

# Old First Presbyterian Church



## World Communion Sunday Peace & Global Witness Offering October 6, 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

**Introit** "Almighty God" from *Four Introits* Ned Rorem (1923-2022)

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you.  
Now prepare the world for your rule.  
Come quickly to save us, so that war and violence shall end,  
and your children may live in peace,  
honoring one another with justice and love;  
through Jesus Christ who lives in power with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit. One God now and forever. Amen.

Isaiah 9:2

**\*Call to Worship**

Pastor Henderson

Leader We gather together here today with people from every corner of the globe  
to sow the seeds of peace and to share God's love.

People **We come together at this table  
to be part of the love, peace, justice and life of God.**

Leader We gather today with Christians everywhere—  
in stone cathedrals and in mud huts,  
in small country churches and in small urban ones,  
in churches of thousands and in homes with but a few at the kitchen table—  
to share the grace and love of God.

People **We come together at this table  
to be part of the love, peace, justice and life of God.**

Leader We gather with our Presbyterian brothers and sisters here, in these pews,  
who have shared God's peace in this very place for 175 years.

People **We come together at this table from every place,  
in every age, and throughout eternity  
to be a part of the love, peace, justice and life of God!  
Let us worship God!**

**\*Hymn God Plants the Seeds of Love**

*Sung to the tune of Come Sing, O Church, in Joy, Hymn 305*

*This new hymn text has been composed by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette for our congregation as a part of our 175th Anniversary celebration. We will introduce two verses of the hymn each week, culminating in the entire Old First Presbyterian Church hymn on our anniversary Sunday, October 27.*

**1 God plants the seeds of love. God nurtures them by grace—  
And so a loving church was started in this place.  
God's garden grows.  
God's harvest is a blessing as love overflows!**

**2 We've served one hundred years, and seventy, and five—  
And here in San Francisco we've helped neighbors thrive.  
We've sought to be  
A justice-seeking voice in our community.**

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**Prayer of  
Confession**

Pastor Henderson

**Gracious Lord, creator of this universe,  
in your generosity you have given us  
a world of abundance and diversity,  
yet we live guided by greed and selfishness.  
We confess that we have defaced your creation  
and poisoned our environment  
through our consumerist behavior and for personal gain.**

In Christ, you made us brothers and sisters  
 and intended for us to be united,  
 yet we have built walls to separate us  
 from those who are different from us.  
 We love war rather than strive for peace.  
 We ignore the poor and the weak and honor the rich and powerful.

*Silent meditation*

In all this, we have not lived according to your will.  
 Forgive us, Lord, for daring to boast in our human achievements  
 and for failing to recognize that you alone are worthy of praise.  
 In your mercy, forgive us our sins.

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader

God accepts us simply because of our faith in Christ,  
 through whom our sins were forgiven.

People

May God help us to continue sowing seeds of peace  
 with those who are near and far.

Thanks be to God. 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**

All You Need Is Love

John Lennon (1940-1980) and Paul McCartney (Born 1942)

Arranged by Alan Billingsley

Love, love, love.

There's nothing you can do that can't be done.  
 Nothing you can sing that can't be sung.  
 Nothing you can say, but you can learn how to play the game, it's easy.  
 Nothing you can make that can't be made.  
 No one you can save that can't be saved.  
 Nothing you can do, but you can learn how to be you in time, it's easy.  
 All you need is love; love is all you need.

Nothing you can know that isn't known.  
Nothing you can see that isn't shown.  
Nowhere you can be that isn't where you're meant to be, it's easy.  
All you need is love; love is all you need.

**\*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**

**Scripture** Luke 18:18-27 (page 76-77)  
John 3:16-17 (page 88)

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** Does Old First Have Eternal Life The Reverend Erwin Barron

**Worship Through Holy Communion**

**Invitation to the  
Lord's Table**

**The Great  
Thanksgiving**

Leader Peace be with you.  
People **And also with you.**

Leader Lift up your hearts.  
People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader Let us give thanks to the God of Peace.  
People **It is right for us so to do.**

*The leader continues the prayer.*

**The Lord's  
Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

**The Words of  
Institution**

**The Bread  
and the Cup**

*All are invited to come forward to share in the Lord's Supper.  
Receive the bread from the pastor, then dip it in the wine or grape juice.  
There is wine in the chalice and grape juice in the cup.*

<b>Worship Through Responding to God's Word</b>
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**\*Hymn 340 This is My Song**

- 1 **This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;  
but other hearts in other lands are beating  
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**
- 2 **My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.  
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,  
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.  
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for their land and for mine.**
- 3 **This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:  
thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.  
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,  
and hearts united learn to live as one.  
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations,  
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.**

**\*Charge and  
Benediction**

**Choir**

Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995)  
Arranged by Hawley Ades (1908-2008)

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now;  
With ev'ry step I take, let this be our solemn vow:  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

**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](http://www.oldfirst.org)

415-776-5552

Find Us on Meta/Facebook and YouTube

### Today's Introit

This morning's introit is from a collection of Four Introits by the American composer, Ned Rorem. The dedication reads: "Commissioned by Old First Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, California on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary."

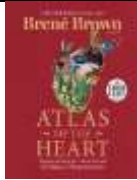
### Peace & Global Witness Offering, Today

You may make your offering Peacemaking Global Witness offering today by using the envelope included in this bulletin. (If you write a check to Old First, be sure to put *Peace & Global Witness* on the memo line.) Alternatively, you can give at any time by

- using Old First's donations webpage (use the QR-code to the left);
- donating on-line at the Presbyterian Church (USA) website; or
- texting PCUSAPEACE to 41444 on your smartphone.



### Next Book Discussion Session, October 7



The next 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 tomorrow night, 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 175<sup>th</sup> 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 today, Pastor 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 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Worship Service and Luncheon**. Worship will celebrate our years of ministry, look forward, and sing our newly commissioned hymn text written 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 E-mailing us at [175th@oldfirst.org](mailto:175th@oldfirst.org) with your number of attendees.

### Remembering the Saints, November 3

Each year on All Saints' Sunday, we remember the members and friends of Old First who've died over the past year and give God thanks for their lives. Please let the church office know of the saints in your life who you would like to be remembered this coming All Saints' Sunday, November 3. Simply E-mail Brad with their names, your relationship to them, and their dates of death: [brad@oldfirst.org](mailto:brad@oldfirst.org)

### 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](mailto:brad@oldfirst.org)

### 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)?
- 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?
- 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**



The photos we have of life at Old First are a little outdated. For example, the confirmation kids in the photo on the left (taken in 2015) are now all young adults at college. Compare the photo below of the Frauenheim-Richie family!

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." Simply send your pictures of Old First at work and at play to our office admin: [brad@oldfirst.org](mailto:brad@oldfirst.org)



**This Week at Old First**

**Sunday October 6, World Communion Sunday: Peace & Global Witness Offering**  
 After Worship Coffee Hour  
 7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

**Monday October 7**  
 7:00 pm Book Discussion Group, On-Line

**Saturday October 12**  
 9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry

**Sunday October 13**  
 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal  
 11:00 am Worship  
 After Worship Coffee Hour  
 2:00 pm Board of Deacons, On-Line  
 4:00 pm O1C: Ives Collective, strings and piano  
 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  
 Jarron Carlson Composer-in-Residence  
 Brad Peterson Church Office Administrator  
 Kristi Hoerauf Wedding Coordinator