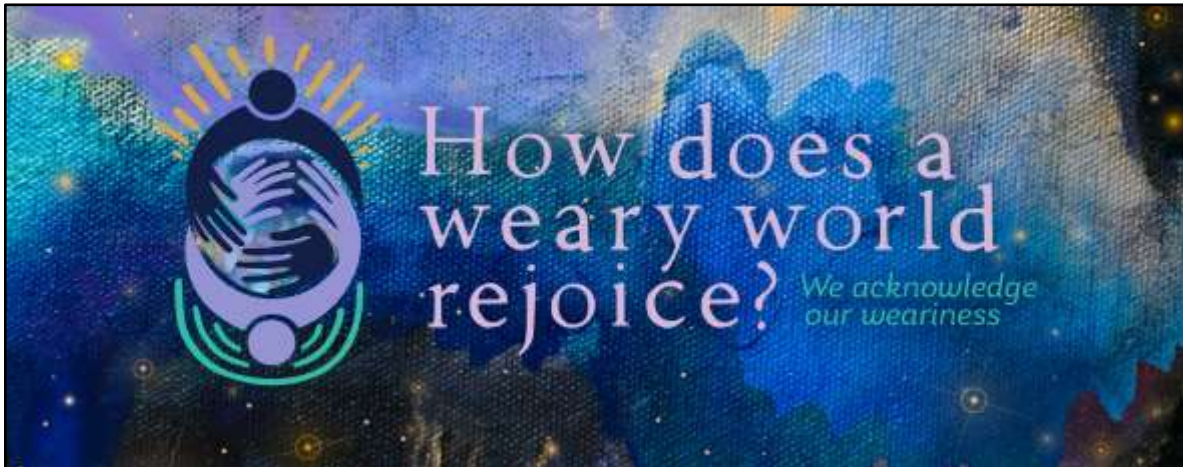


Old First Presbyterian Church



Sunday, November 26, 2023
Advent

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 O Come, O Come Emmanuel Raymond Haan (born 1938)
Vom Himmel Hoch Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Advent Wreath Eder Dueñas, Ángela Mayor, and Sebastian Dueñas

Leader How does a weary world hope?

People **By telling stories of hope,**
by lighting candles in the night,
and by planting seeds in the winter
that will bloom in the spring.

Leader By praying for children as they grow,
and by picking up trash on the sidewalk.

People **By insisting that small acts can make a difference.**

Leader There are a million ways to practice hope.
So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

People **With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world.**
Amen.

The first candle on the Advent wreath is lit.

Welcome and
Church Life

Introit

15th Century Franciscan Processionnaire
Harmonized by Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

Veni, veni Emmanuel, captivum solve Israel, Qui gemit in exilio privatus Dei Filio. Gaude, gaude!	<i>O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, Who mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice!</i>
Emmanuel nascetur pro te, Israel	<i>Emmanuel is born for you, O Israel.</i>

Psalterium cantionum catholicarum, Cologne, 1710

*Call to Worship

Erwin Barron

Leader In God's house, we can be joyful.

People **We can be grateful.
We can be hopeful.**

Leader In God's house, we can be weary.

People **We can be anxious.
We can be grieving.**

Leader In God's house, we can be honest—

People **inspired or tired,
delighted or doubtful,
connected or curious,
and everything in between.**

Leader This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

People **Let us worship our loving God.**

*Hymn 82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 **Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

2 **Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone:
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Prayer of
Confession

Erwin Barron

Gracious God, we are weary.
For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:
**Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.
Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.**

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news,
we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.

Remind us that healing takes time,

and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,
forgive us.

Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Remind us that your good news knows no bounds.

Amen.

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader

Family of faith,

no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin,

no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions,

no matter how many times we ask ourselves, “How can this be?”

God’s love keeps showing up for us.

So say this with me:

People

We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Hymn 113**

Gloria

Refrain Only

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Offering

Ushers will now receive the offering. You may also make your offering electronically using the kiosk in the narthex or this QR-code:



Duet

I Waited for the Lord from Hymn of Praise, No. 5

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Julia Fearon, soprano

Kirsten Fleischmann, alto

I waited for the Lord, He inclined unto me,

He heard my complaint;

O blest are they that hope and trust in the Lord.

***Hymn 297**

Verse 4 Only

Unite us, anoint us, O Spirit of love,

For you are within us, around us, above.

Equip us for service with gifts you bestow.

In Christ is our calling. In Christ may we grow.

Worship through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism
--

Opening Words

Presentation On behalf of the session,
I present Victoria Elise for the sacrament of Baptism.

Pastor Do you desire that this child be baptized?
Parents **I do.**

Pastor Relying on God's grace,
will you live the Christian faith
and teach that faith to your child?
Parents **I will with God's help.**

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

People **We do.**

The Baptism**Prayer****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**

Lisa Robeck

Prayer Partners Amberle Gallup, Claudia Garrison, Fernando González, David Griffith
and Joe Sheffey, Jan Hammock, Eva and Branch, Soodeh Hedayati

**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.**

Solo From Messiah HMV 56 George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
Kirsten Fleischmann, alto

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!"
Arise, shine, for thy light has come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Isaiah 40:9

Scripture Luke 1:1-23

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

Affirmation of Faith **We believe in a God who hears our prayers,
who knows the shape and form of our weariness.
We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us,
not just survival and existence.
We believe in a God who looks ahead,
who is not done dreaming for the world—
a God who sends hope
in the form of people and change, movements and Spirit.
And so we return to this space.
We bring our joy and our weariness
like two sides of the same coin,
and we trust that God is already at work.
Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers.
Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 488** **I Was there to Hear Your Borning Cry**
This hymn honors all who have been baptized at Old First over the many years.

