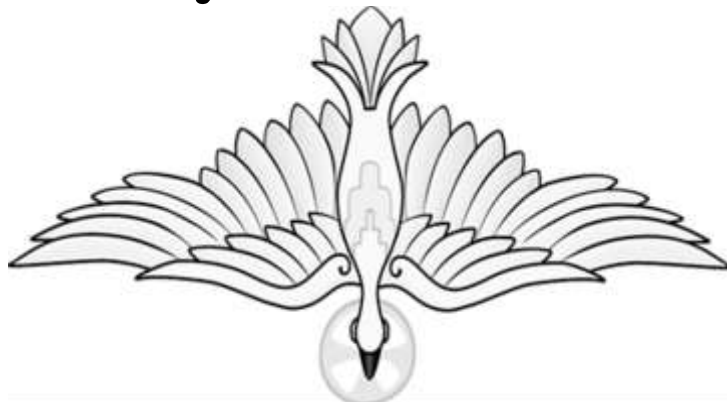


Old First Presbyterian Church



Eastertide Sunday, April 26, 2026

Worship Through Praising God

Easy-to-use headphones 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 Movement No. 2 from Sonata in B-flat Major, D. 960
Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828)

Welcome and Church Life Pastor Henderson

Introit Barechu Salamone Rossi (1570-1630)

בָּרְכוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְבָרָךְ! Bar'chu et Adonai ham'vorach!
בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְבָרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעַד! Baruch Adonai ham'vorach l'olam va-ed!

Praise God to whom our praise is due forever!

Praised be God to whom praise is due, now and forever!

***Call to Worship** Horngsheng Tu

Leader Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
a new world has broken into ours—

People **a world in which justice does come for the poor,
freedom comes for the prisoners, and
healing comes for the sick.**

Leader Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
a new community has been formed—
**People a community that loves and cares for all members,
a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected,
a place where all find a place of belonging.**

Leader Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
a new creation has begun—
**People all that was distorted is being restored,
all that is corrupted is being renewed,
all that was broken is being made whole.**

Leader Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God—
People God's new world has begun.

***Hymn 267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing**

**1 Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!**

**2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!**

**3 Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!**

**Prayer of
Confession**

Hornghsheng Tu

**We cut you to the heart, Loving God,
with the silly choices we make.
We had hoped our lives would reflect your presence,
but those around us can see how empty we are.
We had hoped our words might bring healing,
but they end up hurting those we love the most.
We had hoped to find Jesus,
but cannot see him in all those you send to us.
Oh, how foolish we are
to think we can go on without your mercy, Lord God.**

Silence is kept.

**Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
you judge us impartially from the depths of your heart,
so we may be born anew by your grace,
to continue the journey into your future. Amen.**

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader This we know for certain: We are forgiven by our gracious God.
This good news never ceases to astound us!

People **This promise is passed on to us,**
so we may share it with everyone we meet.
Thanks be to God!

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

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/>



Solo **A New Commandment** Unknown source
Arranged by Alan Bullard (born 1947)
Sergey Khalikulov, bass soloist

A new commandment I give unto you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this shall all know you are my disciples:
if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35

***Doxology** Genevan Psalter, 1551

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 The peace of the Lord be always with you!
People **And also with you!**

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

**Prayers of the
People**

Betty Voris

Prayer Partners Kurt Schwartzmann, Pam Sebastian, Priya Singh, Randy Smith and
Andrea Segura Smith, Mark Spicer and Sam

**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 24:44-53 (page 85)

Leader For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us:

People Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Pastor Henderson

**Ascension
Prayer**

**Jesus,
risen to be with us always,
you are alive in our hearts,
awakening hope,
inspiring faith,
empowering us with your Spirit
Give us the courage
to live for you.
Transform us
with your words and your ways,
that the world
might glimpse your glory
and know the wholeness of your love. Amen.**

**The Apostles'
Creed**

Leader With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 266 Joy to the World**

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love.

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude Étude, Op. 25, No. 1 in A-flat major

Frédéric François Chopin (1810-1849)

*During the postlude, you may either depart or take a seat to listen, as you wish.
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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Today's Musicians

Old First thanks Michael Desnoyers, conductor, and Sam Cheng, piano and organ, for leading music in our worship during Larry Marietta's time away.

Today's Introit and Liturgy

Today's introit is the Jewish call to prayer at morning and evening prayer services. In it, Michael Desnoyers hears a reminder to hearken to "the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms" – just as we hear mentioned in today's passage from Luke.

Today's call to worship, confession and forgiveness were written by Christin Stine and Ruth Burgess.

Today's Coffee Hour

Kurt Schwartzmann has given today's coffee hour.

Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, May 2



Mark your calendars and sign up to volunteer on **Saturday, May 2**, 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>

Erwin Barron Preaching, May 3

The Reverend Erwin Barron will lead worship and preach for us next Sunday, May 3, when our Pastor Maggi will be away for continuing education in Georgia and North Carolina.

New Deacons' Parishes

There are new deacons' parishes and the deacons' assignments may have shifted. Check out who your deacon is by looking at the list posted on the bulletin board in the lobby on the ground floor.

This Week at Old First

Sunday April 26, 4th Sunday of Eastertide
After Worship Coffee Hour
4:00 pm O1C: Wooden Fish Ensemble “202 Years of Strings and Piano”
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
Monday April 27
11:00 am Finance Committee, Online
Tuesday April 28
6:00 pm Session, Online
Saturday May 2
9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry
Sunday May 3, 5th Sunday of Eastertide
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship
After Worship Coffee Hour
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