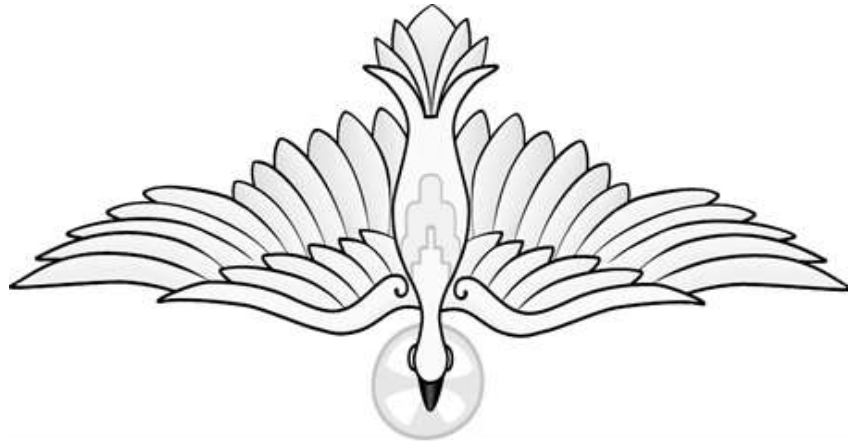


Old First Presbyterian Church



Sunday, September 29, 2024

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

**Welcome and
Church Life**

Randy Smith

Introit

Donald Moore

O come, let us sing unto our God, to God our voices raise.
O come, with joyful voices praise!

***Call to Worship**

Randy Smith

Leader We come so to worship our God,
People whose words restore us to life.

Leader We come to follow Jesus,
People whose justice is crystal clear.

Leader We come to learn from the Spirit,
People whose teachings call us to live as God's people.

***Hymn 52 When Israel Was in Egypt's Land**

**1 When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go;
oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go!**

**Refrain Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh: let my people go!**

**2 "Thus saith the Lord," bold Moses said, "let my people go!"
"If not, I'll smite your firstborn dead. Let my people go!"**

**3 "No more shall they in bondage toil: let my people go!
Let them come out with Egypt's spoil: let my people go!"**

**4 O let us all from bondage flee; let my people go!
And let us all in Christ be free: let my people go!**

**Prayer of
Confession**

Randy Smith

**Gracious God, you give us the words to restore broken relationships
but too often we complain when we are faced
with change and hardship.**

We whine and twist words into insults and accusations.

**You welcome us into the community of those who serve humbly,
yet often we prefer to hang out
with the outspoken who use words
to put down those that disagree with them.**

**You bless us with all manner of gifts,
but we often envy what others have.**

**Keep us alert, Loving God, lest we continue
to trip over our foolish thoughts, words, and actions.**

Let us pray in silence.

**In your mercy,
let us not offer a fist, but a helping hand to another;
let us walk with the lonely, rather than push them away;
let us look for the forgotten, rather than walk right past them;
let us continue to listen to your Word of life, Jesus,
so that we will trust in your grace and hope. Amen.**

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader God's hopes for us are crystal clear.

With forgiveness, God restores us to new life.

With love, God sends us out to live as faithful people.

**People God uses the building blocks of grace, hope, love, and peace
to create new hearts, new lives for us.**

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

***Hymn 586**

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)



Offering

Ushers will now receive the offering. You may also make your offering electronically using the QR-code at the right.



Choir

Václav Nelhýbel (1919-1996)

Blessed is the one, whose strength is in the Lord:

For He is our God: and we are the people of God's pasture.

Blessed are they that dwell in God's house.

For God is sun and shield: The Lord will give grace and glory.

Blessed is the one that trusted in Thee. Amen.

***Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

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.

**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**

Betty Voris

Prayer Partners Sandra Keyes, Levi Knippel, Nina Krietzman, Marne Krozek, Bobby Lane, Jeanne Kirkwood, Diane Lewis, 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 God Shall Wipe Away All Tears Rob Roy Peery (1900–1973)

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,
 Behold, the tabernacle of God is with all,
 and God will dwell with them and they shall be God's people;
 and God, the Lord, shall be with them and he shall be their God.
 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;
 and their shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying,
 neither shall there be any more pain.

