

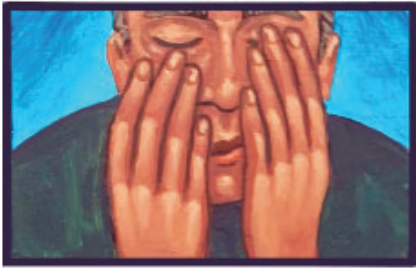
Weekly Newsletter

November 3, 2024

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



• THE BEATITUDES •



Art by Kelly Latimore

W E L C O M E

Visitors:

- If you would like to be added to our email list, please go to firstchurchoakland.org and fill out the form at the bottom
- Need help hearing? Ushers can provide **hearing devices** to assist you.
- Please feel free to take the Sanctuary flowers home to enjoy after the service.

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 worship play items.
- On the first Sunday of the month we celebrate **Family Worship & Communion** and children remain in worship.
- **Godly Play** is offered for children all other Sundays. Children are escorted to Classroom 2 during *Passing of the Peace* and rejoin their families during Fellowship Time.

O R D E R o f S E R V I C E

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.

I N V I T A T I O N t o W O R S H I P

Gathering Music

Maranatha, maranatha, come Lord Jesus, come. (2x)

Over my head I hear music in the air. (3x) There must be a God somewhere.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Blessed are the merciful,
All: for they will receive mercy.
One: Blessed are the pure in heart,
All: for they will see God.

Gathering Prayer

One: Source of healing and mercy, hear us when we cry out in need. Give us confidence to sing your praises, even when fear and doubt darken our thoughts. Give us your healing balm, God, that we may be made well and follow you all the days of our lives.
All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit
Hymn

AAHH #385: *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Great and mighty God, create us anew this day. When we pose as greater and mightier than we are, help us be humble and of service in your name. When pride causes us to stumble, strengthen our faith. When fear and shame cause us to shrink, remind us that we are made in your image. Reclaim us as the people you have created us to be and lead us back to the path of discipleship you have called us to walk. In your great and gracious love, we pray.

All: Amen.

Silent Reflection

You are invited into a time of silent, personal reflection

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

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit

Sung Assurance of Pardon

GTG #582: *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

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

Passing of 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

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud. If you would like, there are two tables set up with candles for prayer and salt water for lament.

Children stay in the Sanctuary for Family Worship.

Music

Gymnopédie no. 3
by Erik Satie

Prayer

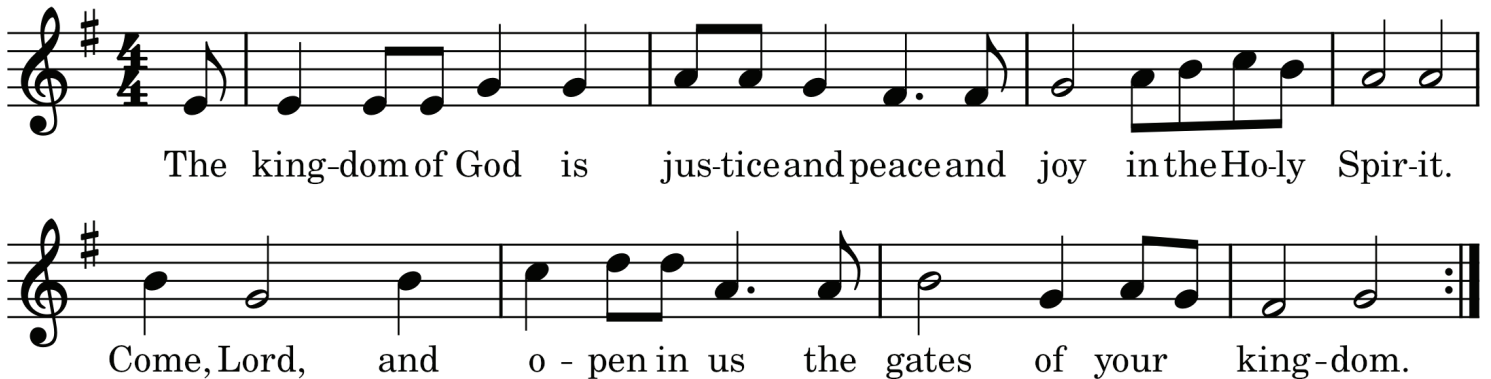
A Prayer for the Tired, Angry Ones by Laura Jean Truman

