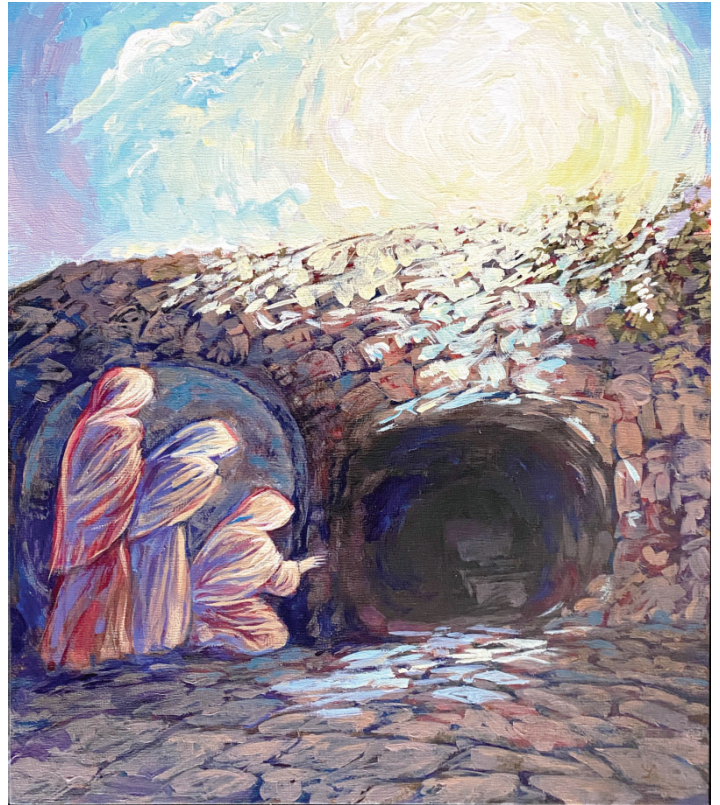


Sunday, April 20, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



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** by the Hammond organ and in the back of the sanctuary.
- 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

Sinfonia from the Easter Oratorio
Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Christ the Lord is risen today.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

One: Earth and heaven in chorus say:

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

One: Love's redeeming work is done.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

One: Christ has opened paradise.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gathering Prayer

One: God of life and love, we are eager to hear the good news of new life. Enter our lives and cast our fears aside. Lead us on a journey from grief and despair to hope and joy. We are ready to celebrate and give thanks for your transforming love. We are eager to rejoice in the glory of this day! Give us Easter spirits and open hearts.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

Jesus Christ is Risen Today
Glory to God #232

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

One: Risen Jesus, how we long to proclaim the good news we have received—you are risen, the tomb is empty, and you are present with your friends. Remind us not to look for you in places where we lost you—our grief, our failure, the death all around us. For you have been raised. You are not trapped in some tomb. Help us proclaim your resurrection with confidence this day. We are works in progress, help us perceive how deeply we are loved, for your grace and mercy never fail.

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
Assurance of Pardon

Beloved of God, the grace of God is with you, and God's grace has not been in vain. Receive forgiveness and mercy through the name of Jesus Christ.

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.

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

Children may go with leaders to Godly Play.

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 or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to privately share your prayer need with the pastor. If you would like, there are two tables set up with candles for prayer and salt water for lament.

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.

Song

Come Out the Wilderness
sung by the choir

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Luke 24. 1 –12 NRSV

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Poem

Under The Ground (based on Luke 24. 1 – 12)
by Drew Jackson

Life is always happening
underground--
the place light has forsaken.

Finite minds cannot take in
that the belly of mother Earth
is, indeed, a womb.

Entombed in the soil is the pip
of a new Eden.
Only the seed that has fallen into the pit

can burst through into the morning dew
to announce to weeping eyes
that a new day has risen--

a day in which the voices and stories of women
are believed, their word received
as good news,

and the men have no problem
following them and
learning how to believe again.
What I mean is this:
the world has been flipped
on its head.

Heaven has invaded hell,
the spell of death is broken,
and the doorway open to a new way of being.

It all begins with seeing
that the darkness of our world is luminous
and in the humus of life is where we become fully human.

