, as part of Old First's celebration of 175 years of ministry. Welcome back, Brook!

Today's Liturgy: A Sanctified Art

Today's liturgical texts are adapted from prayers by the Reverend Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | <https://sanctifiedart.org/>.

Potluck Luncheon, January 18

Old First will hold an old-fashioned church potluck after worship on Sunday, January 18, 2026. Bring your casseroles,* deviled eggs, and Jello™ salads. Dust off your church cookbook or Old First can lend you ours. See the church office for a copy.

*Also known as "covered dishes" (Southern) or "hot dishes" (Midwestern).

Book Discussion: "Everything Good about God is True," January 22

The next session in our discussion of *Everything Good about God is True: Choosing Faith* by Bruce Reyes-Chow will be on Thursday, January 22, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. We will discuss Chapters 8, 9, and 10. The link for the Zoom meeting on January 22 is this:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82503762693?pwd=dj73bjDDwFfuGDmovXiyw3OynkKV5a.1>

Introduction to CPR Compression, January 25

On Sunday, January 25, after coffee hour, Old First will continue its introduction to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) by focusing on compression – a critical step related to use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). We will meet in Room A; bring your interest and your cup of coffee. We would like to have everyone who uses the church building to be ready to help when needed. Please let Pastor Maggi know you can attend.

Coffee Hour Needs Sponsors

Lets not go into 2026 un-cafeinated! For a \$50 contribution, you or a group of you can sponsor this important weekly community-building ministry. Use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Sacramento Street entrance to pick a date; then enter your name and a dedication. Your dedication will appear in that Sunday's bulletin. Alternatively, you can contact the church office to find a date and to sign up.

This Week at Old First

Sunday January 4, Second Sunday after Christmas
After Worship Coffee Hour
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
Saturday January 10
9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry
Sunday January 11, Baptism of the Lord
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship
After Worship Coffee Hour
2:00 pm Board of Deacons, On-Line
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