

Old First Presbyterian Church



Sunday, July 5, 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 hand it to an usher.
Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.
* At the asterisk, please rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude AD 1620 from *Sea Pieces*, Opus 55

Edward MacDowell (1860-1908)

Welcome and Church Life

Introit Here in This Place

Marty Haugen (born 1950)

Kirsten Fleischmann, mezzo-soprano

Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall a waken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

***Call to Worship**

Kurt Schwartzmann

Leader We come to worship today entering a period of sabbatical.

People We come with questioning thoughts.

Leader We knock on doors of new ideas
and examine assumptions long grown stale.

People We come with open minds.

Leader We seek the disconcerting answers
and test competing truths for wisdom.

People We come listening for the Spirit of God.

Leader God's Spirit makes strong our weakness,
forging faith in fires of doubt.
In the knocking, asking, seeking,
we are opened, answered, found.

**All Let us come to this sabbatical open, yet strong in faith.
Let us worship our God.**

Based on a hymn by David Bjorlin

***Hymn 395 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word**

- 1 Blessed Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you.
By your gospel true and holy,
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.
- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.
- 3 Glorious Lord, yourself impart,
Light of Light, from God proceeding.
Touch our lips and ears and heart;
help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your church now raises;
hear, and bless our prayers and praises.

**Prayer of
Confession**

Kurt Schwartzmann

O God of wisdom and surprise,
God of mystery and revelation,
we find ourselves too often rigidly set
in our faith and our beliefs.
We become convinced
that we fully know you and your ways.
We are all too certain
of our faith, our beliefs, and our understanding of you.
Forgive our stubborn certainty, O God.
Forgive us when we think we have all the answers.
Forgive us when we are unwilling
to question what we know or to listen to new ideas.
We are much too often
hard-headed and closed-minded in our faith.

Silent meditation to consider our own closed-mindedness

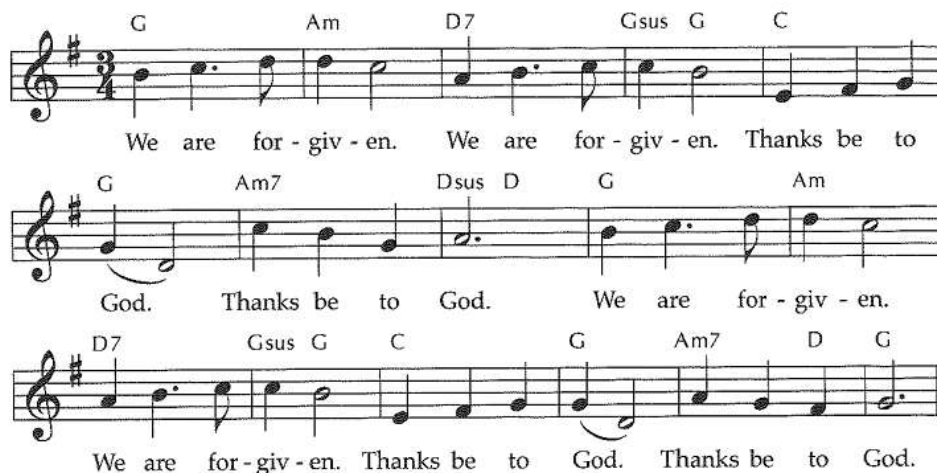
Open our minds and hearts, O God.
Surprise us with new ideas.
Help us remain strong in our faith
but excited about seeing new thoughts and
new ways you reveal to us.

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader No matter what, no matter when,
no matter how unsure we may be,
we are loved and cherished just as we are
by the great God of the universe!

People **We are forgiven! Hallelujah, Amen!**

***Hymn 447**



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.olderfirst.org/ donations/](https://new.olderfirst.org/donations/)



Solo

From the Oratorio *Israel in Egypt*

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Kirsten Fleischmann, mezzo-soprano

Thou shalt bring them in,
and plant them in the mountain of Thine inheritance,
in the place, O Lord, which Thou hast made for Thee to dwell in,
in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which Thy hands have established.

