

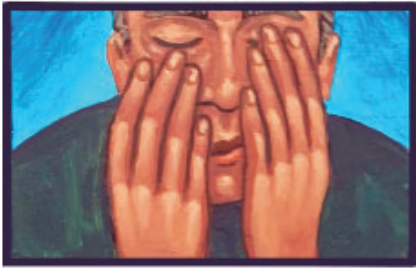
Weekly Newsletter

November 10, 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

Prelude

*Prelude on Amazing Grace
by George Shearing*

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Blessed are the poor in spirit,

All: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

One: Blessed are those who mourn,

All: for they will be comforted.

One: Blessed are the meek,

All: for they will inherit the earth.

One: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

All: for they will be filled.

One: Blessed are the merciful,

All: for they will receive mercy.

One: Blessed are the pure in heart,

All: for they will see God.

One: Blessed are the peacemakers,

All: for they will be called children of God.

Gathering Prayer

One: We place our trust in you, God, for your love and faithfulness are steadfast and true. Breathe your Holy Spirit into our worship and your very presence into our lives, that our love and faithfulness may be steadfast and true.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit

Hymn Glory to God #307: God of Grace and God of Glory

CONFESS I O N o f S I N & A S S U R A N C E o f G R A C E

Confession

One: We fear to approach you with our confession, holy God, for you will require changes in us that are costly. You ask us to have the mind of Christ, a mind free of pretense and self-interest. You challenge us to lay aside our advantages to go where you send us. We fear loss of security if we are obedient. It is difficult to consider others when we feel like victims. We confess our need for you and our desire to find your purpose for us.

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 Glory to God #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.

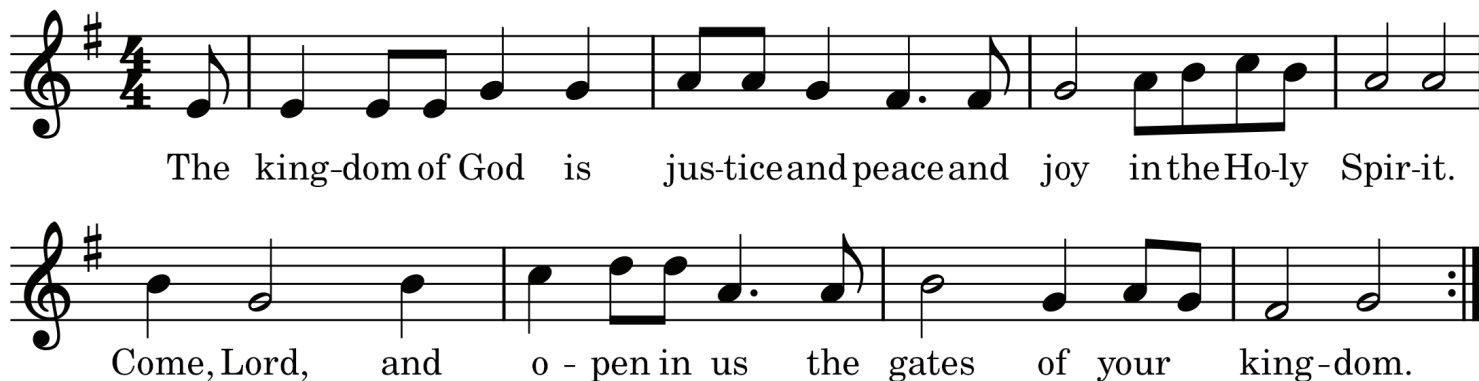
One: Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace

P R A Y E R S o f t h e P E O P L E

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 may go with leaders to Godly Play.



THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 61.1 and Matthew 5, 8,9 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
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Where are the Peacemakers?

RESPONSE to the WORD

Reflection

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

Song

African American Heritage Hymnal #377: It is Well with My Soul

Invitation to the Offering

One: As Christ gave up selfish ambition and conceit for human beings like us, may we offer our best for our siblings who need the message we can share and practical help we can provide through our offerings.

Offertory

Ushers will collect the weekly offering. Donations can be placed in the offering plate. You may also make a donation by using this QR code on your smart phone:



Prayer for the Offering

One: Mighty God, as you restore sight to the blind and healing to the afflicted, use these offerings to provide refuge for the lost and mercy for those who suffer. May our gifts find those who cry out in need and who seek you. Amen

All: Amen

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Please rise in body or spirit

Song *African American Heritage Hymnal #400: I Have Decided
to Follow Jesus*

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection *If we ever needed the Lord before*

Benediction

One: God heals the broken and makes the wounded whole.

All: We go with peace in our hearts.

One: God finds the lost and gives them a home.

All: We go with joy and thanksgiving.

One: God visits the lonely and makes them family.

All: We go as the people of God. Amen.

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.