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 t o t h e W O R D

Sermon Continued

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

Song

*Live into Hope
Glory to God #772*

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

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

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:



Communion Music

"The Holy City"
by Stephen Adams

Invitation to Community Life

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Song

Go and Tell Mary and Martha

African American Heritage Hymnal #284

Benediction

One: We have heard the story. Life triumphed over death. Grief became joy. Go now and tell the good news: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Breath Prayers by Cole Arthur Riley

Inhale: God is alive

Exhale: And God's breath is freedom.

Inhale: Liberation comes in a body Exhale: I will honor mine.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Gay Cobb

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Raenelle Tauro

Soloist: Marilyn Reynolds

Fellowship Time Refreshments:

Suzie and Matthew Inadomi,

Martha Bauman, Di Pagel, Lachlan Welsh

Oboist: Elizabeth Cureton

Bassoonist: Shawn Jones

The First Church Choir

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Monrovia Prinz

Palm Sunday Brings Church Community Together



Campus Discernment Process Summary

By The Session

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the focused campus discernment work over the last couple of months, in whatever way you were able to do that.

For many years First Presbyterian Church as a congregation has been thoughtfully engaged in the stewardship of our shared resources; using our campus as a hub for local non-profit operations, community events, and most importantly as sacred space for gathering, worshipping, and growing together.



Discerning God's will for one's own life is not an easy task, discerning God's will for a community is even harder. We each see with different eyes, we each hear with different ears. Bringing together those messages to guide where and how we go together requires deep faith and trust in the process. Thank you to every person who has prayed, listened, completed a survey, or participated in a conversation. We have collectively, and through individual action, sought God's guidance as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

The challenges facing our city are not new and they are not unique; we know too that we can not solve them all by ourselves. Just as we as individuals have different gifts that are made whole as we come together, we know as a congregation that we are a part of something larger. The contribution we can make through the use of our campus is one part of that greater community effort. We will achieve more, more effectively if we each bring our greatest strength to service rather than trying to do it all on our own.

Over two thirds of our membership participated in a survey, dozens took tours of the buildings on campus, met community partners, and engaged in thoughtful discussion. What we have heard, as a congregation, is that we believe our strength lies in being a hub for local non-profit services, social-service outreach and support, and community gathering. This does not mean we dismiss the importance of the other needs facing our community. It does mean that our collective focus will be on those areas of strength, opportunity, and activities that are most aligned to our unique congregational call.



“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.” - Romans 12:4-8

Focusing our energy and resources on serving as a non-profit hub and event venue is what we feel to be right today and we understand that as circumstances change in the life of our congregation and community we may need to shift our focus. Listening and responding to God does not happen once; we actively listen, we thoughtfully respond, and we continue to seek that guidance as we move through our changing days.



We want to attract more tenants who are doing work to serve the needs of our city: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, educating children, peacemaking, and more. We want to be a place where the community can come to create and share art, celebrate life, and gather. To do this we will need to make changes to our campus and buildings that may include adding features like an elevator for accessibility, upgrading

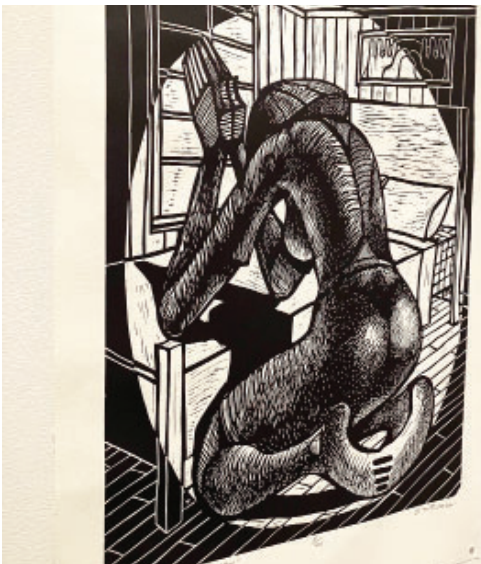
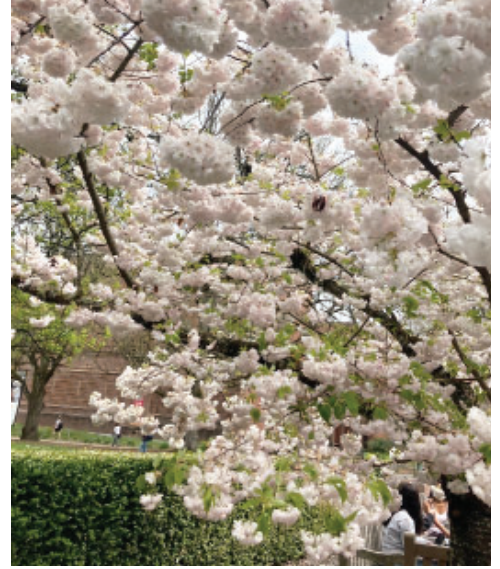
or remodeling certain spaces like bathrooms, enhancing the acoustic experience, and others. It will also take a team working together, and the participation of everyone in the congregation in different ways.

