

Old First Presbyterian Church



The Sunday after Epiphany January 8, 2023

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.*

Prelude

**Welcome and
Church Life**

Pastor Henderson

Introit The Shepherd Star

Traditional Appalachian American hymn

***Call to
Worship**

Betty Voris

Leader In this season of waiting, of longing,
of looking for you to come into our world
We are seeking to follow the star of hope
We are seeking light.
In our own lives

People We are seeking light

Leader In our neighborhoods and city

People We are seeking light

Leader In our families with our friends

People We are seeking light

Leader In our work and retirement
People We are seeking light
Leader In Grace
People We are seeking light
Leader In our nation
People We are seeking light
Leader In our world
People We are seeking light

Leader Seek and you shall find
Knock and the door will be opened
Ask and it will be given to you
People Jesus Christ you are the light of the world
May we have eyes to see you
And ears to hear you
And hands to do your work
Come into our world today

***Hymn 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are**

- 1 **We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**
- 2 **Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.**
- 3 **Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh,
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.**
- 4 **Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb.**

**Refrain O ... star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Prayer of
Confession
Betty only**

Betty Voris

Why do we huddle in the shadowed corners of life, rather than running to the
Light of life? Why do we love the wrong we do rather than grasping the good
news offered to us? As we struggle with such questions, let us speak to God of
all we have failed to do, seeking hope and grace as we pray,
**We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the
dimness of temptation.**
**Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure,
for we expect him to full our desires, rather than your hopes for us.**
**We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment,
rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace.**
**Forgive us Shaper of our lives,
that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace.**

Silence is kept.

Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago,
who found hope, instead of a destination;
who found grace, instead of gratitude;
who found salvation, instead of a sign.
As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
fill us with the light of your joy and love. Amen

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader Up, on your feet! Grace has been poured into our hearts;
love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

People **This is the light which has come to all,
the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet.
Thanks be to God. Amen**

***Gloria** **Angels We have Heard on High**, Hymn 113, Refrain Only

Refrain **Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Offering *Ushers will receive the offering during the anthem. You may also make your offering electronically using the kiosk in the narthex.*

Anthem O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Kirsten Fleishmann, alto soloist

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion
Get thee up into the high mountain

O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem
Lift up, thy voice, with strength
Lift it up, be not afraid
Say unto the cities of Judah
Behold your God!

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion
Arise, shine, for thy light is come

And the glory of the Lord
Is risen upon thee.

***Doxology**

GREENSLEEVES

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary. Amen.**

**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**

Michael Berg

Prayer Partners Gabriele Beck-Engeser, George Becker and Christo Bresnahan, Michael Bene, Michael and Nina Berg, Erin Berg, Patrick Berg, Lisa Bigley, Courtney Blake

**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

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

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

**An Epiphany
Litany**

Leader When those first visitors came to you, Lord Jesus,
they brought gifts to lay at your feet.

All But it was they who left the richer for having seen you.

**Our gifts are not those of kings
but we offer them now
with that same awe and expectation
believing they, as we, may be worthy
to be used for your work in the world.**

**We are not as wise as we would like to be,
yet we offer your ourselves,
all that has gone before and all that lies ahead,
in your service.**

**As we lay what we have
and what we are before you,
may our eyes look heavenward,
may our hearts rise in expectation
and may we, together,**

be instruments of change and bringers of light
in places of need.
In Jesus's name we pray.
Amen.

Adapted from *Spill the Beans* by Tina Kemp

***Hymn We Come to this Moment**

Sung to MUELLER, "Away in a Manger," Hymn 115

- 1 We come to this moment, we've travelled so far,
like long ago wise men, those led by a star.
The roads that we've walked are days of the year,
and some have been joyous and some full of fear.
- 2 We come to this moment, we come as we are,
with all that has happened we bear the year's scar.
But here there is welcome, no more need we roam:
the birth of the Christ child now draws our hearts home.
- 3 The moment's eternal, it's endlessly new,
God's presence among us is endlessly true.
How awesome the silence in which can be heard
the hope and the peace of the incarnate Word.
- 4 This moment's to treasure, it's wonder, it's praise!
Enthralled by such gifting, we can only gaze.
How small is this life-light, yet how bright and clear,
a star for our journey as year succeeds year.

Avis Palmer, adapted

***Charge and
Benediction**

Choir The Town Lay Hushed

*Psalm melody by Thomas Tallis
Words by Christopher Wood*

Postlude

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 Facebook and YouTube

Today’s Guest Organist, Sam Cheng

Today we welcome Old First member, Sam Cheng, as our guest organist.

Follow the star in 2023

What gifts might you share with the church and community?
The promise is we all have gifts to share!

- * We are looking for people to wash the towels we use in the kitchen. The person who has been doing this for three years needs a break.
- * People to help run the on line worship recording. Great training. You can do it once a month or more.
- * Give a poinsettia a new life. Please take a poinsettia following worship at the coffee hour. They do well in gardens in the Bay Area. Take as many as you would like.

Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, January 14

Make a New Year Resolution to support the Interfaith Food Pantry. Old First staffs the pantry on Saturday, January 14. Sign up now. You can find a link to sign up on Old First’s homepage under the Interfaith Food Pantry heading: www.oldfirst.org

Session Budget Reconciliation Meeting, January 21

Session will gather for its Budget Reconciliation meeting on Saturday, January 21, at 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour Sponsorship

Looking for a gift for loved ones or friends at Old First? Why not sponsor our coffee hour in their honor? It’s only fifty dollars. The sign-up sheet has returned to the bulletin board in the Sacramento Street lobby. We’ll include your dedication in that Sunday’s bulletin.

This Week at Old First

- Sunday January 8**
- 2:00 pm Board of Deacons, On-Line
- 7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall
- Saturday January 14**
- 9:00 am Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry, Social Hall and Sidewalk
- Sunday January 15**
- 11:00 am Worship
- 7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Social Hall
- Monday January 16, MLK Jr. Day**
- Church Office Closed

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