

# Old First Presbyterian Church



**Sunday, August 21, 2022**

**The Reverend Maggi Henderson, Pastor  
The Presbyterian Church (USA)**

## Worship Through Praising God

*Please fill out a guest card found in the pew rack and  
place it in the offering basket in the narthex when you exit the church building.*

*Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.*

*\* At the asterisk, please rise in body or spirit.*

<b>Prelude</b>	“Forlane” from <i>Le Tombeau de Couperin</i>	Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)
<b>Welcome and Church Life</b>		Sarah Taber
<b>*Call to Worship</b>		Lori Yamauchi
Leader	From the land of bondage, O God, and through the wilderness,	
<b>People</b>	<b>through a land of drought and deep darkness,</b>	
Leader	you brought us to a plentiful land to eat its fruits.	
<b>People</b>	<b>With gladness and gratitude, we worship you, God our strength.</b>	
<b>*Prayer</b>		
Leader	Holy God, you alone are worthy of honor and praise. Open our eyes to see the world as you see it. Give us the wisdom to witness your presence in all people. Transform us in love, grow us in our faith, and call us to love with a full heart and to share your promises with all people.	
<b>People</b>	<b>Amen.</b>	

**\*Hymn 726    The Summons**

- 1 **“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”**
- 2 **“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”**
- 3 **“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”**
- 4 **“Will you leave the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”**
- 5 **Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

**Prayer of  
Confession**

Lori Yamauchi

**Hear God’s Message, House of Jacob!  
Yes, you—House of Israel!  
God’s Message: “What did your ancestors find fault with in me  
that they drifted so far from me,  
Took up with Sir Windbag  
and turned into windbags themselves?  
It never occurred to them to say, “Where’s God,  
the God who got us out of Egypt,  
Who took care of us through thick and thin, those rough-and-tumble  
wilderness years of parched deserts and death valleys,  
A land that no one who enters comes out of,  
a cruel, inhospitable land?”**

*Reflection in Silence: Have we become a cruel and inhospitable land, community and church? In our decisions affecting the nation, community or the church have we “drifted so far from” God.?*

**“I brought you to a garden land  
where you could eat lush fruit.  
But you barged in and polluted my land,  
trashed and defiled my dear land.**

The priests never thought to ask, 'Where's God?'  
The religion experts knew nothing of me.  
The rulers defied me.  
The prophets preached god Baal  
and chased empty god-dreams and silly god-schemes.

*Reflection in Silence: When we have contributed to polluting, trashing and defiling God's earth, do we ask "Where's God?"*

**"Because of all this, I'm bringing charges against you"**  
—God's Decree—  
"charging you and your children and your grandchildren.  
Look around. Have you ever seen anything quite like this?  
Sail to the western islands and look.  
Travel to the Kedar wilderness and look.  
Look closely. Has this ever happened before:  
That a nation has traded in its gods  
for gods that aren't even close to gods?  
But my people have traded my Glory  
for empty god-dreams and silly god-schemes.

*Reflection in Silence: How have we participated in the current events of our nation, community and church that has traded God's glory for empty dreams and silly schemes?*

**"Stand in shock, heavens, at what you see!  
Throw up your hands in disbelief—this can't be!"**  
God's Decree: "My people have committed a compound sin:  
they've walked out on me, the fountain of fresh flowing waters,  
and then dug cisterns—  
cisterns that leak, cisterns that are no better than sieves.

*Reflection in Silence: Is Jeremiah's description above also the current state of the world, the community, the church? Have we walked out on God?*

**"Isn't Israel a valued servant,  
born into a family with place and position?  
So how did she end up a piece of meat  
fought over by snarling and roaring lions?  
There's nothing left of her but a few old bones,  
her towns trashed and deserted.  
Egyptians from the cities of Memphis and Tahpanhes  
have broken your skulls.  
And why do you think all this has happened?  
Isn't it because you walked out on your God  
just as he was beginning to lead you in the right way?"**  
God you pursued Jeremiah and now you are pursuing us.  
In your pursuit you are willing  
to crash through our distance to you and destroy our idols  
to get to our hearts.

**Our fear, God, is that you will find us  
instead of us keeping busy searching for you.**

**We repent of our ways that have not shared  
your mercy, justice, grace and love.  
Forgive us and keep pursuing us;  
even when we stay in the shadows, hoping you won't find us.  
Give us the courage and desire to bring in your reign.**

**Assurance of  
Forgiveness**

Leader God rejoices when we repent and return.  
Rejoice! For you have been reconciled to God and to one another.  
With joy, seek the honor of God's service.

**People Amen.**

**Offering** *Usbers will receive the offering at this time.*

The Lost Chord

Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)  
Sergey Khalikulov, bass

Seated one day at the organ,  
I was weary and ill at ease,  
And my fingers wander'd idly  
Over the noisy keys;  
I know not what I was playing,  
Or what I was dreaming then,  
But I struck one chord of music,  
Like the sound of a great Amen.  
It flooded the crimson twilight,  
Like the close of an Angel's Psalm,  
And it lay on my fever'd spirit,  
With a touch of infinite calm.  
It quieted pain and sorrow,  
Like love overcoming strife,  
It seem'd the harmonious echo,  
From our discordant life.  
It linked all perplexèd meanings,  
Into one perfect peace,  
And trembled away into silence,  
As if it were loath to cease;  
I have sought, but I seek it vainly,  
That one lost chord divine,  
Which came from the soul of the organ,  
And enter'd into mine.  
It may be that Death's bright Angel,  
Will speak in that chord again;  
It may be that only in Heav'n,  
I shall hear that grand Amen.