Revelation 21:3-4

Scripture Psalm 19:7-14 (page 472)
 Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 (pages 124-125)

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 Crisis in Leadership The Reverend Nancy Holve

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 291** Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Refrain Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness,
 calling and free.

Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,
 wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the waters; you called to the deep;
 then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
 and over the eons you called to each thing,
 "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

2 You swept through the desert; you stung with the sand;
 and goaded your people with a law and a land.
 When they were confounded with idols and lies,
 then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

- 3 You sang in a stable; you cried from hill;
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still.
And down in the city, you called once again
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.
- 4 You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes;
from bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams.
Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.

***Charge and
Benediction**

Leader We will go now as God's people,
People to give a meal to the hungry,
to offer a ride to a neighbor.

Leader We will go now as Jesus' followers,
People to give water to the thirsty,
to welcome the outsiders.

Leader We will go now with the Spirit,
People to offer a heart to the lonely,
to share grace and peace with all.

Choir The Lord bless you.
The Lord keep you.
The Lord give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Postlude

*You may depart or stay to listen to the postlude as you wish.
However, do please join us in the fellowship hall downstairs for coffee hour.*

Old First Presbyterian Church

**Sharing God’s Love, Welcome, and Justice
on Our Corner, in Our City, and in the World**



www.oldfirst.org

415-776-5552

Find Us on Meta/Facebook and YouTube

Today’s Guest Preacher: Nancy Holve

During this, our 175th year we are welcoming folks who have been part of the Old First community in past years. Today we welcome the Reverend Nancy Holve, one-time Christian Education Director at Old First.

Today’s Musicians

Today we welcome bass soloist and section leader Sergey Khalikulov as our guest music director and Old First member Sam Cheng as our guest organist.

Today’s Coffee Hour

Larry Marietta has given today’s coffee hour in honor of Pastor Maggi and her many gifts.

Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, October 5

Members of Old First and St Luke’s combine to staff the Interfaith Food Pantry on the morning of Saturday, October 5. Mark your calendars now. To sign up simply use the QR-Code to the right.



SF Choral Society Gala, October 5

The San Francisco Choral Society invites members of Old First Presbyterian Church to attend their upcoming Bryan Baker & Friends gala concert and reception at Old First on Saturday, October 5, 4:00 pm. The concert will include music for voice and piano from the Romantic Era. Members of Old First can attend for free by using the following discount code: COMP-OFPC For a digital flyer, use the QR-code at left or visit: <https://conta.cc/3zmAZd4>



World Communion Sunday, October 6

Next Sunday Old First will also celebrate communion with faithful around the globe for World Communion Sunday.

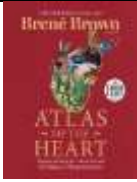
Peace & Global Witness Offering, October 6

Make your offering Peacemaking Global Witness offering this coming Sunday, World Communion Sunday, October 6. Alternatively, you can give now by

- using Old First’s donations webpage (use the QR-code to the left);
- writing a check to Old First with *Peace & Global Witness* on the memo line;
- donating on-line at the Presbyterian Church (USA) website; or
- texting PCUSAPEACE to 41444 on your smartphone.



Next Book Discussion Session, October 7



The sixth session of our new book discussion of Brené Brown's *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connections and Language of the Human Heart* will take place via Zoom on Monday, October 7, at 7:00 pm. At this session we'll cover **Chapter 9 "Places We Go When We Search for Connection."** Newcomers are always welcome!

If you've downloaded the Zoom App, use Meeting ID: 817 4408 7981 and Passcode: 460421. If not, simply click on the web address below or enter it into your computer's browser. A live link to this web address also appears in Maggi's weekly Saturday E-mail.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81744087981?pwd=TVVOUVptVldlMll1T2VFQ2ZMMWl0QT09>

Ballot Proposition Review, October 20

Betty Packard Voris, Old First member and chair of the San Francisco Ballot Simplification Committee, will lead a ballot proposition review on Sunday, **October 20, at 2:00 pm via Zoom.**

Betty will review the content of the San Francisco and California ballot propositions in this year's general elections. You may want to wait to complete your ballot until after this review, so you can vote in a more informed manner.

