

Lent Brings Opportunity to Practice Daily Prayer, Participate in Non-Violence



Care Packages Requested for Weekly Food Ministry

Cantare's to perform Brahms Requiem Today at First Church

ReCares donates equipment to wounded Ukrainians

March 27, 2022

Weekly Newsletter

# Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

M a k i n g   G o d ' s   W e l c o m e   K n o w n

## Daily Prayer Practices Encouraged as Lent Begins

Lent is the 40-day season leading up to Easter. It is a time to meditate on our personal and communal need for God's resurrecting and reconciling power. On Wednesday evenings during Lent, we will spend time developing new prayer practices during our regular Bible Study meeting on Zoom. These practices are designed to be incorporated as a daily rituals during lent, with a new prayer incorporated each week.

**Join us, Wednesday evenings on Zoom – contact Pastor Matt for Zoom access.**

## Ceasefire Night Walks Call for End to Violence

First Church joined other Faith in Action congregations on the evening of February 18 for a Ceasefire Walk for Peace, calling attention to the ongoing problem of gun violence in the City of Oakland. Organized by Faith in Action East Bay, the “night walks” are an opportunity for faith communities to make visible demonstrations of Christ's call for peace and an end to violence. **Contact Suzie Inadomi to learn more about the March Night Walk.**



## You Can Help Make Care Packages for Neighbors

By Anne Margaret Manay

From time to time, Arav and I make care packages for our unhoused neighbors. We try to include items that will be useful and comforting, as well as easy to obtain in bulk by ordering online. Seeing in the weekly Food Ministry reports the level of need in the camps, we wanted to make a lot of them this time. So, we invited Arav's friend Nataleigh to help us pack the bags. We made about fifty of them. Here is a list of items we always try to include:

- **A new pair of socks (probably the most important item)**
- **Pre-moistened body cleansing wipe**
- **Sanitizing hand wipe**
- **Facial tissue**
- **Toothbrush (individually wrapped)**
- **Toothpaste**
- **Mini deodorant**
- **Lip balm**
- **Face mask (individually wrapped)**

We pack the items in gallon-size plastic zipper bags. The bags are useful on the street to keep things dry, and they make it easy for volunteers to hand out the supplies. You could also include such items as granola bars, band-aids, underwear, feminine sanitary supplies, chewing gum, dental floss, mouthwash, hand cream, or anything else you think would brighten someone's day or make their life on the street a little easier.

Care packages can be given to Bill Coburn, Dorothy Dugger, or anyone else working for the Food Ministry on Sunday mornings. They will be distributed by the Food Ministry Team, either at the gate here, or by the food delivery team on the streets.

## ReCares Donates Equipment to Wounded Ukrainians

Liisa Noonan, Director of ReCares, finished packing up the organizations' third shipment of medical equipment for shipment to Ukraine on Friday. ReCares, which operates out of the First Church parking garage, ordinarily distributes free medical equipment to local residents. Noonan has been directing surplus, consisting of crutches, braces and splints, to aid organizations in Ukraine.



## Spring Concerts Bring Art & Advocacy to First Church



### Cantare

**Today, 4 pm**

In March 2022, Cantare will present one of the pinnacles of Western Art, Johannes Brahms' Requiem. This work stands apart from other requiem settings in that Brahms does not use any part of the traditional Latin requiem texts. Brahms completed the piece when he is just 33 years old and without any impetus of a commission. He had nothing to gain from it apart from articulating what he wanted and need to express.

It is a work whose focus is on the living, those who have experienced loss and who now seek comfort in their solitude. Singers are drawn into the mastery of Brahms' writing, his use of classical forms, his elegant melodies coupled with the harmonic richness of the Romantic period.



### Oakland Gay Men's Chorus

**Sunday, April 10, 4 pm**

Oakland Gay Men's Chorus proudly presents our Spring Concert, Be the Change - a concert with a special emphasis on intergenerational collaboration and advocacy. Join us to hear songs that will empower courage, hope, and action in the face of growing concerns for both our local community and our world.

This two-act concert features some of our favorite songs like "Seize the Day" (from Newsies), "Make Them Hear You" (from Ragtime), "You Will Be Found" (from Dear Evan Hansen), and "Home" (by Phillip Phillips). A special treat will be our premiere performance of "Look Out Above," arranged for OGMC by composer Jocelyn Hagen and hip hop artist Dessa.



## First Church Volunteers Provide Water Station for Oakland Marathon

A small group of volunteers were up in the predawn hours, preparing to keep Oakland Marathon runners hydrated as they passed the church's front yard. The unusual course brought runners passed the front doors four times on Sunday morning.



Fifteen tables with 3,000 water cups were set up in the street by Chris Weber, Julia Marquez, Matt Prinz, Susannah Prinz, Anne Margaret Manay, and Arav Manay, ready in time for the first wave of runners to pass by at 7:40 am.

Tiffany Price, Aaron Ruff, and Keith Ogden were also up early on Sunday morning, waiting at the start line of the 5K, half marathon and marathon respectively. The half marathon was Aaron's first. Friends and family were waiting on Broadway for Keith and Aaron to pass by (the 5K route went elsewhere).





