

# Old First Presbyterian Church



## The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 15, 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** Two Arrangements of "All Things Bright and Beautiful"  
Brock W. Downward (born 1946)  
Anonymous

### Welcome and Church Life

**Introit** The Sacred Harp, 1844  
Harmonized by James H. Wood (1921-2003)

O how deep your holy wisdom!  
Unimagined, all your ways!  
To your name be glory, honor!  
To your name be glory, honor!  
With our lives we worship, praise!  
With our lives we worship, praise!  
We your people stand before you,  
water-washed and Spirit-born.  
By your grace, our lives we offer.  
Recreate us; God, transform!

Ruth Duck (1947-2024)

**\*Call to Worship**

Nina Berg

Leader God loves the church mouse.  
**People God loves the gulls that take flight when children run by.**  
Leader God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.  
**People God loves the child who runs down the aisle.**  
Leader God loves the ones with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.  
**People God loves the bumblebees and the church dogs.**  
Leader God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.  
**People God loves the giant redwoods and the live oaks  
standing strong over all of us.**  
Leader God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.  
**People There is no bit of creation that God does not love.  
So let us worship this good-news God!**

**\*Hymn 487 These Treasured Children**

- 1 The treasured children present now  
are bound to us by sacred vow:  
with love, we make a heartfelt claim  
to welcome them in Jesus' name.
- 2 Our ancient story we shall tell,  
till these our children know it well  
within their souls and minds and hearts,  
for this is where their journey starts.
- 3 We long to trust as children do  
and so entrust our days to you;  
in their young lives we clearly see  
a lesson in humility.
- 4 Come, Holy Spirit, help us be  
a nurturing community;  
empower us to realize  
God's kingdom through our children's eyes.
- 5 Then, tender God, each child embrace;  
God give them blessings grant them grace.  
Surprise them, God, with wonders still,  
and gently guide them to your will.

**Prayer of  
Confession**

Nina Berg

Leader God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land,  
do not mistreat them."

People **Holy God, we confess,  
we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.**

Leader Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God."

People **We confess, we have clung to guns and war  
more than we have pursued peace.**

Leader God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard,  
do not glean what is left;  
it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

People **We confess, we have hoarded our resources  
and failed to care for our neighbors.**

Leader Jesus said, "Let the children come to me,  
and do not stop them."

People **We confess, we have gate-kept the good news in unfair ways.  
Holy God, forgive us. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of  
Forgiveness**

Leader Fortunately for all of us, God also said,  
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine."

All **By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,  
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.  
May this good news change our lives!**

**\*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 common time signature. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the response, with lyrics "In God's sight we are made whole- we are" written below it. Chords F, em, and am are indicated above the notes. 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)" written below it. Chords dm, C/E, dm, G7, and C are indicated above the notes.

**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** Let Us Build a House

Marty Haugen (born 1950)

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine, and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

This hymn is found in *Glory to God*: Hymn 301.

**\*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**

**Scripture** Deuteronomy 24:17-22 (page 173)  
Matthew 19:13-15 (page 20)

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

**Sermon**

Pastor Henderson

**Worship Through Holy Communion**

**Invitation to the  
Lord's Table**

**The Great Prayer  
of Thanksgiving**

Leader The Lord be with you.  
People **And also with you.**  
Leader Lift up your hearts.  
People **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The leader continues the prayer.*

**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.**

The Words of  
Institution

The Bread and  
the Cup

*All are invited to come forward to share in the Lord's Supper.*

*Receive the bread from the pastor, then dip it in the wine or grape juice.*

***There is wine in the chalice and grape juice in the cup.***

***Gluten-free bread is available from the pastor upon request.***

**Worship Through Responding to God's Word**

- \*Hymn**    **See the Precious Children**  
*Sung to "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending," Hymn 716*
- 1    **See the precious children seated  
      on the lap of Christ our Lord.  
      Called the greatest in the kingdom,  
      held so gently and adored.  
      They are precious in the sight of God,  
      who made each tiny toe.  
      In their weakness, they're held by love  
      as each day they learn and grow.**
- 2    **See the precious widowed women  
      gleaning harvests from the field,  
      Then returning to their kitchen  
      to prepare their daily meal.  
      They are precious in the sight of  
      God who holds their broken hearts.  
      In their sorrow, they're held by love  
      that redeems each fragile part.**
- 3    **See the precious foreign strangers  
      as they carry all they own  
      To a land that's full of dangers  
      for the powerless and prone.  
      They are precious in the sight of  
      God, who made their homeland too.  
      In their journey, they're held by love  
      as each day they start anew.**

- 4 See the precious dispossessed ones  
asking for some food to eat.  
Sleeping under starry heavens,  
daily living on the streets.  
They are precious in the sight of  
God who loves them as a child.  
In their hunger, they're held by love  
as they guard their human pride.
- 5 See the precious world impoverished  
by our malice and our greed.  
Humans, animals, and planet  
crying out for some relief.  
We're all precious in the sight of  
God who made each holy thing.  
In our living we're held by love  
as we care for every being

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**\*Charge and  
Benediction**

*During the postlude please reflect on the following questions.*

**When have you been protected or cared for?**

**Who comes to your mind, in your heart, who needs our care and protection today?**

**How can you, how can our church care for/protect the vulnerable?**

*Next, write your answer on one of the leaf post-it notes and post it on the easel at the back.*

**Postlude** Music for an Occasion Eric Thiman (1900-1975)

*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.

### Devotionals for Lent

Please pick up a set of **daily devotional cards** in the narthex. If you forget to pick one up, we can mail them to you. Just let Brad in the church office know: brad@oldfirst.org

You can also access a weekly **on-line devotional booklet** from *A Sanctified Art*, which you can find in Pastor Maggi's weekly email or on Old First's website. You can visit our website using either the QR-code on the right or this address: <https://www.oldfirst.org/index>

### Today's Coffee Hour

Suzanne Berger and Scott Ballantyne have given today's coffee hour.

### 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 this **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>

### Festive Potluck Easter Brunch, April 5

A festive potluck **Easter brunch** will follow worship on Easter Day, April 5. Please plan to bring your favorite brunch treat to share.

**Holy Week and Easter 2026**

**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29**

**11:00 am** Worship

On Palm Sunday, Old First will **install new officers** to serve on the Session and the Board of Deacons, and will be joined by the Copper Hills High School Concert Choir of Copper Hills, Utah.

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3**

**7:00 pm** Worship

**EASTER DAY, APRIL 5**

**10:30 am** Choral Prelude – **11:00 am** Worship

We will receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing** special offering on Easter Day. Remember to bring your well-fed fish-boxes.

We will close worship by congregational singing of the **Hallelujah chorus** from G.F. Handel's *Messiah*. Copies of the music will be available.

A festive potluck **Easter brunch** will follow worship. Please bring your favorite treat to share.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 12**

**11:00 am** Worship with Hymn-Sing

What's your favorite Easter hymn? Look through Hymns 229 to 257 in *Glory to God*.

**This Week at Old First**

**Sunday March 15, Fourth Sunday in Lent**

After Worship Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

4:00 pm O1C: Junior Bach

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday March 17**

7:00 pm Worship Committee, via Zoom

**Saturday March 21**

9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry

1:00 pm Presbyterian Women, Online

**Sunday March 22, Fifth Sunday in Lent**

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

11:00 am Worship

After Worship Coffee Hour

After Coffee Hour Special Session Meeting to Interview New Officers, Munro Room

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