

Old First Presbyterian Church



The Sunday of Christmas December 31, 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 Christmas Concerto Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)
Prelude on WHAT IS THIS LOVELY FRAGRANCE?
Harrison Oxley (1933-2009)

Welcome and Church Life

***Call to Worship** Claudia Garrison

Leader There is room for you here.
If you're weary and worn,
or hopeful and patient.

People **If you're tired and lost,
or wrapped up in hope.**

Leader If you're new to this place,
or have been here before.

People **Come in, come in.
There is room for you here.**

Leader The angels are singing,
"Be not afraid."

People **The angels are singing,
"Good news and great joy!"**

Leader So come in, come in!

People **There is room for us here.**

***Hymn 129 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

1 **Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.**

2 **Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.**

3 **This flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us,
and lightens every load.**

**Prayer of
Confession**

Claudia Garrison

**Loving Christ, scripture tells us that you were born in a stable
because there was no room in the inn.**

**There was no room in the inn for a woman in need,
no room in the inn for an innocent baby.**

Forgive us.

**We should have learned our lesson by now,
but just as others turned their backs on you,
we continue to turn our backs on one another.**

Teach us how to make room for one another.

Teach us how to make room for you this day and every day.

Silent reflection

**Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love,
for we do not want to build hostility here.
We want to build your promised day.
Guide us forward.
With hope and honesty we pray,
Amen.**

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader

Friends, the angels say,
“Be not afraid,”
but they also say,
“Unto you a child is born.”
Christ is born for you.
Christ walked this earth for you.
Christ forgives you.
That’s what love does.
It makes room. It offers grace. It learns your name.
So repeat these words of hope with me:

People

**Unto us a child is born.
Unto us grace is given.
May this good news change the very fabric of our lives.
Christ has made room for all of us.**

***Hymn 113**

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:



Organ

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

17th C. Provençal melody

***Hymn 134**

Verse 4

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonder of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

**Time with
Our Children**

The Story of the Huron Carol, Hymn 142

***The Peace**

Leader

Peace be with you.

People

And also with you.

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

**Prayers of the
People**

Pastor Henderson

**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

Scripture Luke 2:1-20, The Message, Eugene Peterson

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.

**We Sing Our
Faith**

*Please choose a Christmas hymn found in the hymnal:
See Hymns 108 through 156 in Glory to God.*

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

**Story and
Singing**

***Hymn 136**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

1

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

2

**The shepherds feared and trembled when - lo! - above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.**

3

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude

The First Nowell

Gordon Phillips (1908-1991)

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

AnnieScott Rogers has given today's coffee hour in honor of Old First staff, pastor and choir.

You Can Still Make Your Christmas Eve Offering

You can still contribute to the Christmas Eve offering for relief efforts amid the war in Gaza. As violence escalates in and around Israel/Palestine, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing humanitarian assistance through partners on the ground and through ACT Alliance – an association of over 140 faith-based organizations. PDA's efforts encompass a wide array of vital humanitarian interventions including medical supplies, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, food and psychosocial support.



Please give generously. Remember to write "Christmas Eve Offering" on your check or envelope. To donate electronically, you may use the kiosk in the narthex or visit Old First's on-line donations page using the QR-Code here; choose "PDA: Israel/Palestine."

Interfaith Food Pantry, January 13

Sign up now to pitch in when members of Old First and St Luke's combine to staff the Interfaith Food Pantry on January 13... and ask a friend to join you!



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.

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."

Art on the Cover: The Nativity

The Nativity scene on the cover is courtesy of Freepik.com. Note that the shepherds have come and gone and three wise men from the East have not yet made it to Bethlehem. They're in the distance. We call their visit to the Christ Child the Epiphany – Greek for “revelation.” Join us at Old First on Sunday, January 7, at 11:00 am, when we will celebrate Epiphany.

Today's Liturgy and Artwork: A Sanctified Art

Today's liturgy is adapted from prayers by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC. The art on the cover is by the Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC: <https://sanctifiedart.org/>

This Week at Old First

- Sunday December 31, The Sunday of Christmas**
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Saturday January 6, Epiphany of the Lord**
9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry: Volunteer today!
Simply use the QR-code to the right.
- Sunday January 7, Sunday after Epiphany**
11:00 am Worship
4:00 pm O1C: Sarah Cahill, piano, 20th and 21st Century Compositions
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall



Old First Staff

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