God, We're so tired. We want to do justice, but the work feels endless, and the results look so small in our exhausted hands. We want to love mercy, but our enemies are relentless, and it feels like foolishness to prioritize gentleness in this unbelievably cruel world. We want to walk humbly, but self-promotion is seductive, and we are afraid that if we don't look after ourselves, no one else will. We want to be kind, but our anger feels insatiable. Jesus, in this never-ending wilderness, come to us and grant us grace. Grant us the courage to keep showing up to impossible battles, trusting that it is our commitment to faithfulness, and not our obsession with results, that will bring in your shalom. Grant us the vulnerability to risk loving out difficult and complicated neighbor, rejecting the lie that some people are made more in the image of God than others. Grant us the humility of a decentered but Beloved self. As we continue to take the single step that is in front of us, Jesus, keep us from becoming what we are called to transform. Protect us from using the empire's violence – in our words, in our theology, in our activism, and in our politics – for Your kingdom of peace.

Keep our anger from becoming meanness. Keep our sorrow from collapsing into self-pity. Keep our hearts soft enough to keep breaking. Keep our outrage turned towards justice, not cruelty. Remind us that all of this, every bit of it, is for love. Keep us fiercely kind.

Song

The Kingdom of God



THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 61. 1 – 2; Matthew 5. 7-8 NRSV

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor

and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

R E S P O N S E to the W O R D

Reflection

Pastor Matt will lead the congregation in reflection on reading and sermon.

Song

AAHH #143: Why Should I Feel Discouraged?

Invitation to the LORD's Supper

Please rise in body or spirit

Sung Communion Invitation

The LORD be with you. **And also with you.** (*sung twice*)

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the LORD.**

Let us give thanks to the LORD our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The bread of heaven is here, leading us into life.

All: We draw strength from the bread of life.

One: The cup of blessing is at hand, bringing us salvation.

All: We find life in the cup of salvation

One: Eat and drink, for Christ is here, offering us eternal life

All: Thanks be to God.

Words of Institution

Communion Music

You've Got a Friend
by Carole King

Sharing of the Holy Meal & Offering

Please come forward when invited by ushers. Communion is non alcoholic and gluten free. Donations can be placed in the offering plate.

Donations may also be made using this QR Code:



Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

AAHH #146: *How Firm a Foundation*

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection

Postlude in G
by Gustav Merkel

Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of a word of inspiration or comfort from the worship service and to prepare you for the week ahead. Please receive in silence.

Benediction

Translation of Matthew 5 from Glen Stassen

Joyful are those who are poor and humble before God,
for theirs is the reign of God.

Joyful are those who are deeply saddened to the point of action,
for they will be comforted.

Joyful are those whose wills are surrendered to God,
for they will inherit the earth.

Joyful are those who practice compassion in action,
for they will receive God's compassion.

Joyful are those who seek God's will in all they are and do,
for they will see God.

Joyful are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Joyful are those who suffer because of restorative justice,
for theirs is the reign of God.

Joyful are you when they criticize, persecute, and slander you, because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in God.

For in the same way, they persecuted the prophets before you.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Di Pagel

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Musicians: Eva Chandler

Head Usher: Mathew Inadomi

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Prinz Family

Hymnals of African American Songs Now in the Pews!

