

Old First Presbyterian Church



Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024

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 Partita on HYMN TO JOY Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

Welcome and Church Life

Introit Randall Thompson (1899-1984)
Hosanna in excelsis Deo! *Hosanna to God in the highest!*

***Call to Worship** Bill Feister

Leader Sing songs of loudest praise!

People Hosanna!

Leader Sing songs that are unashamed.

People Hosanna!

Leader Sing songs without being afraid.

People Hosanna!

Leader Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

People Hosanna! Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

***Hymn 197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**

We wave our palm branches as we sing.

- 1 Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.
- 2 From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;
the lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.
- 3 "Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer; the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

**Prayer of
Confession**

Bill Feister

Holy God, we want to run into the streets and sing your praise!
We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel.
However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall.
Too often we stay quiet.
Too often we let others carry the song.
Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade
but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines.
Let us pray silently.
Show us which songs are ours to sing.
Show us which parades are ours to lead,
and then give us the courage and conviction to do both.
With hope and honesty we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader

Friends, no matter where you are on the parade route—
whether you are waving palm branches through the streets
or standing against the wall, quiet and cautious—
Jesus marched for you.
Jesus' love, Jesus' striving for justice and mercy—
it was for you.
You are included in this story
and nothing can ever change that.

So hear these words
and trust them deep in your bones:
People **We have reason to sing,**
for Jesus Christ loved us yesterday,
Jesus Christ loves us today, and
Jesus Christ will love us tomorrow.
We are forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve.
We will go out and sing, trusting these words.

***Sung Assurance**

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Live in charity and steadfast love.
Live in charity; God will dwell with you.

Latin, 8th Century

English translation: Taizé Community, 1991

Offering

Usbers will now receive the offering. You may also make your offering electronically using the QR-code to the right.



Anthem

John Ness Beck (1930-1987)

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,
and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4-53:5

***Doxology**

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to send by grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!

**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**

Mary Russell

Prayer Partners Waldo Carter, Andy and Yvonne Cheng, Samuel, Joshua and Annie, Ted and Betsy Chiao, Buddy Tate Choy and Jeanne Choy Tate, Tracy Clagett

**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 John 12:12-16

Sung Response

Return to You

We sing the response twice.

**I have a wond'ring heart, and a fickle faith.
Can you find me here, can I see your face?
Help me return to you, help me return to you.**

Sermon

Pastor Henderson

**Affirmation
of Faith**

**We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,
who rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey.
We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,
who challenged Rome's oppressive power with peaceful protest.
We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,
who was surrounded by crowds of dreamers and believers.
We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,
so even today, we will sing songs of loudest praise.
Hosanna!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

- *Hymn 200 A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd**
- 1 **A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd
had stripped the green trees bare,
and hailing Christ as king aloud,
waved branches in the air.**
 - 2 **They laid their garments in the road
and spread his path with palms
and vows of lasting love bestowed
with royal hymns and psalms.**
 - 3 **When day dimmed down to deepening dark
the crowd began to fade
till only trampled leaves and bark
were left from the parade.**
 - 4 **Lest we be fooled because our hearts
have surged with passing praise,
remind us, God, as this week starts
where Christ has fixed his gaze.**
 - 5 **Instead of palms, a winding sheet
will have to be unrolled,
a carpet much more fit to greet
the king a cross will hold.**

***Charge and
Benediction**

Choir

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

On a barren hilltop just outside the walls
of an ancient city as the evening falls,
speaks a dying figure hanging on a tree,
saying "It is finished," words of victory.

Christopher L. Webber (born 1932)
based on John 19:17 and 30

Postlude

Rigaudon

André Campra (1660-1744)

*You are invited to leave or to stay for the postlude as you desire.
Please join us for coffee hour in the fellowship hall downstairs.*

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

Lent 2024

Wandering Heart: Figuring Out Faith with Peter

The graphic designs here and on the cover are by the Reverend Lauren Wright Pittman; the background painting and photography are by the Reverend Lisle Gwynn Garrity; today's liturgy is adapted from Rev. Sarah A. Speed, all of A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Today's Eco-Palms

By choosing Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday, Old First promotes environmental and social justice:

- Instead of whole palms being cut down for a few fronds, Eco-Palms are sustainably harvested to keep the palms alive, thus providing shade and soil stability necessary for a healthy forest.
- Instead of most of the income going to market-traders, Eco-Palms provide gatherers in Guatemala and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula with a greater share of the income from fairly traded palms.

