

Old First Presbyterian Church



“God does not demand that I step out of airplanes. Nor am I likely to have trust as pure as young son when he knew hands were always ready to catch him. But, like Peter, I can step forward, even if the ground beneath me is no more substantial than water. What matters is that I am walking toward Jesus, whose hand is held toward me, stretched out in invitation, stretched out to grasp me should I fall.” —Amy Hunter

Sunday, September 3, 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	Prelude from <i>Hommage a Frescobaldi</i>	Jean Langlais (1907-1991)
	Meditation	Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)
Welcome and Church Life		
Introit	Calm to the Waves	Thomas Pavlechko (born 1961) Michael Desnoyers, tenor
	<i>Michael will sing the song once. Then congregation sings it twice.</i>	
	Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Jesus whispers, “Peace, be still.” Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In stillness, hear his voice.	
		Mary Louise Bringle (born 1953)

***Call to
Worship**

Betty Voris

Leader Here, in this place, God welcomes the dreamers,
as well as the doubters.

**People Here, the worriers and wanderers
can call on God by name.**

Leader Here, in this time, we can remember
all the ways God has graced us.

**People Here, in these moments, we are reminded
that God is with us, always!**

Leader Here are gathered those daring enough
to step out of comfort into the unknown.

**People Here, in this faith space, we will find the courage
to cry out, "God, save us!" in every situation.**

***Hymn 8 Eternal Father, Strong to Save**

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm has bound the restless wave,
who bade the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

2 O Savior, whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walked upon the foaming deep,
and calm amid its rage did sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

3 O Holy Spirit, who did brood
upon the chaos wild and rude,
and bade its angry tumult cease,
and gave, for fierce confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

4 O Trinity of love and power,
all travelers guard in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go;
thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad praise from air and land and sea.

**Prayer of
Confession**

Betty Voris

**It seems so easy to get into the boat and to set sail on our journey,
God of Promises.**

**But when the winds of change begin to blow,
we want to turn around and head back to the past's safe harbor.**

**When sin's waves crash over the side,
we try to wrap ourselves in the cloak of pride
thinking we will not get wet.**

**When Jesus calls to us to get out and follow in faith,
we look around, hoping he is not speaking to us.**

Silence is kept.

**Swamped by our fears, and sinking in doubt,
we long for someone to help us - so save us, Holy One, save us!**

**Stretch out your hand,
so we might be lifted from our despair to hope,
from our worries to trust,
from our foolishness to faithful living.**

**Then, we will dare to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
even if it means**

**getting out of the sheltered lives we have built for ourselves.
Amen.**

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader

In confessing that Christ is Lord,
we let go of the past, and turn to God's future.

We step out of our fears,
and walk into the light and life offered by our God.

**All In trusting Christ's resurrection, we trust all of God's promises,
letting the Spirit work in and through us,
healing and making us whole.**

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

***Hymn 184**

Calm to the Waves

We sing the text twice.

Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind.

Jesus whispers, "Peace, be still."

Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end.

In stillness, hear his voice.

Offering

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

Solo You Can Tell the World African American Spiritual
Arranged by Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)
Michael Desnoyers, tenor

You can tell the world about this, you can tell the nations about that.
Tell 'em what Jesus has done. Tell 'em that the Comforter has come.
And he brought joy, joy, joy to my soul.

He took my feet out the mercy clay. Yes, he did. Yes, he did.
He placed them on the Rock to stay. Yes, he did. Yes, he did.

My Lord done done just what he said. Yes, he did. Yes, he did.
He healed the sick and raised the dead. Yes, he did. Yes, he did.