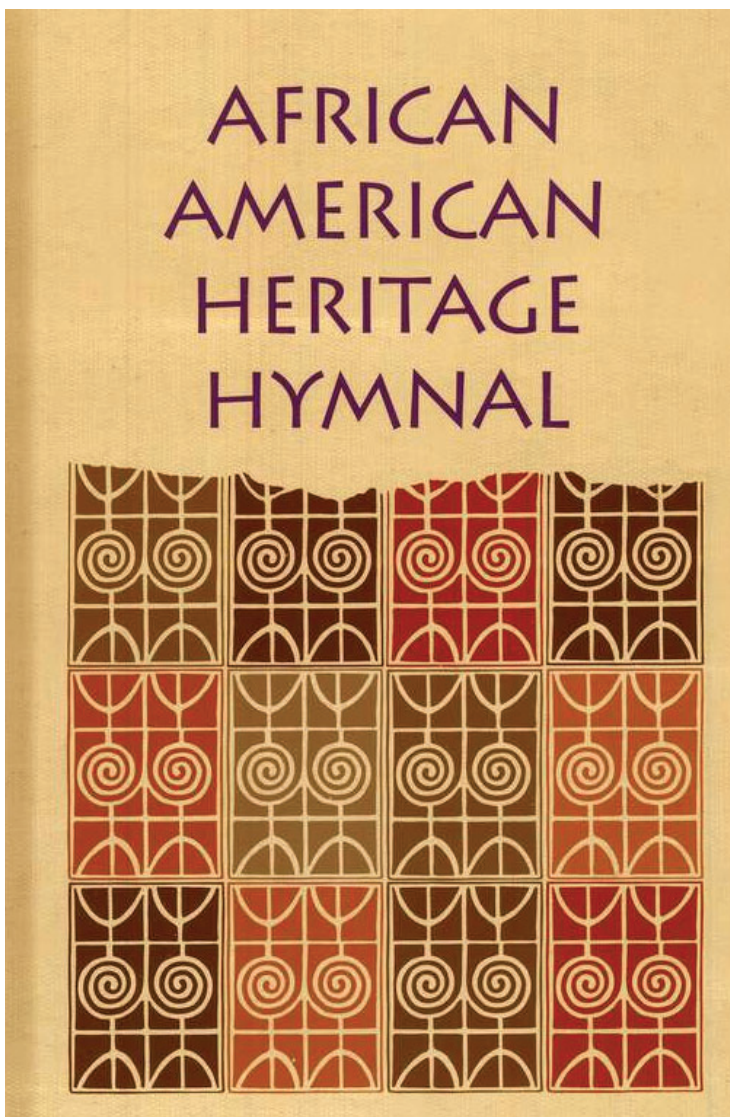
By Jake Fontana, Music Director

I am excited and grateful to announce that another hymnal is now in the pews! Alongside our current hymnal, Glory to God, we have added the African American Heritage Hymnal. First published in 2001, this hymnal was created by a collaboration of biblical scholars, theologians, pastors, and musicians, all of whom were leaders in African American worship and gospel music.

The African American Heritage Hymnal is a popular resource because of the breadth of its selections, including almost 700 songs. Many of these include spirituals, gospel songs, and other important music from the Black church tradition.

In fact, whenever we have sung a spiritual or gospel song that wasn't in Glory to God, it could be found in the African American Heritage Hymnal. By purchasing these hymnals, we can continue to honor the vibrant musical traditions of our church, and we can greatly expand our repertoire of songs.

Many thanks to Pastor Matt and Di for co-spearheading this project, and to Session for its approval of an initial purchase of 75 hymnals.



First Church Fires up the Boiler for the Cold Days Ahead



It takes a lot of time and effort to get the boiler going. Please show your appreciation for all of their hard work to Erick Beavington and Ben Baab now and throughout the winter season.

