

Old First Presbyterian Church



Sunday, August 27, 2023

Worship Through Praising God

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 Choral from 4 Pièces pour orgue. Op. 37 Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

Welcome and Church Life

Introit Allgemeines Katholisches Gesangbuch (c. 1774)
Harmonized by Johann Gottfried Schicht (1753-1823)
Kirsten Fleischmann, mezzo-soprano

Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim;
all in heaven above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain,
everlasting is your reign.

Paraphrase of Te Deum, Attributed to Ignaz Franz (1719-1790)
Translated by Clarence Alphonsus Walworth (1820-1900)

***Call to
Worship**

Leader We come here today
from a world with too much pain and suffering.

People But we come to God.

Leader The bulrushes and weeds of our world threaten to consume us.

People But we come to God

Leader The world around us tempts us to conform to the consumerism,
violence, hatred and fear that is everywhere.

People But we come to God.

Leader We come to be transformed,
to have our hearts and minds renewed
as we worship the God of love, peace, hope and joy.

All Let us worship God!

***Hymn 60 Your Endless Love, Your Mighty Acts**

- 1 **Your endless love, your mighty acts
surpass what words can tell;
Lord, may the joys your people know
be mine to share as well.**
- 2 **Our rebel forebears rarely grasped
your mercy or your might;
we need your mercy, just like them:
we, too, do wrong not right.**
- 3 **Before a golden calf they bowed –
an idol in your place! –
until, by Moses' faithful prayer,
you drew them back to grace.**
- 4 **But when they spurned the promised land,
you made your anger plain;
they wandered long on desert paths,
and served the Baals again.**
- 5 **Yet those whom once you sold in wrath,
in mercy you restored;
may we, like them, be gathered in
to thank and praise you, Lord.**

Prayer of
Confession

Jeanne Kirkwood

O God, you call us to be transformed by your Spirit,
but instead, we most often conform to the evil of this world.
We become wrapped up in consumer culture
always needing the new and the flashy –
new car, new phone, new clothes, only the best!
We become self-centered,
always striving to get ahead no matter whom it hurts.
We listen to the news and the politicians and lose hope,
falling into defeatist dread and depression
And worst of all, we give in to our anxieties and fears,
afraid to do anything new or to reach out to help others.
We confess that we conform to the worst of the world.

Silence is kept.

But God, we know you can transform us
and renew our hearts and minds.
You draw us out of the water.
We know you are always with us and always forgive us,
and you always bring hope.
Give us the courage to know and follow your will
and forgive us for our worldly sin and lack of hope.
Amen.

*Assurance of
Forgiveness

Leader

God's love is steadfast and sure.
No matter our sin, no matter the evil around us, God forgives.
When we are lost and drifting in the bulrushes,
God draws up from the evil and holds us in love.
God sent Jesus so that we can always know God's love and forgiveness

All Hallelujah! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Hymn 583

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

Offering

Ushers will now receive the offering. You may also make your offering electronically using the kiosk in the narthex.

Solo "I Will Sing of Thy Great Mercies" from St. Paul

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Kirsten Fleischmann, mezzo-soprano

I will sing of Thy great mercies, O God,
of Thy mercies, O God, my Savior,
and of Thy faithfulness evermore!

***Hymn 609**

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

***The Peace**

Leader Peace be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

**Prayers of the
People**

Sarah Taber

Prayer Partners

Mary Russell, Amir Sadeghi and Saeedeh Heidari, Kurt Schwartzmann, Pam Sebastian, Randy Smith and Andrea Segura Smith, Sally Spencer

**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

Exodus 1:20-2:10; Romans 12:1-3

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

"Trust in God, but Send in the Women!"

The Reverend Erwin Barron

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

- *Hymn 772** **Live into Hope**
- 1 **Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God's own jubilee!**
 - 2 **Live into hope! The blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.**
 - 3 **Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread,
to hear God's word and thus be fed.**
 - 4 **Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.**

***Charge and
Benediction**

Solo

Swee Hong Lim (born 1963)

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.
May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day.
May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

Maria Ling (born 1961)

Postlude

Postlude in D Major

Alfred Lefébure-Wély (1817-1869)

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

The Art on the Cover

The art on the cover is adapted from work by Sue Bentley/FreeBibleimages.org and used under Creative Commons permission.

Today's Coffee Hour

Mary Russell has given today's coffee hour in gratitude for 75 years!

Reparations for African Americans Discussion, Today

Please join us after worship today for an in-person discussion of Reparations for African Americans. The discussion will take place in the Munro Room. Light snacks will be provided.

August Food Barrel Challenge

Let's fill up our food barrel for the SF-Marin Food Bank and share with those who have less! You can still bring contributions next Sunday, September 3. The suggested items for our August challenge have been: dry pasta, canned soup, and canned meat or fish. The food barrel is located in the narthex - no glass containers please.

New Artwork, New Preaching Series

To follow the kelp forest banners by Josie Iselin earlier this summer, the Worship Committee has created new artwork for the reredos continuing the aquatic theme. The banners inspired the committee to think about all the ways the oceans and aquatic life are featured in the biblical story. The theme continues with a school of fish swimming across the reredos. Our fish will be varied and colorful, much like our congregation and our community.

Both Iselin's kelp forest banners and the new artwork featuring fish got Pastor Maggi thinking about water and scripture. Starting today, and continuing through September 24, Pastor Maggi will preach a series of sermons focusing how bodies of water were the place of many of Jesus' teachings and how these stories can still offer us a place of learning today. On September 10, she will begin two weeks on the biggest fish story ever – Jonah. To prepare, read Jonah Chapters 1 and 2. To prepare for September 17, read Chapters 3 and 4.

All Hands for the Food Pantry, September 2

Sign up today to staff the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, September 2, when "all hands" – members from all the Food Pantry congregations – staff the pantry and serve our neighbors. It's the Labor Day weekend and we'll need *your* extra hands.

You can sign up easily by visiting the Food Pantry's sign-up webpage:

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/667004851505698018/false#/invitation>

Old First Town Hall, September 17

Mark your calendars for a town hall/church hall meeting on Sunday, September 17 following coffee hour. This will be the first of many conversations as we begin to explore and dream about where and how God is calling us to share God's love, to be faithful disciples of Jesus, and to offer welcome and justice on our corner, in our city, and in the world. Our whole community of members and friends is encouraged to attend in person, but plans for on-line participation are in the works. We will move to the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship and we'll start our discussion with two simple questions: What are your fears? What are your hopes?

This Week at Old First

Sunday August 27

12:30 pm Reparations for African Americans Discussion, Munro Room

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Saturday September 2

9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry: Volunteer today! Visit Old First's website for a link to the sign-up page: www.oldfirst.org

Sunday September 3

11:00 am Worship

4:00 pm O1C: The Mike Greensill Trio, Mike Greensill, piano, Ruth Davies, bass, Brad Beuthe, guitar, guest vocalist Gale Terminello

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Monday September 4

Labor Day: Church Office Closed

Old First Presbyterian Church Staff

The Reverend Maggi Henderson Pastor

The Reverend Erwin C. Barron Parish Associate

The Reverend Lisa Robeck Parish Associate

Larry Marietta Music Director

Jarron Carlson Composer in Residence

Brad Peterson Office Admin

Kristi Hoerauf Wedding Coordinator