

Old First Presbyterian Church



Palm Sunday March 29, 2026

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.

Please pick up sheet music for the Hallelujah Chorus from an usher.

Choral Prelude: Copper Hills High School Concert Choir and Madrigals

Marc Taylor director, Brenda Tuttle piano

Concert Choir	Sing All Ye Joyful	Ruth Watson Henderson (born 1932)
Madrigals	In the Middle	Dale Trumbore (born 1987)
Concert Choir	Ave Verum Corpus	W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Ave verum corpus natum de Maria Virgine, Vere passum immolatum in cruce pro homine, Cujus latus perforatum unda fluxit et sanguine, Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.	<i>Hail, true body born of the Virgin Mary, who truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for humankind, whose pierced side overflowed with water and blood, be for us a foretaste in the trial of death.</i>
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Worship Through Praising God

Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.

** At the asterisk, please rise in body or spirit.*

Welcome and Church Life

*Call to Worship

Hal Christiansen

Leader Will you follow?
Will you lay down your coat?
Will you lay down something important?
Will you shout "Hosanna"?
Will you join the parade, even if your steps are unsure?
Will you sing, even if your voice is weak?
Will you cut down a palm branch?
Will you wave it in the air?
Will you follow the one riding on a donkey?
Will you let this good news inspire you to act?

People **We will!**
We will sing.
We will pay close attention.
We will worship.
We will follow.

Leader Hosanna!

People **Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

*Hymn 197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Please wave your palms while the children and choir process with their palms during the hymn.

- 1 **Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**
- 2 **From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;
the lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.**
- 3 **"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer; the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.**

Prayer of Confession

Hal Christiansen

Jesus of Nazareth, we know that
you spent your days teaching and healing.
You marched through the streets and walked on water.
You laid hands on the sick
and broke bread at crowded dinner tables.
Your good news was not confined to conversation,
it was not confined to the Temple.
Your good news was an act of love,
alive in the world.

Holy God, we long for a faith like that.
Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith
to something we think about,
as opposed to something we act upon,
something that we live out.

Let us pray in silence.

Inspire us to love as you loved. Inspire us to act.
With hope for tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader Church family,
whether or not you wave your palm branch,
whether or not you live out your faith,
whether or not you allow this good news
to inspire your actions—

People God will never stop loving us.

Leader Jesus will never stop walking with us.

People The Spirit will never stop listening to us.

Leader We are claimed, loved, and held in grace.

People What good, good news!

***Response In God's Sight**

Luscombe/Gaine

We sing the phrase three times.

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B-flat4, and a quarter note C5. A double bar line with repeat dots follows. The melody continues with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B-flat4, and a quarter note C5. Above the staff are the chords F, em, and am. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B-flat4, and a quarter note C5. Above the staff are the chords dm, C/E, dm, G7, and C. 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 *Usbers 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/](https://new.oldfirst.org/donations/)*



Anthem Karitas Habundat Hildegard of Bingen (ca. 1098-1179)

Karitas habundat in omnia, *Divine Love overflows into everything*
de imis excellentissima *raised high– highest– from the very depths*
super sidera *to surpass constellations,*
atque amantissima in omnia, *and tender– most tender– toward all creation,*
quia summo regi *such that it bestows the kiss of peace*
osculum pacis dedit. *on the highest king.*

***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**

Hsiaochien Chuang

Prayer Partners Alfred Martin and Harriet MacLean, Larry Marietta, Maryam, Dianne Middleton, Cheryl Min, Pierre Moyé, Martin Musch, Lois Nason

**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.**

Anthem

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Scripture Mark 11:1-11 (pages 44-45)

Leader The Word of God in scripture.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastor Henderson

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

- *Hymn 200** **A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd**
- 1** **A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd
had stripped the green trees bare,
and hailing Christ as king aloud,
waved branches in the air.**
 - 2** **They laid their garments in the road
and spread his path with palms
and vows of lasting love bestowed
with royal hymns and psalms.**
 - 3** **When day dimmed down to deepening dark
the crowd began to fade
till only trampled leaves and bark
were left from the parade.**
 - 4** **Lest we be fooled because our hearts
have surged with passing praise,
remind us, God, as this week starts
where Christ has fixed his gaze.**

**5 Instead of palms, a winding sheet
will have to be unrolled,
a carpet much more fit to greet
the king a cross will hold.**

Today Old First installs new officers.

Deacons: Hsiaochien Chuang (Class of 2028), Mary Russell, Jian Wang (Class of 2029)

Elders: Chris Burt, Harriet MacLean, Lori Yamauchi (Class of 2029)

The constitutional questions are asked of those to be installed.

