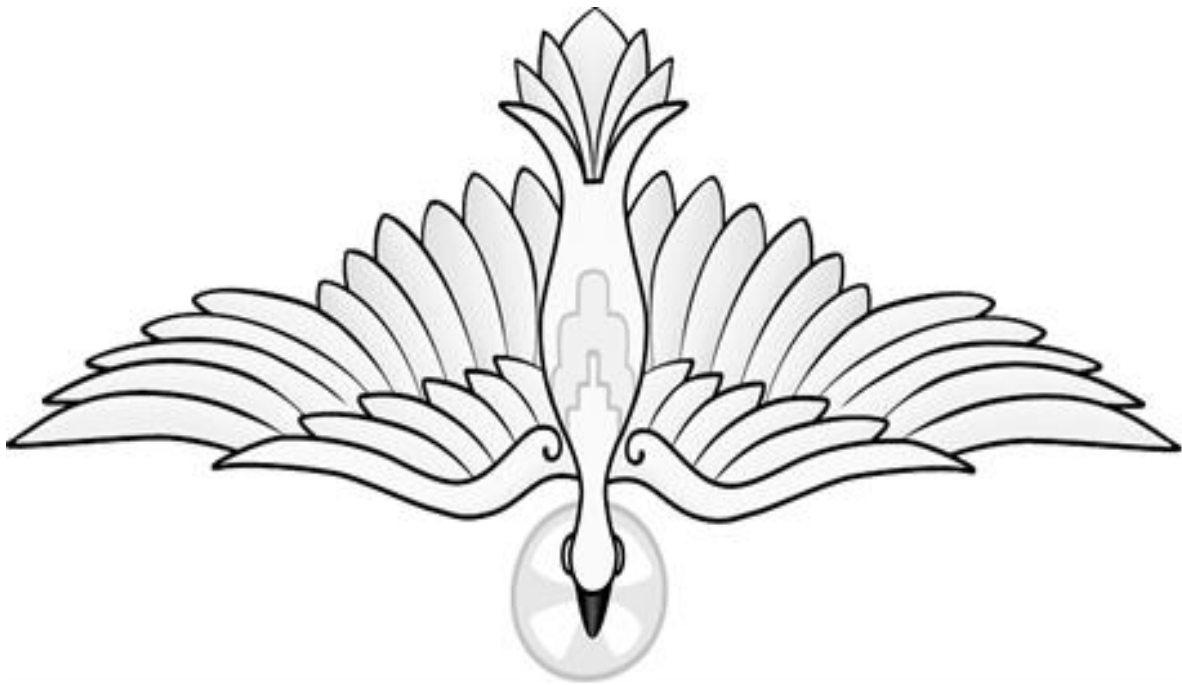


Old First Presbyterian Church



Sunday, September 12, 2021

**The Reverend Maggi Henderson, Pastor
The Presbyterian Church (USA)**

Sharing God's Love, Welcome, and Justice
On Our Corner, in Our City, And in the World

Worship through Praising God

*Please fill out a guest card found in the pew rack and
place it in the offering basket in the narthex when you exit the church building.*

Ushers have hearing aids for our sound system.

Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.

** At the asterisk, please rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude An English Air Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Liturgical Prelude III

“Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire”

George Oldroyd (1886-1951)

Welcome and Church Life

Introit Sanctus from *Messe solennelle en l'honneur de Sainte-Cécile*

Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Holy, Holy, Holy,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Lord God of Hosts.
Hosanna in excelsis. Hosanna in the highest.

*Call to Worship

The Reverend Erwin Barron

Leader On this morning, as every morning,
People we are surrounded by God's grace.

Leader In these moments, as every moment,
People we are led in discipleship by Jesus.

Leader Throughout this day, as every day,
People we are taught peace and hope by the Spirit.

***Hymn 35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty**

Arranged by John Rutter, born 1945

- 1 **Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear; now to his temple draw near,
join me in glad adoration.**
- 2 **Praise to the Lord, who o'er things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?**
- 3 **Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly for aye we adore him.**

**Prayer of
Confession**

**All we need to do is open our mouths, Teacher of hearts,
to show that we give our tongues free rein.
We claim we love others,
but speak bitter words to them.
We think we are good and gracious people,
but hurl epithets at those we do not like, or those we fear.
We are quicker to speak of judgment for others,
rather than being voices for justice.
But with your gracious mercy, Tender-hearted God,
you can put out the wildfires of bitterness
sparked by our words.
You can stop the words on the tips of our tongues and
transform them into whispers of peace and love.**

Silence

**You can open our ears
so that we can hear all that your Teacher of grace and hope,
Jesus the Messiah, has to share with us,
in these moments and all those to come. Amen.**

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader Can we handle it – this Good News?
The Good News that God’s grace can transform us?
The Good News that God can teach us new songs?
The Good News that God can fill us with hope and joy?
People **It is hard to believe, which may be
why it is hard to accept.
But God loves us, God has mercy on us, God is with us.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!**

**Choral
Anthem**

My Eternal King Jane Marshall (1924-2019)
My God, I love Thee,
Not because I hope for heav’n thereby,
Nor yet because who love Thee not
Must die eternally.
Thou, O my Jesus, Thou didst me upon the cross embrace;
For me didst nails and spear,
And manifold disgrace;
Why, then why, O blessèd Jesus Christ,
Should I not love Thee well?

Not for the hope of winning heav'n
Or of escaping hell;
Not with the hope of gaining aught,
Not seeking a reward;
But as Thyself hast lovèd me,
O ever-loving Lord!
E'en so I love Thee, and will love,
And in Thy praise will sing;
Solely because Thou art my God,
And my Eternal King!

Anonymous 17th C. Latin, translated by Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

***The Peace**

Leader Peace be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Worship through Hearing God's Word

**Prayers of the
People**

Prayer Partners Camryn Hollarsmith, Jordan Hollarsmith, Logan Hollarsmith, Roseanne Hoo, Connie Johnson, John and Carmen Josiah, Cynthia Kang

Hymn 157 I Danced in the Morning

**1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.**

**Refrain Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

**2 I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came to me and the dance went on.**

**3 I danced on the Sabbath when I cured the lame,
The holy people said it was a shame;
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;
And they left me there on a cross to die.**

**4 I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the dance and I still go on.**

5 They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Scripture Mark 8:27-38

Leader This is the word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Henderson

Worship through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn 726 Will You Come and Follow Me**

- 1 Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known?
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
- 3 Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen?
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
- 4 Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
- 5 Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

***Charge and
Benediction**

Please follow the pastor outside and greet one another in the open air.

Remember to fill in the contact tracing binder, if you have not already done so.

You can place your offering in the basket when you leave the church;

you can always make your offering on-line at <https://dev.oldfirst.org/donations//>

You can also follow worship with Old First on our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdNKqkfBCIAmsxJsoFO5czXoTd_KtK5wR

You can find us at www.oldfirst.org or follow us on Facebook.