Exodus 15:17

***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**

Sebastian Dueñas

Leader
People

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

***Hymn 345 In an Age of Twisted Values**

- 1 In an age of twisted values,
 we have lost the truth we need.
In sophisticated language,
 we have justified our greed.
By our struggle for possessions,
 we have robbed the poor and weak.
Hear our cry and heal our nation;
 your forgiveness, Lord, we seek.**
- 2 We have built discrimination
 on our prejudice and fear.
Hatred swiftly turns to cruelty
 if we hold resentments dear.
For communities divided
 by the walls of class and race,
hear our cry and heal our nation;
 show us, Lord, your love and grace.**
- 3 When our families are broken,
 when our homes are full of strife,
when our children are bewildered,
 when they lost ether way in life,
when we fail to give the aged
 all the care we know they need,
hear our cry and heal our nation;
 help us show more love, we plead.**
- 4 We who hear your word so often
 choose so rarely to obey.
Turn us from our willful wandering;
 give us truth to light our way.
In the power of your Spirit
 come to cleanse us, make us new;
hear our cry and heal our nation
 till our nation honors you.**

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

**Prayers of
the People**

Lori Yamauchi

Prayer Ed Frauenheim and Rowena Richie, Skyla and Julius, Amberle
Partners Gallup, Claudia Garrison, Madison Germuska, Fernando
González

**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 *See page 10, the last page of this bulletin.*

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 "Questioning our Common Christian Language"
The Reverend Erwin Barron, Parish Associate

Worship Through Responding to God's Word
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***Hymn 23 God, You Spin the Whirling Planets**

- 1 God, you spin the whirling planets,
 fill the seas and spread the plain,
 mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
 call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
 We, created in your image,
 would a true reflection be
 of your justice, grace, and mercy
 and the truth that makes us free.
- 2 You have called us to be faithful
 in our life and ministry.
 We respond in grateful worship
 joined in one community.
 When we blur your gracious image,
 focus us and make us whole.
 Healed and strengthened as your people,
 we move onward toward your goal.
- 3 God, your word is still creating,
 calling us to life made new.
 Now reveal to us fresh vistas
 where there's work to dare and do.
 Keep us clear of all distortion.
 Polish us with loving care.
 Thus, new creatures in your image,
 we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude Trumpets of Victory & General Rejoicing
 From *The Battle of Trenton*

James Hewitt (1770-1828)

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, PC(USA)

Sharing God's Love, Welcome, and Justice
On our Corner, in Our City, and in the World
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Today's Coffee Hour

Today's coffee hour has been given by Chris and Cindy Burt in honor of the 250th Anniversary of the United States.

227th General Assembly of the PC(USA)

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) met in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from June XX through July 2. The General Assembly is the deliberative body for the whole PC(USA), of which Old First is an integral part.

See today's bulletin insert for more information about the work and decisions made by the assembly.

Give thanks for those give freely of their time for the work of the church including the important leadership role of the General Assembly.

Church Office Closed Monday, July 6

Since Independence Day fell yesterday, over the weekend, the church office will observe the holiday and be closed tomorrow, Monday, July 6.

Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, July 11



Though the Interfaith Food Pantry will closed on the 4th of July for the holiday, Old First and St. Luke's volunteers will staff the Food Pantry this coming **Saturday, July 11**. So mark your calendars and 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>

Pastor Henderson's Sabbatical: July through October 2026

One part of Pastor Maggi's terms of call is the provision for a sabbatical every four years of service: a time of retreat, renewal, and revitalization lasting from July through October. The coming months mean not only rest and renewal for Maggi but a time of revitalization for the congregation as well: a time for us to step back from our routine, to step up to keep the church's ministries thriving, and to open ourselves to new ideas and new possibilities.

During this challenging and exciting time, in addition to hearing from our parish associate, the Reverend Erwin Barron, we will also hear from a variety of clergy and leaders of our mission partners. Next Sunday, July 12, Michael G. Pappas, the executive director of the San Francisco Interfaith Council, will be our guest preacher.

This Week at Old First

Sunday July 5

After Worship Coffee Hour

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Monday July 6

Independence Day Holiday Observed: Church Office Closed

Saturday July 11

9:00 am Old First staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Sunday July 12

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

Familiar Biblical Passages

Most are from the King James Version

When it is read, raise your hand if you have heard that passage before.

Put a check mark beside the passage if you have questions about its meaning.

- ☐ **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- ☐ **Exodus 20: 13-14** Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- ☐ **Psalms 19:14** The Lord is my rock and my redeemer.
- ☐ **Psalms 23:1-2** The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- ☐ **Psalms 111:10** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
- ☐ **Matthew 5:3** Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ☐ **Matthew 6:9** Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.
- ☐ **Matthew 22:36-39** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- ☐ **Mark 9:43** And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:
- ☐ **John 3: 16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- ☐ **Galatians 5:19-23** Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- ☐ **Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.
- ☐ **Revelation 21:1 and 4** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away... And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.