Adelaide Anne Procter (1825-1864)



- 2 For woman and man, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
for woman and man, a system that's fair...
- 3 For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong...
- 4 For just and unjust, a place at the table,  
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,  
for just and unjust, a new way to live...
- 5 For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free...

**\*Charge and  
Benediction**

**Postlude** Fugue in C Major BWV 870/2 from *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, Book II  
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*You may place your offering in the basket as you leave the church or may make it using the electronic kiosk in the narthex or Old First's on-line giving page found on the right-side of our homepage: [www.oldfirst.org](http://www.oldfirst.org).*

*Are you visiting today? Please fill in the contact tracing binder, if you have not already done so.*

<b>Old First Presbyterian Church</b>
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<b>Sabbatical 2022: July to October</b>
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From July through October, Old First Presbyterian Church and our pastor, Maggi Henderson, are on sabbatical. Until Pastor Maggi returns to us at the beginning of November, please keep her and all our Old First community in your prayers. In case of the need for pastoral care, please contact your assigned deacon, the Board of Deacons moderator, Randy Smith, or the church office.

<b>Today's Guest Preacher: Sarah Reyes Gibbs</b>
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Our guest preacher today is the Reverend Sarah Reyes-Gibbs, DMin. Dr. Reyes-Gibbs has just finished a three-year transitional/interim position with New Bridges, Hayward, after retiring in 2017 from her first call lasting nineteen years with Bethel Community Church, San Leandro. Not embracing retirement well, she continues to serve as a consultant with churches focused on transformation and with other presbyteries addressing ethnic concerns.

Before ordained ministry, Sarah served the Stockton Unified School District as an elementary and high school teacher for eight years, as a coordinator for a Drug Free School Zone at Edison High School, Stockton, and before that as a legislative assistant with the California legislature twenty years.

In addition to raising four children, Sarah also earned a bachelor at the age of 40, received her Masters of Arts in Education with an emphasis on administration, received her Master of Divinity at age 50, and received her Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis on parish redevelopment at age 60. Pastor Sarah's perspective on life and faith is shaped by her trust in God and her experience as a Filipina-American, pastor, wife, mother of four, *lola* (Filipino for grandmother) of fifteen, and much more!

**Today's Musicians: Samuel Cheng, Sergey Khalikulov**

We welcome and thank our guest musicians today: Samuel "Sam" Cheng, organist, and Sergey Khalikulov, Old First's bass section leader.

**We Staff the Food Pantry, Saturday, August 27**

We need your hands! The City needs your hands! Jesus needs *your* hands! Without your hands, Old First won't have enough hands for the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, August 27.

But you can sign up so easily by visiting our website – [www.oldfirst.org](http://www.oldfirst.org) – and then clicking on the link in the sidebar column. The pantry coordinators will thank you! The clients will thank you. You'll have fun. You'll be part of the solution to food insecurity in our neighborhood. For more information, check with Riley or John Kramar. They will thank you.

**Holy Communion, Next Sunday**

On Sunday, August 28, Old First will celebrate Holy Communion. Whether you join us in person or on line, prepare yourself for the nourishment and empowerment of the Lord's Supper.

**Next Sunday's Guest Preacher: Virstan Choy**

Next Sunday our guest preacher will be the Reverend Virstan Choy. Mr. Choy has been a minister of Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) in the Presbyterian Church (USA) since 1975.

Virstan is thankful to God for his initial introduction to Christ through the youth group leaders, the church school teachers as well as the pastors at the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown and at Cameron House, for the nurture provided by seminary instructors at Princeton and San Anselmo, for wisdom received from lay leaders in the first congregation he served as pastor, the Sacramento Chinese Community Church, for insights from colleagues throughout his service as Associate Executive Presbyterian in the San Jose Presbytery and Co-General Presbyterian in the San Francisco Presbytery, and for enriching collaborations with fellow faculty at San Francisco Theological Seminary and McCormick Theological Seminary. He also appreciates learning from the congregations, and denominational and ecumenical bodies which he has assisted as workshop leader and consultant—*congregations like Old First and its 1996 "Postcards from the Edge" Retreat at Westminster Woods and its hosting of the 1999 National Presbyterian Urban Ministry Conference!*

Virstan is also grateful to God for his spouse, Marina Lew, as they transition into retirement, enjoying sacred moments with family in international travel, at Broadway musicals, and supporting Cal Women's Gymnastics.

**Old First Presbyterian Church Staff**

The Reverend Maggi Henderson	Pastor
The Reverend Erwin C. Barron	Parish Associate
The Reverend Lisa Robecheck	Parish Associate
Larry Marietta	Music Director
Brad Peterson	Office Admin
Kristi Hoerauf	Wedding Coordinator