## Middle School Champions Take First Ever First Place

Edna Brewer Middle School Girls Soccer won their first ever Oakland Middle School League Championship in a 2-0 win over Claremont Middle School. Join us in congratulating players Monrovia and Ruby Prinz!



## Sponsor a Lily for Easter

Easter Lilies will be decorating the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. If you wish to donate an Easter Lily in honor of, or in memory of a family member, friend, or other significant person in your life, please see Diane Hill, Deacon, on Sunday mornings.

## March Construction Update from Habitat For Humanity

From the Construction Blog



Spring is springing, and so are we! We've got work kicking into high gear throughout our service area, and lots of ways for you to pitch in – now, and in the coming months. Want to stay on top of all the latest volunteer happenings? Sign up for our monthly volunteer opportunities email.

### Oakland - Renovation

There's no shortage of work to do in order to get our home on Manila Avenue converted to a four-bedroom and ship-shape for a future Habitat homeowner! This month, we're working on some first floor beams and framing, and preparing to get started on the stairs.

### Walnut Creek - New Home Development, Esperanza Place

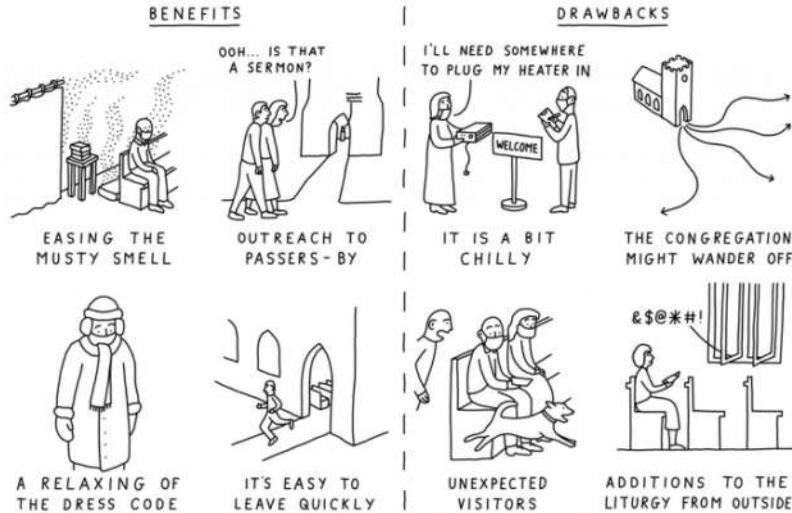
We're getting the main storm drain line installed on site, while volunteers help us out on forming retaining walls and some rebar and bracing along the Iron Horse Trail side of the development. And we're looking forward to the end of the month, when we'll start foundations!

### San Jose - Renovation

As we await permits to begin work, we're prepping for a major (fun!) job ahead to convert this building into four two-bedroom homes! We're aiming to begin site work and remediation in May, with volunteerism following in the summer. Stay tuned!

# VENTILATION

WE NEED TO KEEP THE WINDOWS AND DOORS OPEN



## Elders

Linda Carter, Dorothy Dugger, Henry Gardner,  
Suzie Inadomi, Elizabeth Cureton, Chris Weber,  
Alessandra Mohar

## Session Officers

Rev. Matt Prinz, Moderator  
Anne Margaret Manay, Clerk  
Rose Mary Richmond, Treasurer

## Deacons

Judy Rowan, Louise Hill, Chris Kovach, Marjorie  
Witt, Barbara Goodroe, Martha Bauman, Diane Hill,  
Lorraine Provost

## Church Staff

Rev. Matt Prinz, Pastor  
matt@firstchurchoakland.org  
510.488.3812  
Office Hours: Mon-Th, 8 am - 4 pm

Aaron Nee, Director of Music & Organist  
aaron@aaronnee.com

Chris Weber, Facility Management  
chris@firstchurchoakland.org

Gus Lopez, Head Custodian  
510.290.9677

Rose Mary Richmond, Treasurer, office volunteer  
rosemary@firstchurchoakland.org

Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper  
joan@firstchurchoakland.org

## Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Chris Weber, Anne Margaret Manay  
Photos by Suzie Inadomi, Susannah Prinz  
& Chris Weber

Temple Tidings is a weekly publication. All are  
welcome to contribute news, events and opinion.

## First Church is proud to support its COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Cantare Con Vivo
- College Awareness
- Community Women's Orchestra
- Faith in Action East Bay
- Food Not Bombs
- Habitat For Humanity, East Bay-Silicon Valley
- Oakland Civic Orchestra
- Oakland Early Head Start Preschool
- Oakland Gay Men's Chorus
- Oakland Kids First
- Piedmont East Bay Children's Choirs
- Quinteto Latino
- ReCares
- Sacred & Profane Chamber Chorus
- The Lucy Kinchen Chorale
- Vituity Care Foundation
- Western Service Workers Assoc.