Please join us for the discussion and bring your San Francisco (if you're a SF resident) and California voter information guides. For the Zoom invitation, check Pastor Maggi's weekly Saturday E-mail or call the church office.

Celebrating Our 175th Year, October 2024

Our church is proud to be celebrating 175 years of continuous mission here. We have been sharing "God's Love, Welcome, and Justice" here on our corner, in our city and in the world for longer than any other Protestant Church in California! We plan to use October to celebrate with worship led by various pastors who've served our church over the years – Erwin Barron on October 6, Maggi Henderson on October 13, and Keenan Kelsey on October 20. Other previous pastors will preach in the early months of 2025.

Our big celebration will be on **October 27 with a Gala 175th Anniversary Worship Service and Luncheon.** Worship will celebrate our years of ministry and sing the new hymn text written for our congregation by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. After worship, we will enjoy a gourmet, catered luncheon, share greetings from previous leaders, and give a celebration champagne/sparkling cider toast. Watch your mail for an official invitation. To help pay for the luncheon, we are asking a \$30 donation, or whatever you can afford to pay. Mark your calendars and let us know if you are coming by emailing us at 175th@oldfirst.org with your number of attendees.

Questions from September's Potluck

Thanks to everyone who answered the question "If you could ask God a question, what would it be?" at the September potluck lunch. Erwin and I are impressed by your questions and will attempt to work some of them into our preaching in the new year. Here are some of them: see below. Peace! –Pastor Maggi

- Why is life so hard?
- Is there life on other planets/galaxies?
- Will God forgive me of my past misdeeds?
- When can Palestine and Israel end their war?
- Why does God use such lousy methods/material to get things done?
- Are there animals in heaven?
- What was the first animal?
- Do you have to be baptized to get into heaven?
- Is God about ready to give up on us?
- Why? Where?
- Is there meaning for all existence?
- Who will win the 2024 presidential election?
- What ever happened to Joseph after the manger?
- When does God take time off?
- Why is there starvation in the world when we can cure it?
- Am I doing the right things?
- Why do children have to suffer?
- If God is all powerful, why does God allow such evil, suffering and trauma in the world?
- If God protects some people (like Donald Trump), why doesn't God protect everyone (like the guy behind him who was shot and killed)?
- If we are all created in God's image, why are we so different and hurt each other?
- Is there an afterlife?
- What does God look like? What's the nature of God? Man, woman, in the sky?
- Is God happy with all the things going on in the world?

We Need *New* Pictures of *Old* First



Old First needs new pictures of our life together: worship, meals, group activities. Pull out your cameras (aka smartphones) and get some candid shots of Old First's members and friends engaged in our ministries "on Our Corner, in Our City, and in the World."

The photos we have at hand are a little outdated. The kids in the photo on the left are now all young adults at college! Send your pictures of Old First at work and at play to our office admin: brad@oldfirst.org

This Week at Old First

Sunday September 29

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

11:00 am Worship

After Worship Coffee Hour

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Friday October 4

8:00 pm O1C: Ting Luo, piano: groundbreaking music and multimedia art

Saturday October 5

9:00 am Old First Staffs the Food Pantry

4:00 pm SF Choral Society Gala Concert & Reception, Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

**Sunday October 6, World Communion Sunday:
Peace & Global Witness Offering**

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

11:00 am Worship

After Worship Coffee Hour

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Monday October 7

7:00 pm Book Discussion Group, On-Line

Old First Presbyterian Church

The Reverend Maggi Henderson Pastor

The Reverend Erwin C. Barron Parish Associate

Larry Marietta Music Director

Jarron Carlson Composer-in-Residence

Brad Peterson Church Office Administrator

Kristi Hoerauf Wedding Coordinator