1 **I was there to hear your borning cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.**

**I was there when you were but a child
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.**

2 When you heard the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

3 In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

4 I was there to hear your borning cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.

***Charge and
Benediction**

Choir

Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697

Prepare the way, O Zion; your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847)
Translated by Augustus Nelson (1863-1949)
Adapted by Charles P. Price (1920-1999)

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 Meta/Facebook and YouTube

Today's Coffee Hour

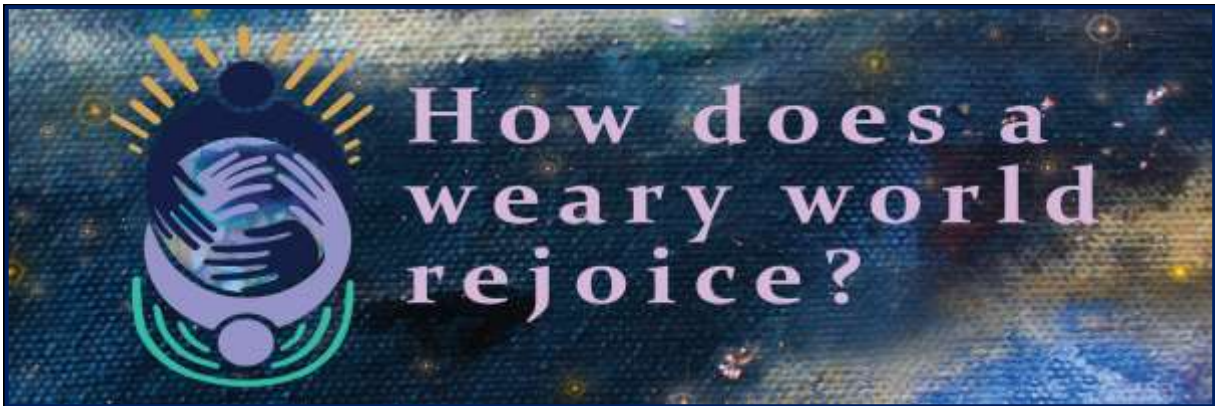
Mary Russell has given today's coffee hour in honor of Old First's staff.

Today's Liturgy and Artwork: A Sanctified Art

Today's liturgy at the Advent Wreath, Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Assurance of Forgiveness are by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC, and the Prayers of the People are adapted from her work. The art on the cover is by the Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC: <https://sanctifiedart.org/>

The New Church Year: Advent

Our theme for this Advent this year is "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?"



Advent devotionals based on this theme are available beginning today. We have four opportunities for you to deepen your Advent experience this year:

- A daily devotional calendar with activities for children and families.
- A daily devotional calendar for busy, but thoughtful adults.
- A devotional booklet for adults – *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?* – which uses art, poetry and reflections for Advent found in Luke's Gospel.
- And for those that would like a bit more substance, we have limited copies of *Celebrating Abundance* by Walter Brueggeman, Professor Emeritus of Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia. This book costs \$10.00 per copy.

If you are worshipping with us via YouTube or if you've moved from San Francisco, please contact the church office to have a copy sent to you.

This Week at Old First

- Sunday November 26, Advent 1**
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday November 28**
6:00 pm Session, On Line
- Saturday December 2**
9:00 am Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry:
Volunteer today! Simply use the QR-code to the right.
- Sunday December 3, Advent 2**
11:00 am Worship
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall



Old First (That's Us) Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry, December 2

Sign up now to pitch in when members of Old First and St Luke's combine to staff the Interfaith Food Pantry this Saturday, December 2.

Of course, you can sign up for any or for every Saturday: Simply visit the sign up page by using the QR-code to the right or by visiting Old First's homepage: www.oldfirst.org and following the link in the sidebar column.



Your Pledge for 2024

Though we dedicated our pledges last Sunday you can still submit a pledge for 2024. Simply ask an usher for a pledge card today or E-mail Old First's office admin for a copy: brad@oldfirst.org

Little Free Library, Coming Soon

Old First's new Little Free Library will be opening soon, and we're collecting books for it. Please leave your contribution in the baskets in the church library on the ground floor.

Want to Learn More About Old First?

If you're interested in getting to know or to learn more about the community of Old First Presbyterian Church, talk with Pastor Maggi. She's passionate about our people, our Christian faith, our Presbyterian heritage, and our mission "on our corner, in our city, and in the world."

Advent and Christmas at Old First

At Old First Advent begins today, so we can have four full Sundays of Advent before Christmas Eve, December 24, also a Sunday. There will be no morning service that day, but we will celebrate Christmas that evening:

- Sunday, December 24**
Christmas Eve Concert of Choir and Organ at 6:30 pm
Christmas Eve Worship at 7:00pm.



<p style="text-align: center;">Poinsettias for Advent and Christmas</p>
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Once again, a garden of poinsettias will beautify Old First’s sanctuary for Advent and Christmas, and you can contribute to this garden by using the form below.

Each of your contributions of **Twenty-Five (\$25)** for these plants will be acknowledged by a dedication in the bulletin on December 17, the Sunday before Christmas Eve.

Please return the information requested below with your payment by placing them in the offering plate or delivering them to the church **no later than Monday, December 4.**

- My name: _____
- The total dollar amount of my gift(s): \$25 x ____ = _____
- Here is **one dedication for each Twenty-Five (\$25) contribution** I’m making – please indicate “in honor of” the living, or “in memory of” the dead, or “in gratitude for” some blessing.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
- NOTE: Write “Poinsettias” on the memo line of your check or envelope.