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

Liturgist: Jan Busch

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Linda Carter

Soloist: Marilyn Reynolds

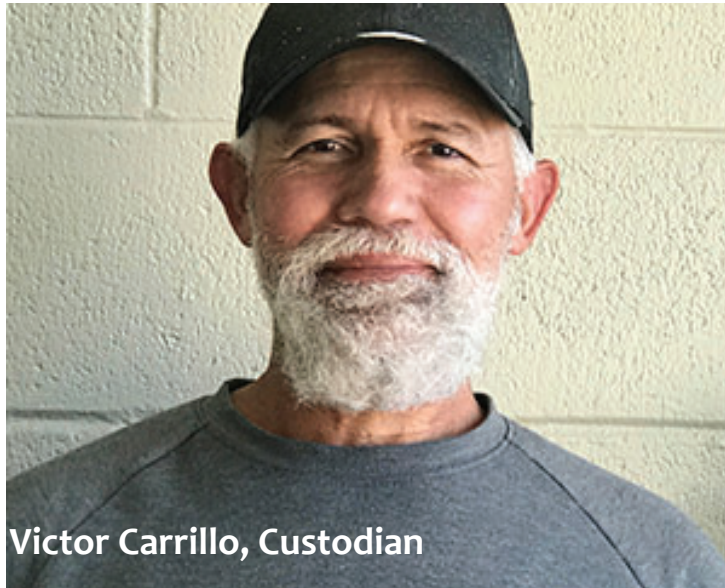
Head Usher: Mathew Inadomi

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Ruby Prinz

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Chander Family

Staff Appreciation Sunday!

Please take time to write a note of appreciation to each of our staff members during coffee hour.

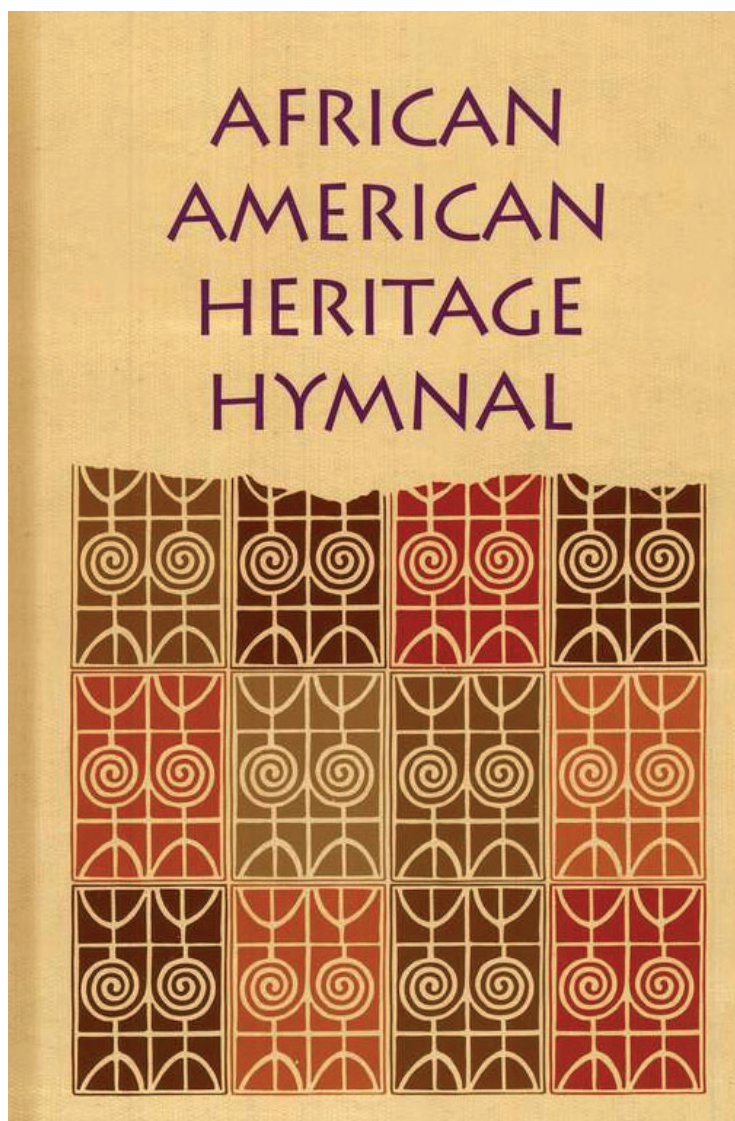


Hymnals of African American Songs Now in the Pews!

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 Bevington 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.

Come to Faith in Action's Rise up for Justice Reception

A black poster with gold bokeh lights and confetti. Two champagne bottles are shown with gold liquid spraying out. The text 'RISE UP FOR JUSTICE' is in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, 'Champagne and Dessert Reception' is written in a gold cursive font. At the bottom, a gold banner contains the text '7-9:30 p.m. Saturday, December 7' in black.

RISE UP FOR JUSTICE

Champagne and Dessert Reception

Join us to celebrate Faith in Action East Bay and our past six directors. Experience first-hand stories of how our work has impacted individuals and transformed communities.

7-9:30 p.m. Saturday, December 7

Please join Pastor Matt at his table for this important event for Faith in Action East Bay. Contact Pastor Matt if you can attend.

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.



**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



Scan this code with your smart phone for access to all First Church News and past editions of *Temple Tidings*

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, Jake Fontana and Micheline La Mont. *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