For more information, visit: <https://ecopalms.org/index.php>

Today's Coffee Hour

Jim Fagler and Lori Yamauchi have given today's coffee hour in memory of John Sebastian and with gratitude to Pamela Sebastian.

Remembrance of Bob Fleming

After coffee hour today we will gather in the sanctuary to remember Old First member Bob Fleming, who died February 29.

Free Concert: UC Santa Barbara Chamber Choir, Tomorrow

We love free! The University of California Santa Barbara Chamber Choir led by Brent Wilson, Director of Choral Activities, presents a program of choral works highlighting the passage of time, featuring works by Caroline Shaw, Ola Gjeilo, Allahrakka Rahman and György Ligeti at **7:00 pm, tomorrow, Monday, March 25**. Mark your calendar and bring a friend!

No Interfaith Food Pantry, March 30

There will be no Interfaith Food Pantry on March 30. However, the Food Pantry will resume on the next Saturday, April 6. Use this QR-code to sign up for future dates.

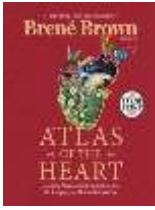


Easter Extravaganza Coffee Hour



For Easter Sunday – this coming Sunday – we will plan for an Easter Extravaganza Coffee Hour. Please feel free to bring your favorite treats to share! Whether home-made or store-bought your contribution to the abundance will be welcome. On Easter leave your contribution on the tables in the Fellowship Hall.

Next Book Discussion Session, Monday, April 8



The third session of our new book discussion will take place via Zoom on Monday, April 8, at 7:00 pm. At this session we're covering Chapter 3 of Brené Brown's *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connections and Language of the Human Heart*. Please let Maggi, know if you plan to attend.

Below is the Zoom link to the Monday night sessions. The link can also be found in Maggi's weekly E-mail on Saturdays.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81744087981?pwd=TVVOUVptVldlMll1T2VFQ2ZMMW10QT09>

**Future of Ghost Ranch with Tim Hart-Andersen
Calvary Presbyterian Church, April 13**

The Reverend Tim Hart-Andersen, Board Chair of the National Ghost Ranch Foundation, and Ghost Ranch invite you to a special gathering to meet Dave Evans, Ghost Ranch's new CEO, to hear updates and to preview an exciting new project!

The gathering will be start at 10:30 am, Saturday, April 13, at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore Street at Jackson Street. Snacks will be provided.

Tim is a former pastor of our own Old First Presbyterian Church and has recently retired from Westminster Presbyterian Church of Minneapolis.

Holy Week and Easter 2024

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28

6:00 pm at Old First Presbyterian Church: Note Time!

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

7:00 pm at Old First Presbyterian Church

EASTER DAY, MARCH 31

10:30 am Choral Prelude and **11:00 am** Worship at Old First Presbyterian Church
We will close worship by singing the "Hallelujah" chorus from G.F. Handel's *Messiah*.
Get a copy of the *Messiah* score in the narthex before worship.
An **Easter Extravaganza Coffee Hour** will follow worship.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 7

11:00 am Worship with Hymn-Sing at Old First Presbyterian Church

This Week at Old First

- Palm Sunday March 24**
After Coffee Hour Remembrance of Bob Fleming, Sanctuary
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Monday March 25**
7:00 pm Free Concert: UC Santa Barbara Chamber Choir
- Maundy Thursday March 28**
6:00 pm Worship
- Good Friday March 29**
7:00 pm Worship
- Easter Day March 31**
11:00 am Worship
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall
- Monday April 1**
Church Office Closed