

Old First Presbyterian Church



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

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

Sunday, October 24, 2021

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.*

Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.

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

Prelude Organ Sonata II, Adagio
Organ Sonata IV, Andante religioso, Allegretto

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

**Welcome &
Church Life**

The Reverend Erwin Barron

Introit

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Grant us Thy peace, O Almighty God,
O source of ev'ry blessing!
We cannot keep Thy saving word
Unless Thy peace possessing.
Thy peace, O give, by which we live.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

The anthem, later in the service, is based on this hymn.

***Call to
Worship**

Leader Gathered in this place,
People And together from far corners of the internet,
Leader Rich and poor, old and young,
People Gay and straight, men and women, angry and happy,
Leader We all are here, just as we are, in the presence of God.
People Let us *all* worship God.

***Hymn 12 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.
- 4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

**Prayer of
Confession**

Leader Let us confess our sin.

People God, we are angry.
Everything going on in this world is a mess!
People we know and love are getting sick and dying!
Things we want for our lives are just not happening!
We have a lot of complaints!

But OK...

we know that we should not complain,
at least not to you.

So, we will just hold in our thoughts to ourselves
and put on a happy Christian smile,
even though we are not all happy
about how things are going.

Here's our smile for you, O God:

We pause in silence with a fake smile on our face.

Leader But wait!
We should not be confessing our anger.
Anger is not our sin!
We should confess our insincerity!
You want our honesty, O loving God,
and you hear our complaints and feel our pain.

People **O God, we confess that too often,
we hide our true feelings and frustrations.
We gloss over our pain with a fake positive attitude.
Help us to be honest with you, O God.
Help us to share our true selves with you.
Forgive our artificial, dishonest smiles.
Hear our pain.
Hear our prayers.
And love us.
Amen.**

**Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader When we pray honestly to God, then God hears our prayers.
And God always forgives and loves us. We are assured of that!

People **Thank you God, for hearing our complaints
and loving us and forgiving us still!**

Anthem

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Sergey Khalikulov, bass
Kirsten Fleischmann, alto

Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich,
Herr Gott, zu unsern Zeiten.
Es ist doch ja kein anderer nicht,
der für uns könnte streiten,
denn du, unser Gott, alleine.

*Graciously grant us peace,
Lord God, in our time.
There is no one else,
who could fight for us
except you, our God, alone.*

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

The Peace

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

Worship through Hearing God's Word

**Time with Our
Children**

The Reverend Erwin Barron

Interlude

Prelude No. 6 in B minor

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)
Jarron Carlson, pianist

**Prayers of the
People**

Roseanne Hoo

Prayer Partners

Jack Rozzell, Mary Russell, Amir Sadeghi and Saeedeh Heidari, Kurt
Schwartzmann, John and Pam Sebastian, Randy Smith and Andrea Segura
Smith

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 Job 38:1-7, 39:26-40:5
 John 11:17-37

Leader This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon God's Complaint Department

The Reverend Erwin Barron

***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.

Worship through Bearing God's Word into the World
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Sending Forth Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 4, 7-8

Leader For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance...
a time to rip, and a time to mend;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

People **So, too, there is a time for movement,
a time for new adventure,
a time for fields of service not yet touched.**

Leader Greg and Pam Free, who have been a part of this church, a part of us,
are now moving to Greenville, South Carolina.
Let us join together in blessing them as they leave our community.

Loving God, accept our thanks
for Greg and Pam's friendship and partnership
in our life together at Old First Presbyterian Church.

People **Bless them, O God.**

Leader Provide them a new church home
that will welcome, know and love them,
as we have come to know and to love them.

People **Bless them, O God.**

Leader Lead them to respond to the love of Christ
in all that they do.

People **Bless them, O God.**

Leader Let your mercy, grace and peace be present with them
during their move and in their new home.

People **Bless them, O God.**

Leader Greg and Pam, go forth in the power of the Spirit,
rejoice in the love of Christ and the church, and
let God's mercy, grace and peace flow through you
to all whom you meet; in the name of Christ Jesus.

All **Amen.**

***Charge and
Benediction**

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

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

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

Old First On-Line

You can find Old First on-line at www.oldfirst.org, on **Facebook**, and on our **YouTube** channel. You can always make your offering on-line at <https://donations.oldfirst.org>

Racial Healing Discussion Series, Sundays through November 14

The Racial Justice Task Force for Old First continues its discussion series on racial healing, using the resource, “What Lies Between Us: Fostering First Steps Toward Racial Healing” through November 14.

You can still join the series today to participate in and get something out of the remaining four sessions.

For further information, please contact Lori Yamauchi: Lori@oldfirst.org.

Celebrating Communion, October 31

Old First will commemorate World Communion Sunday and celebrate communion October 31.

Peace & Global Witness Offering

We will make our Peace & Global Witness Offering – one of the four annual special offerings of the PC(USA) – on Sunday, October 31. If you use a check, make it payable to OFPC but put “Peace & Global Witness” on the memo line – you may also use a white “pew envelope” for your check or cash, but please write “Peace & Global Witness” on it.

You can make an offering at any time by visiting our on-line donation page: on-line at <https://donations.oldfirst.org>, simply select “Peace & Global Witness Offering” in the drop-down box.

Remembering the Saints

On **October 31**, the Sunday before All Saints’ Day, we will remember the saints who have died since last All Saints’ Day in 2020. If there are people you’d like Old First to remember, please fill out the form included in today’s bulletin or send an E-mail to Brad, our church office administrator, with the following information:

- the name of the saints you wish to remember,
- your relationship to them, and
- the date they died.

Please send your E-mail to Brad – brad@oldfirst.org – no later than Monday, October 25.

On the Cover

Did you notice the image on the first page? Did you notice the image on the bulletin two weeks ago? If they seem familiar, they should: Our office admin, Brad Peterson, has been taking photos of architectural elements and artwork in our church for use in Old First documents. Can you find the element featured today? It’s found in the sanctuary.

Church 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	Church Office Administrator