Proposed Process for Property Discernment and Ministry Direction

For many years and through congregational changes, the community of First Presbyterian Church in Oakland has sought to understand God's will in caring for and using the property upon which our sanctuary and community buildings stand. In recent years, there has been a practical need to monetize the campus buildings in support of maintenance and fiscal sustainability, which led to the bifurcation of the operating budget. That budgeting approach highlights the distinction between the campus as a rental facility and the campus as a worshipping community space. During this time, there has also been a social awareness of the need for more diverse housing options to meet the basic needs of individuals at all income levels.

First Presbyterian as a community now finds ourselves at an energetic inflection point in choosing a path forward with respect to the utilization of our property and how we serve the community in which we reside. We have recently lost a rent paying tenant and a number of issues related to desirability of the property for rental have emerged making this the right time to decide what the future use of the campus can and should be.

We seek to “decide” what is next not through our personal will and desire but in alignment with the will of God for this place and with the strength of the Holy Spirit. Guided by the commandment to first love God and to then love our neighbor as ourselves we are recommending a multi-part discernment process that will bring us by the end of March 2025 to a clear decision on how to proceed in the management and/or necessary transformation of the campus property and buildings.

We recognize that there are existing possibilities that are being considered for the property, and we recognize that through this process something else may emerge that we have not imagined. Through this whole process we seek God's will for us as stewards of this place in time.

The process recommended will be initially led by Pastor Matt Prinz, Ben Baab, and Elder Maggie Harmon. Planned activities include:

- An initial, brief qualitative congregational survey
- A brief, more quantitative, survey of our rental partners
- Beginning in November, a series of campus observations and community walks to experience current campus and neighborhood activities
- A visual display of our rental partners to support group discussions with those unable to join observations/walks
- Small group discussion space through hosted meals.

During Advent 2024 we will offer a structured prayerful discernment to aid in this process. Throughout the process we will gather data from participants that will be summarized in February and March of 2025. By the end of March the entire process will be distilled into a directional statement that captures the will of the Spirit as reflected in the members of the congregation and the neighbors who we currently serve and who we may be called to serve.

In April 2025 we will seek approval from Session to act on the directional statement as appropriate.

Voting Party an Excellent Resource for Participants



Members of multiple churches, College Ave Presbyterian, Oaklife, Bethel Community Presbyterian Church, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, and First Church Oakland, met last Saturday to learn about and discuss local measures and statewide propositions.

Special thanks to Nancy Ogden, Susannah Prinz, and Keigh Ogden who helped create the summaries.

Please encourage others to vote by November 5 in this very important election.



Reflection on Gratitude

by Maggie Harmon

As we enter that time of year when we reflect with gratitude on all that we have, we invite you to consider expressing that gratitude through a gift to the church. Most of us are surrounded by more things than we know what to do with. At First Presbyterian Church Oakland we seek not to acquire more but to fill our hearts, minds, and souls with the strength of spirit that lets us truly live as the beloved community.

From the food ministry that impacts hundreds of neighbors every week, to the affordable rental space we share with community partners, weekly opportunities for communal worship and fellowship, to walking in our city with a compassionate zeal for justice; we are a busy, bountiful church that needs your support.

Please give today to support all that we are doing as followers of the way. Most importantly your gift helps to sustain the ministry of First Presbyterian Church Oakland.



Love over Fear Concert Set for November 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Join the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity for its second annual 2024 Love Over Fear Benefit Concert, an inspiring evening of music and storytelling that celebrates global rhythms and deep connections to land and heritage.

November 12, 2024

6:30pm (Doors open at 6:00pm)

Freight & Salvage

2020 Addison St. Berkeley

www.im4humanintegrity.org



Practices of our Church Community – Ways to Join Us

Worship Service Each Sunday we gather at 10am to sing, pray, confess, and worship God together. We invite our community to participate in our worship services through singing, reading, praying, ushering, or sharing testimony. Do you like to write prayers or help connect music to themes in scripture? Talk with Di Pagel (Elder of Worship), Jake Fontana (Music Director) or Pastor Matt if you would like to help lead/design our worship services. You can also help us create space for conversation and building community through providing food during our coffee hour (11-12). Talk with Julia Marquez if you would like to contribute.