If you are ready to be an active part of moving ahead with this call to service please let us know - we need everyone's gifts working together to go boldly following God.

Two planning teams can be working in parallel - one team working with our design architect and one team researching financing and applying for grants that might be available to support accessibility and community services. If you are interested in either area, please talk with Pastor Matt, Maggie, or Ben.



College Visits to Support Leah Marquez and Elizabeth Goodwin in OR



Join PICO for a Day of Action at the Capitol on April 28



If you have energy and inspiration to join other PICO statewide federations for the Lobby Day for housing in Sacramento on April 28, please join us! We will provide bussing, food, and endless solidarity and community.

We will be advocating for AB1157:

AB1157 THE AFFORDABLE RENT ACT will amend the 2019 Tenant Protection Act (TPA) in three ways:

- Limit allowable annual rent increases to inflation to 5%. Current law sets the limit at a maximum of 10%.
- Cover renters living in single family homes by removing the TPA's exemption for most single-family homes.
- Make the Tenant Protection Act (TPA) permanent, by removing the 2030 sunset.
- According to research from the U.S. Government Accountability Office, a \$100 increase in median rent is associated with a 9% increase in homelessness.
- In 2024, for every 100 people who exited homelessness, 118 more entered into homelessness, revealing how our current system is failing to address the root causes of this emergency. To register, please ask visit: web.cvent.com/event/6e3e4bd7-c7d0-4960-92e2-764cdc1297f7/regProcessStep1.

Please Join Faith in Action for these Ceasefire Nightwalks



Stop the gun violence! Oakland Ceasefire is a movement to stop the killings and more people going to jail. We are uniting to build a culture of peace and healing. We are walking our neighborhoods to carry this message: We love you and we want you to be alive and free!

April 25 ~ Mt Zion MBC, 1203 Willow Street

May 9 ~ First Mt. Sinai, 1970 86th Avenue

May 16 ~ St. Columba, 6401 San Pablo Avenue

May 23 ~ New Hope MBC, 892 36th Street

May 30 ~ At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.

June 13 ~ Tabernacle MBC, 10115 Edes Avenue

June 20 ~ Emmanuel Greater Praise Church,
2025 86th Avenue

June 27 ~ At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.

Leah Marquez Opens her Deacon Care Pkg.



First Church proudly supports our COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Afterglow Chorus
- Cantare Choirs
- Catalyst Youth Network
- College Awareness
- Community Women's Orchestra
- 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
- ReCares
- The Lucy Kinchen Chorale
- Vituity Care Foundation



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Temple Tidings

Elders

Ben Baab: 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
Suzie Inadomi: Building the Beloved Community

Session Officers

Rev. Matt Prinz, Moderator
Anne Margaret Manay, Clerk
Erick Bevington, Treasurer

Deacons

Derrick Polk, Su Coburn, Pauline Ahanotu,
Monrovia Prinz, Martha Bauman, Charmaine
Irmiter, Pam Prinz

Church Staff

Rev. Matt Prinz, Pastor

matt@firstchurchoakland.org

510.488.3812

email to make an appointment

Rev. Joel Mackey, Parish Associate

joelmackey@comcast.net

Jake Fontana, Music Director

jake@firstchurchoakland.org

Micheline La Mont, Community Relationships Manager

micheline@firstchurchoakland.org

510.488.3810

Hours: Wednesday 2-4:30/Thursday 9-2:30

Gus Lopez, Head Custodian

510.290.9677

Erick Bevington, Treasurer

erick@firstchurchoakland.org

Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper

joan@firstchurchoakland.org

Temple Tidings

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