Bronze Head of King Sargon, Nineveh, Iraq Museum

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
OAKLAND  
AD 1853

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 27, 2022

# JONAH

The Reluctant Prophet

Making God's  
welcome known

# Welcome to this time of intergenerational praise and worship

## Visitors:

- Please fill out a **Prayer Card** if you would like prayer from our pastor and deacons.
- Please also fill out a **Welcome Card** so we can become acquainted with you, or if you would like to be added to our email and mailing lists and keep up to date on things happening here at First Church.
- Need help hearing? Ushers can provide **hearing devices** to assist you.

## Visiting Parents:

- Ushers can guide you to the **nursery** for certified childcare for children age three years and younger.
- You may also make use of the **Parent Corners** at the rear sanctuary entrance or up front by the font.
- Children's **worship bags** are available in the narthex or from the ushers with materials that can be used by children during the worship service.
- On the first Sunday of every month we celebrate **communion** and children remain in worship with families to participate.
- **Godly Play** is offered for children all other Sundays. Children are escorted to Classroom 2 during *Passing of the Peace* and can rejoin their families during Fellowship Time.

## S E R V I N G i n W O R S H I P T O D A Y

**Pastor:** Rev. Matt Prinz

**Message:** Jan Busch

**Liturgists:** Rev. Joel Mackey, Elizabeth Cureton

**Guest Musician:** Dave Hatt

**Song Leader:** Tiffany Price

**Godly Play Story Teller:** Dorrie Dodge

**Godly Play Door Person:** Ruby Prinz

**Head Usher:** Matthew Inadomi

**Audio & Online Support:** Diane Hill, Linda Carter,  
Bex Fortin, Anne Margaret Manay

**Flowers:** Bill Coburn

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland is a **More Light** faith family,  
on a journey toward becoming the **Beloved Community**.

We welcome and affirm persons of every age,  
national origin, racial and ethnic heritage, gender identity, sexual orientation,  
socio-economic status, physical ability and spiritual leaning.

## ORDER of SERVICE INVITATION to WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Like a loving Father, God offers us freedom to choose our own path.

**All: In God's freedom, we are a new creation.**

One: Like a merciful Mother, God offers us compassion when we lose our way.

**All: In God's mercy, we are a new creation.**

One: Like a forgiving Parent, God welcomes us home with open arms.

**All: In God's embrace, we are a new creation.**

One: Come! Let us worship the one who makes all things new.

Gathering Prayer

One: Merciful God, you seek the lost sheep of your pasture; you call out to all who have strayed. As the father welcomed the prodigal son home, receive us back into your loving arms. Your steadfast love, God, knows no bounds. Your loving embrace is always there for us. Be with us in our time of worship, that we may feel your presence and know that you are our true home.

**All: Amen**

*Please stand as you are able*

Opening Hymn

*#475 : Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

# CONFESSIO N of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

## Confession

One: In your love, God, we are never lost. In your care, Christ, we are ever found. Help us feel this truth in our very bones, for we are often far from home, unsure of how to return. Forgive us. Teach our shut-up hearts to embrace your hope. Teach our shriveled souls to cry out to you. For we long to taste the glory of your heavenly banquet, and we yearn to be held in your arms as beloved children.

## Silent Reflection

*You are invited into a time of silent, personal prayer*

One: In the name of the one who loves us unconditionally, we pray.

**All: Amen**

*Please stand as you are able*

## Assurance of Pardon

One: Just as God forgave the people of Nineveh when they repented and turned from their ways, so God will forgive us also, when we turn to walk in the paths of life. Pour out your hearts before God, our refuge and strength. Pour out your hearts and find peace.

**All: Amen**

## Passing the Peace of Christ

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace

*Greet those around you with a sign of Christ's peace.*

*Children 3-12 are invited to join leaders at the cloister doors for Godly Play*

# PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

## Sharing of joys and concerns

*You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud, or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to privately share your prayer need with the pastor.*

## Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.**

# THE WORD

*Please stand as you are able*

Hymn

#289 : *My Faith Looks Up To Thee*

Scripture Lesson

*Jonah 3 : 1-10*

One: The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.”

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

One: For the Word in scripture, the Word made flesh, and the Word in our hearts

**All: Thanks be to God**

Sermon

## RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

*Rev. Joel Mackey will lead the congregation in reflection on the reading and sermon.*

*Please stand as you are able*

Hymn

#658 : God is So Good

Invitation to the Offering

Musical Offering

*Ushers will collect the weekly offering*

*Donations, Welcome Cards & Prayer Cards can be placed in the offering plate.*

*You may also make a donation by using this QR code on your smart phone:*

*Note: donations made online are subject to a 4% service charge, paid by us.*



*Please stand as you are able*

Song of Response

#607 : Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Christ all creatures here below**

**Praise Holy Spirit evermore, praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

**One:** Generous and all-loving God, grant us the wisdom to know you more completely. Give us the hope to live as your people. Inspire us to give our spirits more fully, in the faith that your promise is already within us. As we give our gifts and tithes today, we recommit ourselves to your service and to the service of your people. May we do so in response to your unending call that beckons us and leads us home. We pray as followers of Christ.

**All: Amen.**

## SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

*Please stand as you are able*

Sending Hymn

#223 : When I Survey the Wonderous Cross

Benediction

Postlude