***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!**

**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**

Bill Feister

Prayer Partners AnnieScott Rogers, Mary Russell, Amir Sadeghi and Saeedeh Heidari, Kurt Schwartzmann, Pam Sebastian, Randy Smith and Andrea Segura Smith

**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 Matthew 14:22-33
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

***Hymn 185** Lonely the Boat

- 1 Lonely the boat, sailing at sea, tossed on a cold, stormy night;
cruel the sea which seemed so wide, with waves so high.
This single ship sailed the deep sea, straight into the gale;
O Lord, great is the peril; dangers do all assail.
- 2 Strong winds arose in all their rage, tossing the tiny lone boat;
waves billowing high, tossing the boat, lost and afloat.
The sailor stood all alone, wondering what to do;
O Lord, so helpless was he, wondering what to do.
- 3 Trembling with fear, deep in despair, looking for help all around,
the sailor saw light from above. "Help can be found;
my God is here in my small boat, standing by my side;
O I trust in the Savior; now in my life abide.
- 4 "Pleading for your mercy, O Lord, even a sinner like me;
command, O Lord, calm to the sea, as in Galilee!
Please save my life from all danger, grant a peaceful life;
O please be merciful, Lord, in times of calm and strife.
- 5 "Storms in our lives, cruel and cold, surely will arise again,
threatening lives, threatening us on life's wild sea.
Powerful and great, God's hand is there, firmly in control.
O Lord, calm peace comes from you, peace comes to my lone soul."

***Charge and
Benediction**

Solo Israeli melody

Michael Desnoyers, tenor

Shalom, chaverim! Shalom, chaverim!

Farewell, good friends! Farewell, good friends!

Shalom, shalom!

Shalom, shalom!

Lehitraot, lehitraot,

Till we meet again, till we meet again,

Shalom, shalom!

Shalom, shalom!

Postlude Festivals

Gordon Young (1919-1998)

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 Coffee Hour

Join us for coffee hour after worship today. Then stop by the bulletin board in the Sacramento Street entry and sign up to sponsor coffee hour one Sunday. Your donation of \$50 supports Old First's ministry of hospitality and offers you an opportunity to honor or remember someone you love: your dedication will appear in the bulletin.

Labor Day, September 4

Tomorrow, September 4, is the U.S. Labor Day holiday. Remember the contribution of the U.S. worker to our welfare as you enjoy the holiday. The church office will be closed.

SFSU Students Filming at Old First

Beginning tonight and continuing through Tuesday, September 5, film students from San Francisco State University will be using Old First as a set for a student film – a story that takes place at a funeral. SFSU student Emily Kent contacted Pastor Maggi about filming at Old First and, after reviewing the script, Maggi invited the students to film in the church in exchange for volunteering some of their time in the community service Old First undertakes. Here's an excerpt from Emily's E-mail to Maggi:

I'm a Cinema MFA student at San Francisco State, and I'm producing a colleague's thesis film that takes place in a church sanctuary. I reached out to my friend, John Brett, and he mentioned that you might be open to the possibility... John mentioned that you might like to see the script, but to summarize, it's a short film that takes place in the moments leading up to a funeral. It's a dark comedy that grapples with the overwhelming realities of internet celebrity and superficiality. I should add that the main character is a young, gay man, and I know PC(USA) is a very welcoming denomination. Actually, I was a YAV [Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer] once upon a time!... Thank you! -Emily Kent

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.

Both Iselin's kelp forest banners and the new artwork featuring fish got Pastor Maggi thinking about water and scripture. 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. Next Sunday, she will begin two weeks on the biggest fish story ever – Jonah. To prepare, read Chapters 1 and 2. To prepare for September 17, read Chapters 3 and 4.

Old First Town Hall, September 17

Mark your calendars for a town hall/church hall meeting on Sunday, September 17. 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'll move to the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship and we'll start our discussion with two simple questions: What are your fears for Old First? What are your hopes for Old First?

This Week at Old First

Sunday September 3

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

Friday September 8

8:00 pm O1C: Francesca Khalifa, piano, works by Debussy, Bartók, and others

Saturday September 9

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 10

11:00 am Worship

2:00 pm Board of Deacons, On-Line

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

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