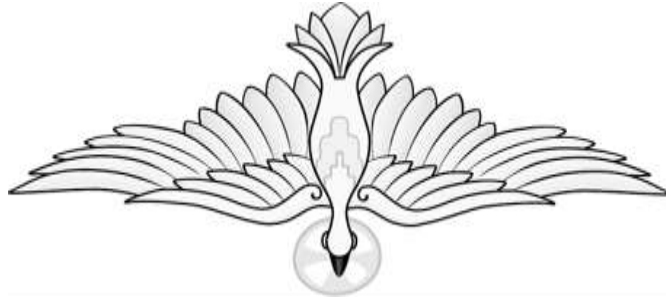


Old First Presbyterian Church



Sunday, August 31, 2025

Worship Through Praising God

Easy-to-use earphones to assist with hearing are available from the ushers.

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 on RHOSYMEDRE

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

**Welcome and
Church Life**

Pastor Henderson

Introit

Scottish Psalter, 1615

I to the hills will lift my eyes;
from whence shall come my aid?
My help is from the Lord alone,
who heaven and earth hath made.

From evil God will keep you safe,
provide for all you need.

Your going out, your coming in,
God will forever lead.

Psalm 121, The New Metrical Version of the Psalms, 1909

***Call to Worship**

Pastor Henderson

Leader

In the darkest night sometimes it is not possible to believe
that light will come.

People

**Because light has come before,
doesn't mean it feels like it will come again.**

Leader Hold faith today
for those who see the darkness stretch before them –
People who know no other truth than that.

Leader Hold faith today
for with those who have more questions than answers
People and yet can live into the mystery of God's love

Leader We give thanks for those
who are assured in God's presence and love
**People and who trust that one day
God will call all God's creatures home.**

Leader We join our prayer to God's and ask:
People let there be love, let there peace, let there be hope.

***Hymn 488 I Was there to Hear Your Borning Cry**

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.

**Prayer of
Confession**

The Reverend Erwin Barron

Leader Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**All God of mercy, whose loving-kindness endures forever,
we confess that often we have failed
to receive and give love,
to care for other as we care for ourselves;
to forgive and accept forgiveness.**

**We remember good intentions that were not put into actions,
harsh words that were hurtful,
selfish purposes that caused pain,
persistent pride that would not yield.**

**We acknowledge our fear in the face of death
and our failure to accept the hope you offer us in Christ.**

**Hear us, O God,
as in this silence, we make our confession to you.**

A time of silence is kept.

**Gracious God,
forgive us and help us to forgive others,
heal us from the pain of self-condemnation,
free us from the burden of failures that cannot be corrected,
renew us
with your loving assurance that our sins have been forgiven;
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader Hear the Good News!
Who is in a position to condemn?
Only Christ,
and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

**All Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
We are forgiven.
Let us be at peace.**

***Hymn 466** **Come and Fill Our Hearts** *sung three times*
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia!



Offering *Ushers will now receive the offering. You may also make your offering electronically using the QR-code at the right.*

Solo His Eye Is on the Sparrow Charles Hutchinson Gabriel (1856-1932)

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
 Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,
 when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:
 his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
 his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

Refrain I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
 for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

“Let not your heart be troubled,” his tender word I hear,
 and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fear;
 though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see:
 his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
 his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
 when song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
 I draw the closer to him; from care he sets me free:
 his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
 his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

Civilla Durfee Martin (1866-1948)

***Doxology**

DUKE STREET: *For tune, see Hymn 265.*
 Arranged by Hal H. Hopson (born 1933)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!

**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**

Pastor Henderson

Prayer Partners Stephen and Betty Voris, Jian Wang, Virginia Webb-Pekelnicky and
Bob Pekelnicky, Teddy and Eden, Rick and Ellen Wiebe, Matt Wolka
and family

**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

Psalm 121:7-8

Psalm 139 1:1-12

We read the psalm responsively.

Leader Lord, you have searched me and known me.

**People You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

Leader You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**People Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.**

Leader You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

**People Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

Leader Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

**People If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

Leader If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

**People even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

Leader	If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me,"
People	even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.
Scripture	John 14:2-4, Romans 8:38-39, Revelation 21:1-4
Leader	The Word of God in scripture.
People	Thanks be to God.
Sermon	The Reverend Erwin Barron and Pastor Henderson

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

- *Hymn 22 God of the Sparrow**
- 1 God of the sparrow
 God of the whale
 God of the swirling stars
 How does the creature say Awe
 How does the creature say Praise
 - 2 God of the earthquake
 God of the storm
 God of the trumpet blast
 How does the creature say Woe
 How does the creature say Save
 - 3 God of the rainbow
 God of the cross
 God of the empty grave
 How does the creature say Grace
 How does the creature say Thanks
 - 4 God of the hungry
 God of the sick
 God of the prodigal
 How does the creature say Care
 How does the creature say Life
 - 5 God of the neighbor
 God of the foe
 God of the pruning hook
 How does the creature say Love
 How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages
 God near at hand
 God of the loving heart
 How do your children say Joy
 How do your children say Home

***Charge and
Benediction**

Postlude Sortie in Eb Major

Louis James Alfred Lefébure-Wély (1817-1869)

During the postlude, you may either depart or take a seat to listen, as you wish.

However, do please join us in the fellowship hall downstairs for coffee hour.

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 Liturgy

Today's call to worship is based on a prayer by Cheryl Lawrie.

Today's Coffee Hour

George Sutton, Jr., has given today's coffee hour with blessings on careers.

Labor Day, September 1

The church office will be closed tomorrow in observation of the Labor Day holiday.

Old First Staffs the Food Pantry, September 6



Mark your calendars and sign up to volunteer on **Saturday, September 6**, when volunteers from Old First and St. Luke's staff the Interfaith Food Pantry.

To visit the sign-up webpage, simply use the QR-code to the right or click on the link below... or just show up!



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

Old First Choir Resumes, September 7

Our choir resumes rehearsals on Sunday, September 7, at 9:30 am, followed by the worship service at 11:00 am. If you have thought about joining the choir, why not come when you can and enjoy the camaraderie of singing a wide variety of classical and contemporary choral music!? There's no audition or strict attendance policy. Questions? Please see Larry on Sunday after the worship service or E-mail him: larrymarietta@gmail.com

New Website, This September

Keep your eyes open! Old First Presbyterian Church plans to have our new website up and running this coming month of September!

This Week at Old First

Sunday August 31

After Worship Coffee Hour
4:00 pm O1C: SF International Piano Festival
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Monday September 1

Labor Day: Church Office Closed

Saturday September 6

9:00 am Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry, Fellowship Hall

Sunday September 7

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship, Sanctuary
After Worship Coffee Hour
7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Old First Presbyterian Church

The Reverend Maggi Henderson Pastor
The Reverend Erwin C. Barron Parish Associate
Larry Marietta Music Director
Jarron Carlson Composer-in-Residence
Brad Peterson Church Office Administrator