

Old First Presbyterian Church

October 27, 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.*

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Prelude | Prelude and Variations on an American Hymntune (NETTLETON) Gordon Young (1918-1998) |
| Welcome and Church Life | Pastor Henderson |
| | READING OF THE MAYORAL PROCLAMATION |
| | The Reverend Erwin Barron |
| Introit | Anonymous, edited by George Lynn (1915-1989) |
| | O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt God's name together. Hallelujah. Amen. |
| | Bay State Collection (1850) |

***Call to Worship**

Sidney Hollar

Leader We lift our eyes up to the mountains;
from where does our help come?
People **Our help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**
Leader We look not to the mountains or valleys,
even to the heaven or earth, for God is found among us.
People **We will not look to the past
but we will be firmly grounded in God's present.**
Leader We will not live in worry about things for today,
but trust that God is here.
People **We will not be crippled by worry about the future,
but trust that God is still writing God's story
and will keep on writing in the days to come.**
Leader Whenever two or three are gathered in Christ's name,
God is here among us.
People **Come, let us worship the God of Creation,
the God of People, the God of Community.**
Leader Let us follow Jesus, for Jesus is The Way.
People **Let us worship together in faith.**

***Hymn 275**

A Mighty Fortress is our God

- 1 **A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.**
- 2 **Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.**
- 3 **And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure.
One little word shall fell him.**
- 4 **That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.
The spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is for ever.**

Prayer of
Confession

Sidney Hollar

We come to thee, O Christ, confessing to thee
the fears that twist our lives and keep us
from the inner calm and peace that come from thee:
The fear of ourselves, that we cannot do what is expected of us;
The fear of being found out for our littleness and pride in ourselves;
The fear of being left out when joy and richness come to others;
The fear of not being ready
when opportunities present themselves for service;
The fear of death, that, when it comes our time to die,
we shall not have done the things we would have done,
because we were afraid to venture out.
We find ourselves shrinking back before the unknown,
wanting assurance where we must have faith;
We find ourselves hesitating to follow thee, O Christ,
afraid the cost may be too great, and life may pass us by.
Give us the strength and peace that only thou canst give.
Amen.

Rachel Henderlite (1905-1991)

*Assurance of
Forgiveness

Leader
People

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
the old has passed away;
behold, all things are new, even us!

Leader
People

All this is the gracious work of God:
in us, through us, and for us. Amen.

*Hymn 586

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

The image shows a musical score for Hymn 586. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The time signature is 3/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are 'Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.' The melody is simple and repetitive, with the first system ending with a double bar line and the second system continuing the same pattern.

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



Anthem

Paul Fetler (1920-2018)

Sing unto God, sing ye whole realms of the earth:
O sing praises unto our God;
Sing to God that rideth upon the heavens which are of old;
Lo, God uttereth a voice, and that a mighty voice.
Ascribe ye strength unto God:
God's excellency is over Israel, and God's strength is in the skies.
Sing praises unto our God.
Praise the Lord!

Based on Psalm 68:32-34

***Hymn 609**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**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**

Steve Taber

Prayer Partners Bryan Nichols and Robin Carrier, Chuck and Emily Olson, Karyn Payne, Daniel Pearch, Donald Pender, Kim Pham, Gordon Phipps

**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.**

Psalm 121

Leader I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
People **My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**
Leader The Lord will not let your foot be moved;
the one who keeps you will not slumber.
People **The one who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**
Leader The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
People **The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**
Leader The Lord will keep you from all evil; the Lord will keep your life.
People **The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

Scripture Jeremiah 29:11 (page 687-688)
Matthew 6:25-29, 33 (page 6)

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

Pastor Henderson

**Affirmation
of Faith**

From the *Brief Statement of Faith* of the PC(USA), 1983
In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female,
of every race and people, to live as one community.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***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.

**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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***Charge and
Benediction**

Choir

Trier manuscript, 15th century

Adapted by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

O Lord, with each returning morn, your image to our heart is born;

O ever may we clearly view our Savior and our God in you.

Ambrose of Milan (c.337-397)

*Please join us in the fellowship hall downstairs for lunch
to continue our celebration of Old First's 175 years of worship and service.*

Old First Presbyterian Church

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

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Today's Liturgy

Today's call to worship is inspired by the words of the Reverend Mindi Welton-Mitchell, executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin: <http://rev-o-lution.org>.

The prayer of confession was written by the Reverend Rachel Henderlite (1905-1991) in 1954. She was the first woman to be ordained a minister in the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), which merged with the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (UPCUSA) in 1983 to form today's Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Check out Old First's face book page for more information about this amazing woman.

The affirmation of faith is drawn from the *Brief Statement of Faith* composed for the 1983 founding of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Writing on Our Timeline

Please write on our timeline. You can find paper and pens and pencils on the window sills.

Suggested questions: 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? 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?

Celebrating Our 175th Year, Today

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!

Join us after worship today for a gourmet, catered luncheon, for greetings from previous leaders, and for a celebratory champagne/sparkling cider toast. To help pay for the luncheon, we are asking a suggested \$30 donation, or whatever you can afford to pay.

Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, November 2

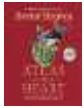
Members of Old First and St Luke's combine to staff the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, November 2. Mark your calendars now. To sign up simply use the QR-Code to the right.



Remembering the Saints, Next Sunday

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 **Thursday, October 31**, with their names, your relationship to them, and their dates of death: brad@oldfirst.org

Next Book Discussion Session, November 4



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 Monday, November 4, at 7:00 pm. At this session we’ll cover **Chapter 10 “Places We Go When the Heart is Open.”** 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>

Open Sanctuary on Election Day, November 5: Sign Up Today

Our sanctuary will be open on Election Day, November, from 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm for reflection, peace, and calm for our congregation and the whole the community. There will be a mix of music, silence, and guided prayer open to all who enter this sacred space. Please join us and invite your friends and neighbors.

Moreover, **we will need volunteers** who will sit in the sanctuary during these hours as well as musicians. Please look for the **sign-up sheet on the bulletin board** outside the Munro Room.

Old First’s Little Free Library

Do you have books you’ve already read on your shelves? Share them with our neighborhood. If you have a few, feel free to put them directly into our Little Free Library by the Sacramento Street entrance. If you have a lot, let Pastor Maggi know so we can put a few out at a time.

This Week at Old First

- Sunday October 27**
- After Worship 175th Anniversary Luncheon
- 7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Saturday November 2**
- 9:00 am Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry
- Sunday November 3, All Saints’ Sunday**
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 am Worship
- After Worship Coffee Hour
- 4:00 pm O1C: Orphic Percussion
- 7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Monday November 4**
- 7:00 pm Book Discussion Group, On-Line
- Tuesday November 5, Election Day**
- 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Consolidated Presidential General Election, Precinct 7319, Ground Floor
- 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm Open Sanctuary

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