Then these questions are asked of the people.

Elder Virginia Webb Pekelnicky Do we, the members of the church,
accept Chris, Harriet, and Lori as ruling elders
and Hsiaochien, Mary, and Jian as deacons
chosen by God through the voice of this congregation
to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

People We do.

Virginia Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them,
to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us,
serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

People We do.

**Prayer of
Installation**

Statement You are now deacons and ruling elders
in the Church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation.
Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

People Amen.

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude: Copper Hills High School Choirs

During the postlude, please reflect on the following questions.

When have you marched to support the work of justice and mercy?

Who needs you to stand with them, up for them today?

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

Madrigals Give Me Your Stars Lucy Walker (born 1998)

Concert Choir A Tree is a Song Cecilia McDowall (born 1951)

Coffee hour: please join us for refreshments in the fellowship hall on the lower level.

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 liturgy is 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 Eco-Palms

By choosing Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday, Old First promotes environmental and social justice:

- Instead of whole palms being cut down for a few fronds, Eco-Palms are sustainably harvested to keep the palms alive, thus providing shade and soil stability necessary for a healthy forest.
- Instead of most of the income going to market-traders, Eco-Palms provide gatherers in Guatemala and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula with a greater share of the income from fairly traded palms.



For more information use the QR-code or visit: <https://ecopalms.org/index.php>

Today's Guest Choirs from Copper Hill High School

Today we welcome the **Concert Choir** and **Madrigals** of Copper Hills High School, Copper Hills, Utah, and their director, **Marc Taylor**. Old First extends our thanks for this morning's choral prelude and music during and after worship.

The **Concert Choir** is an advanced, auditioned, large ensemble and the mainstay of the school's choral program. The Concert Choir has consistently earned superior ratings at both region and state choral festivals. The choir travels and performs each spring on tour in venues across the nation including San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Seattle, Denver, New Orleans and New York City. The Concert Choir was also honored to present a full-length program last year at the Utah Music Educators Association Conference.

Madrigals is the equivalent of an honors class for choral performance and requires a high level of dedication. Emphasis is on advanced technique, chamber literature and performance. Madrigals is the flagship group that often represents our school at district, school and community events. Concurrent enrollment in the Concert Choir is required.

Originally from California, **Marc Taylor** earned advanced degrees in choral conducting and in vocal pedagogy from Ohio State University. He has taught at all levels of public education during his career and has performed as a tenor soloist and a singer in various choirs, operas and musicals. He is in his eleventh year of teaching at Copper Hills High School where his courses include five choirs and advanced music theory.

Maundy Thursday with First Congregational Church, April 2

First Congregational Church of San Francisco has invited Old First to join them on Maundy Thursday, April 2, for a **simple soup and bread supper at 6:00 pm and worship at 6:30 pm**. They meet at 1529 Polk Street (the former sofa store) around the corner from Old First. Pastor Maggi will be going; let her know if you too are planning to go.

Easter Vigil at Grace Episcopal Cathedral, Saturday, April 4

If you're looking for worship on the Eve of Easter, you can join our ecumenical neighbors up the hill: **Grace Episcopal Cathedral** at California and Taylor Street will hold its Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday, **April 4, at 9:00 pm**. The service will include kindling new fire to celebrate Christ's Resurrection, adult baptisms, and the first communion of Easter.

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

Old First's choir will again begin our Easter celebration, next Sunday, 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, April 5



We will receive our annual One Great Hour of Sharing special offering 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 next Sunday, 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!

Sign Up to Sponsor Coffee Hour

A Sunday without coffee hour would be out-of-place during joyful Eastertide. So help keep the joy of Easter's fifty days going by sponsoring coffee hour!

Of course, sponsoring coffee hour is also a great opportunity for you to honor someone, to remember someone, or to commemorate some event. Sign up today on the bulletin board in the Sacramento Street entry. The cost to sponsor coffee hour is only \$50.00.

Holy Week and Easter 2026

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 4

First Congregational Church, 1529 Polk Street between California and Sacramento
6:00 pm Soup and Bread Supper – **6:30 pm** Worship

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Old First Presbyterian Church
7:00 pm Worship

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Grace Episcopal Cathedral, 1100 California Street at Taylor
7:00 pm Great Vigil of Easter with Baptisms and Communion

EASTER DAY, APRIL 5

Old First Presbyterian Church
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.

This Week at Old First

Sunday March 29, Palm Sunday
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