

Old First Presbyterian Church



The Fifth Sunday in Lent March 22, 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 Andante Sostenuto from Symphony IV
Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Welcome and Church Life

Introit Deo dicamus gratias. *Sing to the Lord our thanks.*
Gottfried August Homilius (1714-1785)
French melody, 16th Century

***Call to Worship**

Roseanne Hoo

Leader Young and old, friends and strangers,
People God welcomes us.
Leader Lost and bewildered, found and rejoicing,
People God welcomes us.
Leader Caught and condemned, accused and forgiven,
People God welcomes us.
Leader Proud of our success, afraid of our poverty,
People God welcomes us.
Leader This morning, this day, this night, forever,
People God welcomes us.
Leader Our message is this:
People God welcomes sinners and forgives them.
Leader Our hope is this:
People God welcomes sinners and forgives them.
Leader Our home is this:
People God welcomes sinners and forgives them.

***Hymn 649 Amazing Grace**

- 1 **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**
- 2 **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**
- 3 **Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me save thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**
- 4 **The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**
- 5 **When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

Holy God,
 we love to live our lives by the rules.
 We love clear answers.
 We love right and wrong.
 We love swift justice.
 We love to pick up stones.
 But you show us another way.
 You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.
 You prioritize mercy over legality.
 You prioritize people over tradition.
 You prioritize love over everything.
 Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.
 Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws
 than to each other or to you.
 Forgive us, and soften our hearts.

Let us pray silently.

Root us in mercy, justice, and love.
 With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of
 Forgiveness**

Leader Church family, Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones
 and invited them to choose another way.
 Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion,
 and the same can be said for us.

People So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
Our God is a God of mercy.
Our God is a God of compassion.
Our God is a God of grace.
 God forgives us, loves us, and invites us to choose another way.
 Thanks be to God for yet another second chance.

***Response In God's Sight** Luscombe/Gaine
We sing the phrase three times.

The musical notation is written on two staves in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated by letters above or below the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Chords: F, em, am, dm, C/E, dm, G7, C

Lyrics:
 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 Give Me Jesus Traditional text and music
Arranged by Larry L. Fleming (1936-2003)

O, when I am alone, give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest.
O, when I come to die, give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest.
And when I want to sing, give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest.

***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**

Carolyn Asbury

Prayer Partners Roseanne Hoo, Connie Johnson, John and Carmen Josiah, Sandra Keyes, Nina Krietzman, Marne Krozek, Jeanne Kirkwood, Betsy Lutz

**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 “Watchful’s Song” from *The Pilgrim’s Progress*
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Kirsten Fleischmann, mezzo-soprano

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Except the Lord keep the house, the watchman waketh but in vain.
The Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep peace:
the whole earth is at rest and is quiet.
I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord, who hath made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved.
He that keepeth thee shall not sleep.
Behold, he who keepeth thee shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord himself is thy keeper, he shall preserve thee from all evil.
The Lord himself is thy keeper, he shall preserve thee from all evil:
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul,
from this time forth for evermore.
Into thy hands I commend my spirit, O Lord.

Text from the Psalms and Isaiah

Scripture John 8:2-11 (page 95)
Matthew 23:23-24 (page 24)

Leader The Word of God in scripture.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Pastor Henderson

Prayer **Gracious and loving God,**
we give thanks that you refuse to let the guilt of sin define us,
but direct us toward an open future.
Forgive our sins and
set us on new paths of righteousness for your name’s sake.
Heal the wounds of judgmentalism in our hearts
and in the lives of those whom we have judged.
Help us to extend ourselves in love and compassion to others,
as you have extended yourself to us. Amen.

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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This Morning's Liturgy and Art

This morning's call to worship is based on liturgy written by Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill, Wild Goose Publications, The Iona Community, Scotland.

This morning's confession and forgiveness are adapted from texts by the Reverend Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. The image on the cover is also from A Sanctified Art LLC.

Today's Flowers

Mike and Nina Berg have given today's flowers in loving memory of Craig Kehne and of Betsy Chiao.

Today's Coffee Hour

Mary Russell has given today's coffee hour in joyful anticipation of Easter and the promise of Resurrection.

4th Saturday Community Dinner, March 28

This month's 4th Saturday Community Dinner with our neighbors and friends falls on March 28. Can you help serve the meal and feast with our guests at the dinner?

Volunteers are welcomed from 4:30 pm on. Food service begins at 5:15 pm. Let us know that you can help. E-mail this address: 4thsaturdaydinner@oldfirst.org

10:45 am Choral Prelude, Palm Sunday, March 29

Come early next Sunday, March 29, when Old First will host the **Copper Hills High School Concert Choir** of Copper Hills, Utah, and their director, Marc Taylor. The choir will sing a choral prelude for us beginning at **10:45 am (note time!)** and then join us for worship.

Installation of Newly Elected Officers, Palm Sunday, March 29

Next Sunday, March 29, Old First will install **newly elected officers** to serve on Session and the Board of Deacons and will thank those officers rotating off duty. Join us for worship, and support these folks who seek to serve Christ and further the mission of Old First.

Readers Needed for Good Friday, April 3

We are looking for readers to lead the Good Friday worship service on April 3 at 7:00 pm. If you can participate, please speak to Pastor Maggi at coffee hour today or email her directly: maggi@oldfirst.org

10:30 am Choral Prelude, Easter Day, April 5

Old First's choir will again begin our Easter celebration with a choral prelude at 10:30 am followed by worship at 11:00 am on Easter Day, April 5.

One Great Hour of Sharing, Easter Day, April 5

We will receive our annual One Great Hour of Sharing special offering on Easter Day, April 5. One Great Hour of Sharing supports work serving individuals and communities confronted by many challenges: disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, migration, and refugee status. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Bring your fish-boxes and your generosity.

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.

Raffle Tickets for SF Boys' Chorus

Our beloved **Sebastián Dueñas** is a proud member of the San Francisco Boys' Chorus. We can support him and the Boys' Chorus by purchasing raffle tickets for the 2026 Benefit drawing to be held on June 3, 2026. Raffle tickets cost \$5 each, \$20 for 5 tickets, or \$40 for 10 tickets. Sebastián will be at coffee hour and would love to tell you more!

Holy Week and Easter 2026

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29

10:45 am Choral Prelude – **11:00 am** Worship

On Palm Sunday, Old First

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

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 22, Fifth Sunday in Lent**
After Worship Coffee Hour
After Coffee Hour Session Meeting to **Interview New Officers**, Munro Room
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday March 24**
6:00 pm Session, Online
- Saturday March 28**
9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry
5:15 pm 4th Saturday Community Meal, Fellowship Hall
- Sunday March 29, Palm Sunday**
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
10:45 am Choral Prelude: Copper Hills High School Concert Choir
11:00 am Worship with Installation of Newly Elected Officers
After Worship Coffee Hour
4:00 pm O1C: Ava Nazar, piano “Nahoft:
Women Composers of the Iranian Diaspora”
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Friday April 3, Good Friday**
7:00 pm Good Friday Worship
- Sunday April 5, Easter Day**
9:15 am *Choir Rehearsal: Note Time!*
10:30 am Choral Prelude: Old First Choir
11:00 am Worship
After Worship Festive Potluck Easter Brunch
- Monday April 6, Easter Monday**
Church Office Closed

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