

Old First Presbyterian Church



Epiphany: Home by Another Way January 2, 2022

The Reverend Maggi Henderson, Pastor
The Presbyterian Church (USA)

Worship through Praising God

*Please fill out a guest card found in the pew rack and
place it in the offering basket in the narthex when you exit the church building.
Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.
* At the asterisk, please rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude Toccata in E Minor, BWV 914

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome and
Church Life

The Reverend Erwin Barron

***Call to
Worship**

Leader We come to this place—
People each of us on our own path.

Leader The path is winding,
and the path is not always clear,
and the path changes,

People but we are here.

Leader God is walking us home.

**People What a gift it is to not walk alone.
Let us worship Holy God.**

***Hymn 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are**

1 We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading , still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

3 Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorr'wing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

5 Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Prayer of
Confession

Erwin Barron

God of changed plans, the Magi heard in a dream
that they were to take a new way home—
a different path, an untraveled road.

And to our amazement, they did just that.

The Magi packed their bags and went home by another way.

We wish that change could be easy for us,

but more often than not, when whispers of change come,
we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter.

Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy.

Forgive us for ignoring that there is more than one road home.

Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation.

We keep silence.

Guide our steps to unfamiliar places.

Gratefully we pray. Amen.

**Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader No matter which roads we take in this one wild and precious life,
God walks with us. God never leaves our side.
When the road changes and we find ourselves on a new path home,
God is always there.
So hear and believe this Good News:
People **No matter where we go, no matter what we do,
we are claimed, loved, and held by God.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

Solo

Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)
Kirsten Fleischmann, alto

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Stars and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

The Peace *Please remain seated for the Peace.*
Leader Peace be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Worship through Hearing God's Word

**Time with Our
Children**

**Prayers of the
People**

Chris Burt

Prayer Partners David Griffith and Joe Sheffey, Bennett Hall, Jan Hammock, Eva and
Branch, Maggi Henderson, Soodeh Hedayati, Tanner and Julia Highlen

The Lord's **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
Prayer **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 Matthew 2:1-23

The Reverend John Anderson

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

John Anderson

Worship through Responding to God's Word
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Hymn 152 What Star is This, with Beams so Bright

- 1 What star is this with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
Tis sent to announce a new born king,
glad tidings of our God to bring.
- 2 Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed;"
and lo! the eastern sages stand
to read in heaven the Lord's command.
- 3 While outward signs the star displays,
an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might,
to seek the giver of the light.
- 4 O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek your face,
let nor our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of your light to use.

***Charge and
Benediction**

John Anderson

As you leave this service, your service begins:
Comfort the homesick.
Open your doors to others.
Seek sanctuary.
Be brave enough to go home by another way.
And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—
so come back soon.
In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son—
go in peace.

You can place your offering in the basket when you leave the church.

Are you visiting today? Please fill in the contact tracing binder, if you have not already done so.

Today's Liturgy: A Sanctified Art
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Today's liturgical texts by the Reverend Sarah (Are) Speed and are used by license from A Sanctified Art LLC. Learn more about their work at sanctifiedart.org.

Today's Musicians

Today we welcome **Sam Cheng**, a member of Old First, as our guest organist. We thank Sam as well as Old First's section leaders for sharing their musical talents with us today.

Today's Preacher

Today we welcome the Reverend **John Anderson**, a long-time friend of Old First, as our guest preacher. Please welcome John back or introduce yourself to him following worship.

2022: New Year, New Leaders

In the new year, Old First will begin discerning the calling of new deacons and elders to share in leadership of the church. If you feel that someone you know or you yourself might be ready and called to serve the church this way, please speak to a current officer or to Pastor Maggi.