

Old First Presbyterian Church



October 20, 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 Fountain Reverie

Percy Eastman Fletcher (1879-1932)

**Welcome and
Church Life**

Introit

Jeremy Rawson (born 1954)

Love must be completely sincere.
Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good.
Love one another warmly as Christian friends
and show respect for one another.

***Call to Worship**

Hornghsheng Tu

Leader We come to claim the love of God and share it with all we meet.
People We are a people of justice.
Leader We come to find the grit to resist the injustices in our world.
People We are a people of hope.
Leader We come to trust God's direction, even when challenged to hard or illogical things.
People We are a people of peace.
Leader We come to seek God's Shalom for friends and enemies,
next-door and around the world.
People We are the people of God.
Leader We come to God, who comes to us in Jesus, because we cannot stay away.
People Together, 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 has been composed by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette for our congregation as a part of our 175th Anniversary celebration. We will sing this again on our anniversary Sunday next week.

- 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.**
- 3 **We've worked for freedom here, for LGBT rights,
for people who have no safe place to spend their nights—
We've seen the needs.
We've worked for love and justice, planting countless seeds.**
- 4 **We've heard God's steady call for racial justice, too.
We've marched and sung and prayed, for there is much to do.
'Mid hate and fear,
We seek to build a place of love and welcome here.**
- 5 **And in this loving place, we do what love inspires:
We sing of faith and hope and love in joyful choirs.
Each song reveals
The good news of the gospel, God— that your love heals.**
- 6 **The world is changing still; and God, it's by your grace:
We share your justice, love and welcome in this place.
Your garden grows!
Here, as we're nourished, as we plant, love overflows!**

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Prayer of
Confession

Hornghsheng Tu

Holy One, you know all too well how we stumble;
how we fear; how we fall short.
The world is a mess, and we, your people, have contributed.
We want to do better. Speak to us, Lord,
for your servants are listening.
Help us lay down our prejudices and pick up your community.
Help us lay down our pain and pick up your healing.
Help us lay down our divisions and pick up your harmony.
Help us lay down our violence and pick up your love.
Help us lay down our untruths and pick up your bold truth.
Help us lay down our resentments and pick up your forgiveness.
As we lay these things down, we ask you to fill us with your Spirit
for our work in your world.

Silent Meditation

*Assurance of
Forgiveness

Leader

It is by grace you have been saved.

And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

People

God's love is so much greater than our transgressions.

We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*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.



Anthem

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

O thou, the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the Most High, eternal light
Of this our wintry world; thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith: hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine;
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.

Thy saints with holy luster round thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin:
Our nature all shall feel eternal day
In fellowship with thee, transforming ray
To souls, erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833-1917)

***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 1 Samuel 3: 4-10 (page 236)
John 1:43-51 (page 87)
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 Come and See

The Reverend Keenan Kelsey

Worship Through Holy Communion

**Invitation to the
Lord's Table**

**The Great
Thanksgiving**

Leader The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Leader Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 315** **In the Midst of New Dimensions**

1 **In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,**
who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

Refrain **God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,**
we your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever,
now and evermore.

2 **Through the flood of starving people, warring factions, and despair,**
who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?

3 **As we stand, a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,**
grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.

4 **We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,**
each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.

5 **Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,**
may your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.

***Charge and Benediction**

Choir

Peter Christian Lutkin (1858-1931)

May God bless you and keep you;
 May God lift his countenance upon you,
 and give you peace;
 May God make her face to shine upon you,
 and be gracious unto you. Amen.

Postlude

Festival Toccata

Percy Eastman Fletcher (1879-1932)

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

Cover Art

The art on today's cover is by graphic artist Andienhuyhn.

Guest Preacher Keenan Kelsey, Today

This October we're celebrating with worship led by various pastors who've served our church over the years: Today we welcome **the Reverend Keenen Kelsey** to our pulpit. Keenen came to ordained ministry from our own Old First community and served as the pastor at Noe Valley Ministry for many years.

Writing on Our Timeline

This week, please post a reply to these questions on our timeline:

- **How have you followed in the way of Jesus While at Old First?**
- **How or where is God calling Old First (us!) into the future?**

And you can always reply to previously posed questions: Can you name a memory of a favorite worship service? Of an event that involved children at Old First? Of a child that grew up in the church who left an imprint on you? Or can you name a hope for children at Old First?

Coffee Hour

Two Sundays ago, the announcement that Andrea Segura Smith had given the coffee hour in celebration of Randy Smith's 69th birthday on October 6 was omitted from the bulletin. Please wish Randy a happy birthday belatedly when you see him next: We believe in birth-*seasons*.

Display Case by the Sacramento Street Entrance: What Do You See?

As you enter or depart the church using the Sacramento Street entrance on the lower level, take a moment to look at the display case and see what historical pictures and items are now on display. For the last few months, you have enjoyed pictures from choir retreats at Zephyr Point in the 1940's. What do you see there now?

Ballot Proposition Review, Today

Betty Packard Voris, Old First member and chair of the San Francisco Ballot Simplification Committee, will lead a ballot proposition review today, **October 20, at 2:00 pm via Zoom**. Betty will review the content of the city and state ballot propositions in this year's general elections.

Please join us for the discussion and bring your San Francisco (if you're a SF resident) and California voter information guides. You may want to wait to complete your ballot until after this review, so you can vote in a more informed manner.

If you've downloaded the Zoom App, use Meeting ID: 814 2035 5935 and Passcode: 927813. 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 appeared in Maggi's weekly Saturday E-mail.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81420355935?pwd=ELmFvrR3o6ARoooaYqswz0oluKMoY7.1>

Celebrating Our 175th Year, Next Sunday

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!

Our big celebration will be **next Sunday, October 27 with a Gala 175th 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.

To help pay for the luncheon, we are asking a \$30 donation, or whatever you can afford to pay. **Today**, you can still let us know whether you're coming: E-mail us at 175th@oldfirst.org or call us at 415-776-5552 extension 301 – **no later than today** – and tell us how many of you are coming.

SF Night Ministry Gala in the Streets, November 1

The San Francisco Night Ministry invites everyone to join them on November 1 for their Gala in the Streets!

The Night Ministry will celebrate with Community Night Walks beginning at **6:30 pm at Saint Mark's Lutheran Church**, O'Farrell Street between Franklin and Gough. The walks will depart in groups, walking into the Tenderloin to experience the sights and sounds of the streets and to meet some of the people who form our ministry.

If you cannot or do not wish to walk, meet us at **7:30 pm at the Tenderloin Museum** (398 Eddy Street at Leavenworth), where the Community Night Walks will all reconvene. The celebration will continue with festive remarks, awards, dessert, and a champagne toast in honor of the Night Ministry's *next* 60 years.

There's no cost to participate, though an RSVP is encouraged: programs@sfnightministry.org

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 – since last All Saints' – 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 **by October 31** with their names, your relationship to them, and their dates of death: brad@oldfirst.org

This Week at Old First

Sunday October 20
After Worship Coffee Hour
2:00 pm Ballot Proposition Discussion with Betty Voris via Zoom
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
Monday October 21
11:00 am Finance Committee, On-Line
Tuesday October 22
6:00 pm Session, On-Line
Saturday October 26
9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry
5:15 pm 4th Saturday Community Meal, Fellowship Hall
Sunday October 27
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am 175th Anniversary Worship Service
After Worship 175th Anniversary Luncheon
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