

Old First Presbyterian Church



The Third Sunday in Lent March 8, 2026

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 Prelude, Fugue, Litany from Suite in G Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

Welcome and Church Life

Introit William P. Rowan (born 1951)

Go and follow Christ's example, not to vanquish, but to heal.
Mend the wounds of sin's divisions. Servant love to all reveal.
Roles and ranks shall be reversed; justice flow for all who thirst.
Go and follow Christ's example. Forge a world of last made first.

Mary Louise Bringle (born 1953)

***Call to Worship**

Sidney Hollar

Leader If you need good news, settle into this space.

People We have good news to share.

Leader If you need a word of hope, then trust us when we say:

People There is hope enough to go around.

Leader If you need a glimmer of joy, then you're in luck!

People We have resilient joy abounding.

Leader If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,

People then know that this is God's house.

Leader This is the good news of the gospel:

People God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.

Let us worship our very present God!

***Hymn 305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!**

- 1 **Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!**
- 2 **Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!**
- 3 **Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,
as we in mission magnify the Crucified!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!**
- 4 **Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!**

**Prayer of
Confession**

Sidney Hollar

People Holy God, with you the impossible is possible.

5,000 can be fed.

The blind can see.

The hopeless can find hope.

With you the impossible is possible,

but we are quick to forget that.

We look at our hurting world

and tell ourselves that nothing can be done.

We forget that you empowered the disciples

to feed the crowd.

We forget that you are always with us.

Forgive our small-minded ways.
 Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.
 But even more so,
 forgive us when we refuse to be a part of the action,
 part of the change.

Let us pray silently.

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made,
 Jesus still washed their feet,
 Jesus still fed them,
 Jesus still called them beloved.
 The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news:
 Today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God.

All **We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone.**
What good, good news!

***Response In God's Sight**

Luscombe/Gaine

We sing the phrase three times.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written on the top staff, and the lyrics are written below it. Chords are indicated by letters above or below the notes. The lyrics are: "In God's sight we are made whole- we are full of God's love- Al- le- lu- ia, A- men! (In God's)".

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/>



Anthem

John Stainer (1840-1901)

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
 that whoso 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

***Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

**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 Jan Hammock, Eva and Branch, Soodeh Hedayati, Saeedeh Heidari,
Kristi Hoerauf, Sidney Hollar, Camryn Hollarsmith, Jordan Hollarsmith,
Logan Hollarsmith

**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.**

Psalm 23

Leader LORD, you are my shepherd; I shall not want.
People **You make me lie down in green pastures.**
Leader You lead me beside still waters; you restore my soul.
People **You lead me in right paths for your name's sake.**
Leader Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil.
People **For you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.**
Leader You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
People **You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**
Leader Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.
All **And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

Scripture

Mark 6:32-44 (page 39)

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

Sermon

Pastor Henderson

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 298 Lord, You Give the Great Commission**

- 1 Lord, you give the great commission:
 “Heal the sick and preach the word.”
 Lest the church neglect its mission
 and the gospel go unheard,
 help us witness to your purpose
 with renewed integrity:
 With the Spirit’s gifts empower
 us for the work of ministry.**

- 2 Lord, you call us to your service:
 “In my name baptize and teach.”
 That the world may trust your promise,
 life abundant meant for each,
 give us all new fervor, draw us
 closer in community:
 With the Spirit’s gifts empower
 us for the work of ministry.**

- 3 Lord, you make the common holy:
 “This my body, this my blood.”
 Let us all, for earth’s true glory,
 daily lift life heavenward,
 asking that the world around us
 share your children’s liberty:
 With the Spirit’s gifts empower
 us for the work of ministry.**

- 4 Lord, you show us love’s true measure:
 “Father, what they do, forgive.”
 Yet we hoard as private treasure
 all that you so freely give.
 May your care and mercy lead us
 to a just society:
 With the Spirit’s gifts empower
 us for the work of ministry.**

5 Lord, you bless with words assuring:
“I am with you to the end.”
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity:
With the Spirit’s gifts empower
us for the work of ministry.

***Charge and
Benediction**

During the postlude please reflect on the following question.

Reflect on something you thought impossible but that actually happened.

What is the impossible thing the church needs to do now?

Next, write your answer on one of the leaf post-it notes and place it on the poster.

Postlude The Rejoicing from Suite in G Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

You may either depart or take a seat to listen to the postlude, as you wish.

However, do please join us for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.

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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A Sanctified Art

This morning's image, call to worship, confession and assurance of forgiveness are adapted from texts by the Reverend Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Today's Coffee Hour

David Lundberg has given today's coffee hour.

Girl Scout Cookies



A local girl scout from Calvary Presbyterian Church (the associate pastor's daughter) will, at Pastor Maggi's invitation, be present at our coffee hour today, ready to sell her last 24 boxes of *Carmel Delights* and *Peanut Butter Patties*! Let's show our welcome and our cookie love!

Book Discussion: "Everything Good about God is True," March 19

The next session in our discussion of *Everything Good about God is True: Choosing Faith* by Bruce Reyes-Chow will be on **Thursday, March 19, at 7:00 pm** via Zoom. We will discuss Chapters 14, 15, 16. The link for the Zoom meeting is this:

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

Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, March 21



Mark your calendars and sign up to volunteer on **Saturday, March 21**, when volunteers from Old First and St. Luke's staff the Interfaith Food Pantry. **Sign up early so Old First is well-represented!**

To visit the sign-up webpage, simply use the QR-code to the right or click on the link below.



<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/667004851505698018/false#/invitation>

This Week at Old First

- Sunday March 8, Third Sunday in Lent**
After Worship Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
Girl Scout Cookies on Sale Today
2:00 pm Board of Deacons, On Line
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Saturday March 14**
9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry
2:00 pm O1C: The Princeton Nassoons
- Sunday March 15, Fourth Sunday in Lent**
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship
After Worship Coffee Hour
4:00 pm O1C: Junior Bach
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
Brad Peterson Church Office Administrator