Food Ministry Each week, more than 40 volunteers share over 300 meals with our neighbors through our food ministry. Volunteers gather donated food on Fridays and Saturdays from local supermarkets and bakeries. Meals are prepared on Sundays and Mondays and are shared with neighbors and delivered to local encampments. We have opportunities to serve during the week, each Saturday, and Sunday. Talk with Gay Cobb or Dorothy Dugger or Nina Lapachet to get involved.

Bible Study Wednesday nights at 7pm via Zoom we gather around the sacred texts of scripture to study and reflect upon our lives and take new steps of faithfulness together. No need to study beforehand, just sign up for our weekly emails, click on the Zoom link and join conversation. Come with a desire to build community and listen for God's Spirit in the midst of scripture. Talk with Henry Gardner or Maggie Harmon or Pastor Matt for more details.

Building the Beloved Community Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. constantly spoke about God's work of building the beloved community - a community bridging across the differences of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability. Building the Beloved Community is one lens we use to look at all of our ministry at First Church. We also host conversations, book groups, attend concerts and art shows, to learn, reflect, and to help us build God's beloved community within our church community, in our neighborhoods, and city. Talk with Suzie Inadomi, Pastor Matt or Pastor Joel to learn about ways to join BBC work at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland.

Faith in Action "Justice is what love looks like in the public." Cornel West. How do we put our faith into action to love our neighbors? One way we live out our faith is joining the ministries of Faith in Action East Bay, who for over 40 years have advocated and worked in areas of gun violence, immigration, education, housing, and equity in Oakland and the larger Bay Area. Members of First Pres. regularly join FIA Ceasefire night walks, advocate for affordable housing, and seek to support new structural changes for equity and justice. Talk with Pastor Matt to get involved and our new community organizer Chris Logan.

Community Life - God is community Three in one and we are made for community. Creating spaces for community around meals, discussion groups, backyard firepits, and outings together (A's game, beach etc.) are an important ministry within our church community. Do you like to host events, love connecting with others, enjoy building community? Talk with Julia Marquez or Pastor Matt and join them in planning our next community life events.

Celebrate November Birthdays!



Please wish the following people a happy birthday this month:

November 4: Chris Kovach

November 6: Chloe Reynolds

November 24: Katherine Kovach

November 26: Siddharth Manay

November 28: Margaret Sigurdson

November 29: Leah Marquez

November 30: Bex Fortin

First Church proudly supports our COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Afterglow Chorus
- Cantare Choirs
- Catalyst Youth Network
- College Awareness
- Community Women's Orchestra
- Downtown Streets Team
- Faith in Action East Bay
- Food Not Bombs
- Habitat For Humanity, East Bay-Silicon Valley
- Mandela Partners
- Oakland Civic Orchestra
- Oakland Early Head Start Preschool
- Oakland Gay Men's Chorus
- Oakland Kids First
- Quinteto Latino
- ReCares
- The Lucy Kinchen Chorale
- Vituity Care Foundation



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Elders

Elizabeth Cureton: Youth and Children

Chris Weber: Building and Grounds

Di Pagel: Worship and Music/Personnel

Gay Plair Cobb: Personnel/Food Ministry

Erick Bevington: Treasurer

Maggie Harmon: Finance

Julia Marquez: Community Life

Session Officers

Rev. Matt Prinz, Moderator

Anne Margaret Manay, Clerk

Erick Bevington, Treasurer

Deacons

Marjorie Witt, Barbara Goodroe, Derrick Polk,

Su Coburn, Pauline Ahanotu, Monrovia Prinz,

Martha Bauman, Charmaine Irmiter

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Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Matt Prinz and Maggie Harmon. *Temple Tidings* is a weekly publication. All are welcome to contribute news, events and opinion.

Sign up to be on our email list: firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings