

Old First Presbyterian Church



Eastertide April 27, 2025

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 Overture from the Keyboard Partita No. 4
J.S. Bach (1685-1750) BWV 828

Welcome and Church Life Pastor Henderson

***Call to Worship** Jeanne Kirkwood

Leader It is good to praise you, LORD
and make music to your name, O Most High,

**People to proclaim your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night.**

Leader For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD;
I sing for joy at the works of your hands.

**People Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.**

Leader Let us come before God with thanksgiving
and extol God with music and song.

**People For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.**

Leader Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before God with joyful songs.

**People Know that the LORD is God: It is God who made us,
and we are God's people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Leader Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and go into God's courts with praise.

**People Give thanks to the LORD,
and praise God's name.**

Pastor's Reflection

***Hymn 230 Joyful Is the Dark**

1 Joyful is the dark, holy, hidden God,
rolling cloud of night beyond all naming:
majesty in darkness, energy of love,
Word in flesh, the mystery proclaiming.

2 Joyful is the dark Spirit of the deep,
winging wildly o'er the world's creation,
silken sheen of midnight plumage black and bright,
swooping with the beauty of a raven.

3 Joy full is the dark, shadowed stable floor;
waiting for the wonder of the morning;
as with exultation, Mary, giving birth,
hails the infant cry of need and blessing.

4 Joyful is the dark coolness of the tomb,
waiting for the wonder of the morning;
never was that midnight touched by dread and gloom:
darkness was the cradle of the dawning.

5 Joyful is the dark depth of love divine,
roaring, looming thundercloud of glory,
holy, haunting beauty, living, loving God.
Hallelujah! Sing and tell the story!

**Prayer of
Confession**

Jeanne Kirkwood

Gracious and giggling God,
we confess that sometimes we take ourselves too seriously.
We walk through life stiff with worry, grim with guilt,
and frowning with fear.
We forget that you created laughter,
and that joy is a fruit of your Spirit.
Forgive us for putting a lid on your joy, for muting your music,
and for walking around like the resurrection never happened.

Silence is kept.

**Remind us that Easter is the world's biggest surprise party,
and that we're all invited.**

**Tickle our hearts with your grace, nudge us with your mercy,
and teach us to live with eyes wide open for holy hilarity.**

**In the name of the Risen One,
who laughed in the face of death. Amen.**

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader

Here's the good news:
God doesn't hold a grudge— God holds us.
Christ didn't come to scold us—he came to save us,
to shake us out of our sorrow, and
to set loose joy in our hearts like confetti in the wind.
So laugh, dance, sing, rejoice!

People

**For in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!**

***Hymn 466**

Come and Fill Our Hearts

To be sung three times by all.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

Alleluia!

Offering

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



Piano

Prelude in A-flat major, Op 28 No. 17 Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

***Doxology**

DUKE STREET: *For tune, see Hymn 265.*

Arranged by Hal H. Hopson (born 1933)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God, above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!

**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**

Stephen Taber

Prayer Partners

Stephen and Betty Voris, Jian Wang, Virginia Webb-Pekelnicky and Bob Pekelnicky, Teddy and Eden, Rick and Ellen Wiebe, Matt Wolka and family

**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.**

Scripture

Psalm 95:1-7 (page 520)
Ephesians 5:19-20 (page 183)

**Leader
People**

The Word of God in scripture.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn Sing

*Choose an Easter hymn to sing.
See Hymns 229 to 257 in Glory to God.*

Worship through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism
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Opening Words

An Elder On behalf of the session, I present Suyang Shao for the sacrament of Baptism.

Pastor Do you desire to be baptized?

Response **I do.**

Pastor Do you confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Response **I confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.**

Pastor Relying on God's grace, will you live the Christian faith?

Response **I will with God's help.**

Pastor Will you accept Christ's call to be involved in the ministry of his church, here, at Old First Presbyterian Church and in all you do?

Response **I will.**

Question to the Church Do you, members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and to nurture Suyang by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging Suyang to know and to follow Christ and to be a faithful member of Christ's church?

People **We do.**

The Baptism

Prayer

**Commissioning and
Commitment of the
Congregation**

Left Side When you find yourself lost
 and confused,

Right Side May you hear
 Christ calling your name.

Left Side As you venture
 on uncertain pathways,

Right Side May you recognize
 Christ with you on the journey.

Left Side In times of wondering
 and doubt,

Right Side May you feel
 Christ's patient reassurance.

Left Side And in all times and places
 know this:

All Christ is risen! Alleluia! Amen.

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

Pastor's Reflection

- *Hymn 241 Woman, Weeping in the Garden**
- 1 Woman, weeping in the garden,
 who has pushed the stone aside?
 Who has taken Jesus' body,
 Jesus Christ the crucified?
 - 2 Woman, waiting in the garden,
 after men have come and gone,
 after angels give heir witness,
 silently you watch the dawn.
 - 3 Woman, walking in the garden,
 Jesus takes you by surprise;
 when the gardener calls you, "Mary!"
 faith and joy meet in your eyes.
 - 4 Woman, weeping in the garden,
 weep for joy, for you have seen
 Jesus, the Messiah, risen;
 Christ, of whom the prophets dream.
 - 5 Woman, dancing from the garden,
 find the others and proclaim
 Christ is risen as he promised;
 tell the world he knew your name!

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude Fuga in C Major BuxWV 174 Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

During the postlude, you may either depart or take a seat to listen, as you wish.

However, do please join us in the fellowship hall downstairs for coffee hour.

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

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 Musician: Sam Cheng

This morning we welcome Sam Cheng as our guest harpsichordist/pianist/organist!

