

Old First Presbyterian Church



December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent
“Close to Home”

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

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 Two Chorale Preludes on VOM HIMMEL HOCH

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

**Welcome &
Church Life**

Pastor Henderson

Introit

Schumann's Geistliche Lieder, 1539
(attributed to Martin Luther, 1483-1546)

From heav'n above to earth I come to bring good news to everyone!
Glad tidings of great hope I bring to all the world, and gladly sing:
“Glory to God in highest heav'n who unto us the Christ has giv'n.”
With angels sing the Savior's birth, now comes new hope to people on earth.

Original German by Martin Luther (1483-1546)

***Call to
Worship**

Leader
People

If life was a home, then we would pray—
**May love be the foundation.
May God be the cornerstone.
May the Spirit be the windows— ushering light in.
And may hope be the walls— holding us together.**

Leader
People

In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.
**We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.
Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.
Let us worship Holy God.**

***Hymn 88**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1-2 and 6-7)

1

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

2

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who ord'rest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.**

6

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

7

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

Advent Wreath

Eva DeLair, Mary Russell

Two candles on the Advent wreath are lit.

**Prayer of
Confession**

Randy Smith

**Holy God, when John was born,
Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear.
We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out,
yet we fail to hear it.
We forget that in the beginning we were made good.
We doubt that we could possibly be enough.
We hustle for our self-worth
and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection.
We deflect words of praise.
We hide behind shiny first impressions.
Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job.**

We keep silence.

**Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest
on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us.
Gratefully we pray. Amen.**

**Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader Family of faith, no matter how old we get, God continues to say to us:
“You are loved; you are forgiven.”

That is the foundation of our lives.

That is the truth upon which we build our home.

So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here.

Join me in proclaiming this Good News:

**People We are loved. We are forgiven. We are claimed.
This is our foundation. Thanks be to God.**

Anthem From *Messiah* George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together;
for the Lord hath spoken it.

Luke 3:5/Isaiah 40:5

The Peace *Please remain seated for the Peace.*

Leader Peace be with you.

People And also with you.

Worship through Hearing God's Word

**Time with Our
Children**

**Prayers of the
People**

Sarah Taber

Prayer Partners Andy and Yvonne Cheng, Samuel, Joshua and Annie, Karen Chi, 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 Luke 1:57-80

Leader For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us,

People Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Henderson

Worship through Responding to God's Word

Zechariah's Lullaby Away in a Manger

Text: Anna Strickland (2021)

Music: William J. Kirkpatrick (1895)



When old Zech - a - ri - ah held
"And you child will be called a
We lay a foun - da - tion for



his ba - by son He blessed him and
pro-phet of Christ To bring hope to
what is to be Not know - ing yet



dreamed of what he would be - come As
hearts and to sha-dows the light For
pray - ing for what we can't see We



ba - by John rocked in the tem - ple that
God has sent vis - ions of what you will
trust in God's i - mag - in - a - tion to



morn This song Zech - a - ri - ah sang
do A dream to pro - claim and a
build From blue-prints and hope for a



for his new - born
world to re - new"
dream yet ful - filled

***Charge and
Benediction**

Pastor Henderson

As you leave this service, your service begins:

Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others.

Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way.

And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—
so come back soon.

In the name of our Foundation— God, Spirit, and Son— go in peace.

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

Are you visiting today? Please fill in the contact tracing binder, if you have not already done so.

Inquirers and New Members Class, Today

Pastor Maggi will lead an Inquirers and New-Members Class today after worship. The class will meet in the Fellowship Hall fifteen minutes after the close of the worship service.

Advent & Christmas Devotional

Our devotional for Advent and Christmas is being sent via E-mail. Today and on each of the Sundays of Advent and Christmas you will receive the devotional for that week. If you're not yet on Old First's E-mail list, simply visit our homepage – www.oldfirst.org – and sign up using the link under “**Sign Up for News from Old First**” in the right hand column.

Stewardship for the Year Ahead

It's not too late to turn in your pledge for 2022. If you need a pledge card, pick one up from an usher today. You can then fill it out and drop it in the offering basket in the narthex or send a picture of it to PledgeCard@oldfirst.org.

Old First On-Line: Info, Worship, Bulletin, Giving

Want links to Sunday worship? Want to find the bulletin in advance of Sunday worship? Want to revisit earlier on-line worship services? Want to make a donation, pay your pledge, or find out more about Old First? Easy! You can find Old First on-line at our website www.oldfirst.org, on **Facebook**, and on our **YouTube** channel. On Old First's website – www.oldfirst.org – look for “On-Line Worship at Old First” in the right-hand sidebar column for links to Sunday's livestream, to the bulletin in “pdf” format for downloading or printing, and to Old First's YouTube channel playlist. And you can always make your offering on-line at <https://donations.oldfirst.org>

A Sanctified Art: Texts and Music

Today's liturgical texts by the Reverend Sarah (Are) Speed and “Zechariah's Lullaby” are used by license from A Sanctified Art LLC. The Sanctified Art team is a collective of artists in ministry who create resources for worshipping communities: film, visual art, curriculum, coloring pages, liturgy, graphic designs, and more. They believe that art helps us connect our hearts with our hands, our faith with our lives. Learn more about their work at sanctifiedart.org.

A Sanctified Art: Banner

The large banner in the sanctuary is from A Sanctified Art LLC. Its imagery is inspired by the texts for Advent (Year C), as well as the Sanctified Art team's themes for “Close to Home.” In the center, the star of Bethlehem radiates, representing the Magi traveling home by another way in the Epiphany story (Matthew 2:1-12). In the second threshold, stars of David surround the scrolls of the Torah to depict the story of Jesus remaining in the temple (Luke 2:41-52). For the story of Jesus' birth, the third entrance portrays the stables with light coming through slats in the walls (Luke 2:1-20). The safety of the womb draws us to the fourth doorway as Mary sings Magnificat (Luke 1:39-55). A home for all is represented in the fifth arch with creation imagery (Luke 3:1-18, Zephaniah 3:14-20). Laying the foundation is portrayed in the sixth doorway by a pattern of interwoven hands (Luke 1:57-80 and Philippians 1:3-11). The overall motif, originally designed by Lauren Wright Pittman as the theme logo for the “Close to Home” Advent series, incorporates a hand reaching up and one reaching down. In the banner design, these hands are patterned with doves in motion to represent the Holy Spirit.

Christmas Eve 2021

Mark your calendar for music and worship on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24: 6:30 pm prelude with choir and soloists, 7:00 pm worship service.