

# Old First Presbyterian Church



## Sunday, September 7, 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.*

<b>Prelude</b>	Variations on an American Hymn Tune (NETTLETON) Gordon Young (1919-1998)
<b>Welcome and Church Life</b>	The Reverend Erwin Barron
<b>Introit</b>	Thurlow Weed (born 1966) Chelsea Hollow, soprano; Kirsten Fleischmann, alto Michael Desnoyers, tenor; Sergey Khallikulov, bass
Commit your way to God the Lord: your cause will shine as bright as fire; Delight to do God's holy word and you shall find what you desire.	
Salvation comes from God alone: the faithful know their help is sure; to heaven, all our needs are known, and in God's strength we are secure.	
From Psalm 37	

**\*Call to Worship**

Hal Christiansen

Leader We come to worship today  
from a troubled world of war, pain, suffering, injustice, and fear.

**People Surely God is our salvation;  
we will trust and not be afraid.**

Leader We seem to be surrounded by enemies intent on destroying us,  
destroying our nation, and ending God's good creation.

**People Surely, God is our strength and our song;  
God has become our salvation.**

Leader In this place and in this time of worship together,  
the Rock of Ages, the God of our salvation is with us,  
giving us the courage to face the world  
and to bring the world hope and joy.

**People Let us worship the God of our salvation:  
our strength, our song, and our Rock of Ages!**

Based on Isaiah 12:1-2

**\*Hymn 438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.  
Let the water and the blood from thy wounded side which flowed  
be of sin the perfect cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.
- 2 Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands.  
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears for ever flow,  
all for sin could not atone. Thou must save, and thou alone.
- 3 Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress, helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.
- 4 While I draw this fleeting breath, when my eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgement throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

**Prayer of  
Confession**

Hal Christiansen

O God of our salvation,  
we are too often drowning in stormy waters,  
and we forget your salvation.  
We lose all hope  
and become resigned to suffering and pain.  
We whine and complain;  
we condemn and criticize.  
We become angry at the world and at you  
because everything is going wrong.  
And then we become afraid, defensive,  
and hateful of others

*We reflect in silence on our sufferings and fears.*

**Forgive us for our genuine fear and anxiety and hatred.**

**Forgive us for our lack of faith in your salvation.**

**Help us recognize the evil around us,**

**but still stay focused on you.**

**Save us, O God!**

**\*Assurance of  
Forgiveness**

Leader

We are frail, hopeless, and fearful,

but the great God of the universe is our hope and salvation.

We have been assured:

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus

so that the world might be saved through him.

**All In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**In Jesus Christ we are saved!**

**\*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.*



**Quartet**

*The Sacred Harp, 1844, Arranged by Austin Lovelace (1919-2010)*

Chelsea Hollow, soprano; Kirsten Fleischmann, alto

Michael Desnoyers, tenor; Sergey Khalikulov, bass

God is my strong salvation; what foe have I to fear?

In darkness and temptation my light, my help is near.

Though hosts encamp around me, firm to the fight I stand;

what terror can confound me, with God at my right hand?

Place on the Lord reliance; my soul, with courage wait;

God's truth be thine affiance, when faint and desolate.

God's might thy heart shall strengthen, God's love thy joy increase;

mercy thy days shall lengthen; the Lord will give thee peace.

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

**\*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	<b>And also with you.</b>

<b>Worship Through Hearing God's Word</b>
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**Prayers of the  
People**

Prayer Partners	Pat Amdur, Alison Armstrong and Julia, Beth Arnaoot and Liny Adams, Carolyn Asbury, Erwin Barron and Coy Abellano, Gabriele Beck-Engeser	Tom Culp
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**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 71, Isaiah 12:2, Matthew 14:22-33,  
John 3: 16-17, Ephesians 2:4-9

Leader	The Word of God in scripture.
People	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

<b>Sermon</b>	Save Me!	The Reverend Erwin Barron
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<b>Worship Through Responding to God's Word</b>
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**\*Hymn 307      God of Grace, God of Glory**

**1      God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.**

- 2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.
- 3 Cure thy children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.
- 4 Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore.  
Let the gift of thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.

**\*Charge and  
Benediction**

**Postlude** Toccata on an American Hymntune (NETTLETON)  
Gordon Young (1919-1998)

*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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Find Us on Facebook and YouTube



### Welcome Back, Old First Choir!

The Old First Choir has resumed its rehearsals and musical leadership at worship this morning. The choir will rehearse each Sunday at 9:30 am and sing at 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 after worship service or E-mail him: [larrymarietta@gmail.com](mailto:larrymarietta@gmail.com)

### Today's Coffee Hour

AnnieScott Rogers has given today's coffee hour in honor of those who livestream every Sunday service as well as other services and events: *"Thank you, Chris, Lori, Jim, Hsiaochien, Sam, Austin, and anyone I've failed to mention!"*

### All-Church Read: Reyes-Chow's *Everything Good about God is True*

This fall we will read together *Everything Good about God is True: Choosing Faith*, by Bruce Reyes-Chow. Maggi reports "This book is a joy to read and was like a drink of water to my parched spirit." Author Brian D. McLaren says "Bruce names the parts of religion that so many of us are trying to get away from, and he introduces an understanding of faith in God that so many of would like to be part of. Highly recommended!"

You can get an electronic copy of the book for your Kindle or a paper copy from your local bookstore. We will also have some paper copies available at church.

We will offer an on-line meeting via Zoom, likely starting September 18 or 21. Waiting to hear from you! Let Maggi know of your interest either by E-mail: [maggi@oldfirst.org](mailto:maggi@oldfirst.org) or in person.

### New Website, This Month

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

### Dedicating the Refurbished Steinway, October 5

On Sunday, October 5, we will enjoy coffee hour in the sanctuary and following that dedicate, learn about, and hear our newly refurbished Steinway concert grand piano.

<b>This Week at Old First</b>
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**Sunday September 7**

After Worship Coffee Hour

4:00 pm O1C: Celebrating the American Songbook - Mike Greensill,  
piano, Carla Kaufman, bass, Gale Terminello, vocals

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

**Saturday September 13**

9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry, Fellowship Hall

**Sunday September 14**

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

11:00 am Worship, Sanctuary

After Worship Coffee Hour

2:00 pm Board of Deacons, On Line

4:00 pm O1C: Lieder Alive! Peter Grünberg and John Parr, piano four-hands,  
works by Mendelssohn, Brahms, Mozart and more

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

<b>Old First Presbyterian Church</b>
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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