Easter Flowers: Hydrangeas

Those who donated hydrangeas may take them home today. With good light and regular watering they'll stay healthy and blossom for weeks.

Today's Coffee Hour

Linda Reyder has given today's coffee hour in gratitude for life and friends.

Good Friday Offering: MECA/Seraj Library Project

If you were not able to participate in the worship on Good Friday, you can still contribute to the Good Friday offering by using Old First's on-line donations page (<https://new.oldfirst.org/donations/>) or by using the QR-code at right. Simply choose "**MECA/Seraj Library Project**" as the giving opportunity. This offering will be divided between two recipients: The Middle East Children's Alliance and the Seraj Library Project.



The **Middle East Children's Alliance** (MECA) works to protect the rights and improve the lives of children in the Middle East through aid, empowerment and education. In the Middle East, MECA provides humanitarian aid, partners with community organizations to run projects for children, and supports income-generation projects. In the US and internationally, MECA raises awareness about the lives of children in the region and encourages meaningful action. Our offering tonight will be directed to serve children in Gaza. For more information, visit <https://www.mecaforpeace.org/>

The **Seraj Library Project's** purpose is to assist in the education of Palestinian villagers of all ages and faiths through the development of high quality and accessible library programs. The project's vision is access to a community library for every Palestinian child and family. For more information, visit <https://www.serajlibraries.org/>

One Great Hour of Sharing

You can still make your One Great Hour of Sharing offering for Easter.

One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

You can also make your One Great Hour of Sharing offering by using Old First's on-line donations page (<https://new.oldfirst.org/donations/>) or by using the QR-code at right.



Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, May 3

Volunteers from Old First Presbyterian Church and St. Luke's Episcopal Church staff the pantry **this coming Saturday, May 3.**

Sign up to volunteer now! You can find a link to sign up by using either this QR-Code or the link under the Interfaith Food Pantry heading on Old First's homepage: www.oldfirst.org



Guest Preacher June 1: Bruce Reyes-Chow



The Reverend Bruce Reyes-Chow will be preaching for us on June 1. Bruce is a former moderator of the PC(USA), a local church pastor and an author.

His newest book *Everything Good about God is True: Choosing Faith* has received great reviews and read by one of our own small groups. Why don't you read it before he comes and you can talk with him following coffee hour. We have a few copies available in the narthex on Sundays and the church office on other days. They are \$14.00 per copy. You can put a check or cash in the envelope with the books or you can pay on line using Old First's donation page (<https://new.oldfirst.org/donations/>) and selecting **"Study Book Fund"** as the giving opportunity.

Red Cards: Know Your Rights

Old First Presbyterian is investing in "Red Cards," small wallet size cards to share the people who fear ICE coming into their homes and lives. These cards have five simple statements that affirm that all people in the United States, regardless of immigration status, have certain rights and protections under the U.S. Constitution. These cards are created by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (<https://www.ilrc.org>) out of an increasingly complex legal and social challenges faced by immigrants, which created a growing need for expert assistance and training in immigration law and policy

You can pick up cards to share with the community in the narthex or by contacting the church office.

This Week at Old First

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|-----------------|--|
| Sunday | April 27: Second Sunday of Easter |
| After Worship | Coffee Hour |
| 4:00 pm | O1C: Wooden Fish Ensemble "Piano and Strings – 100 Years!"
Thomas Schultz, piano; Sue-mi Shin, violin; Rick Shinozaki, violin;
Sarah Lee, viola; Thalia Moore, cello |
| 7:15 pm | AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall |
| Saturday | May 3 |
| 9:00 am | Interfaith Food Pantry |
| Sunday | May 4: Third Sunday of Easter |
| 9:30 am | Choir Rehearsal |
| 11:00 am | Worship |
| After Worship | Coffee Hour |
| 7:15 pm | AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall |

<p style="text-align: center;">Easter Flowers Have Been Given by the Following</p>

Carolyn Asbury	In memory of Dee Bernhard
Gabby Beck-Engeser	In memory of her aunt and uncle Sigrid and Ottmar Beck.
Michael and Nina Berg	In memory of Joe and Burnita Burton In memory of Betty and Arthur Berg In memory of Marge and Jerry Faller
Diane Brenum	In gratitude for Larry Marietta and the Old First music ministry
Cindy and Chris Burt	In memory of John Sebastian and his commitment to Old First In memory of the Reverend John Bodo, who married Chris and Cindy and who started Old First Concerts
Tracy Clagett	In memory of Barry Clagett In honor of Michael Berg In honor of Christopher Burt In honor of Kristi Hoerauf
James Fagler and Lori Yamauchi	In gratitude for Jemma Fagler, their wonderful daughter In memory of Thelma Fagler, and Joe and Kay Yamauchi, their parents
Ed Frauenheim	In memory of Edward E. Frauenheim, III In memory of Martha F. Frauenheim
Ariana Lee	In celebration of Easter
Linda Reyder	For the joy of spring
Mary Russell	In honor of Old First staff In honor of Old First officers In honor of Old First children, their parents, and the Sunday School teachers
Randy Smith and Andrea Segura Smith	In gratitude for the Old First family
Sally Spencer	In honor of Old First staff
Sarah and Steve Taber	In honor of Old First ushers In honor of the Old First choir
Betty and Steve Voris	In gratitude for discovering Old First 28 years ago In gratitude for being blessed with loving and extended families
Virginia Webb-Pekelnicky	In thankfulness for the life and faith of her Grandmother Wilma Webb and of her Grandfather Bobby Glover, now at home with their Savior