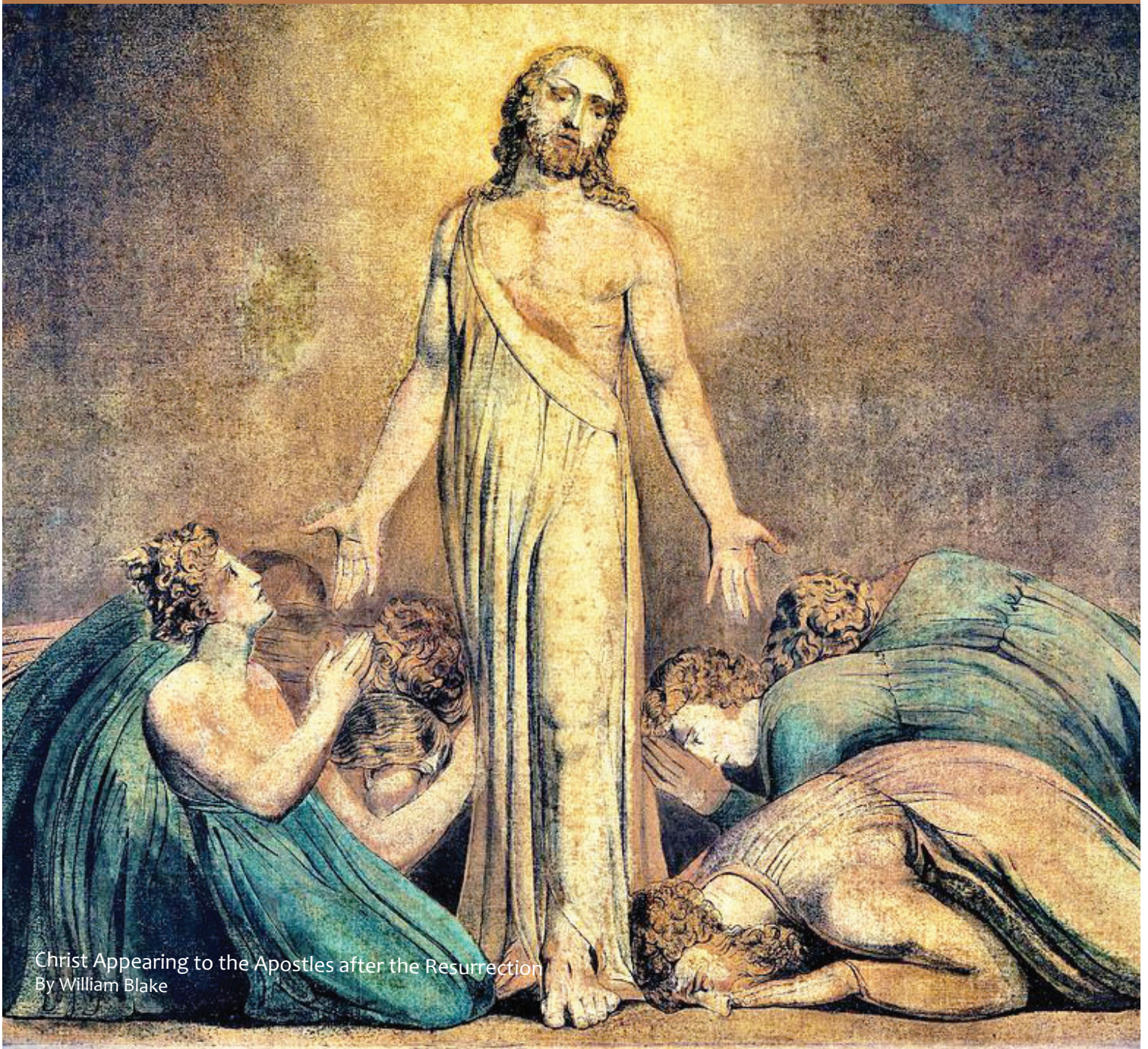


Sunday, April 27, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Christ Appearing to the Apostles after the Resurrection
By William Blake

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

The Holy Christ is Risen
by Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: The risen Christ comes to us and says, "Peace be with you."

All: May we lay down the worries of our lives to welcome the peace of Christ.

Gathering Prayer

One: Holy One, we gather with grateful hearts to remember the blessings of your light and love as they flow through our lives each day. In this moment, open our hearts to your Holy Spirit. Open our minds to the truths of your story. Open our hands to welcome the risen Christ among us. And open our eyes to your glory—a glory reflected in the faces around us. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

Sweet, Sweet Spirit
African American Heritage Hymnal #326

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

One: God of grace and mercy, we want to continue singing the alleluias of Easter, but there are days we just don't feel like singing. Sometimes we lock ourselves away, fearful of what has happened or what the day may bring. Sometimes we allow our doubts to overwhelm our faith. Sometimes we forget about the needs of our neighbors because we are so focused on ourselves. Forgive us. Draw us back to you and to one another. Help us walk in your love and light, that others may see in us the loving presence of the risen Christ.

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

You are a beloved of God. Allow God's forgiveness and love to wash over you.

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

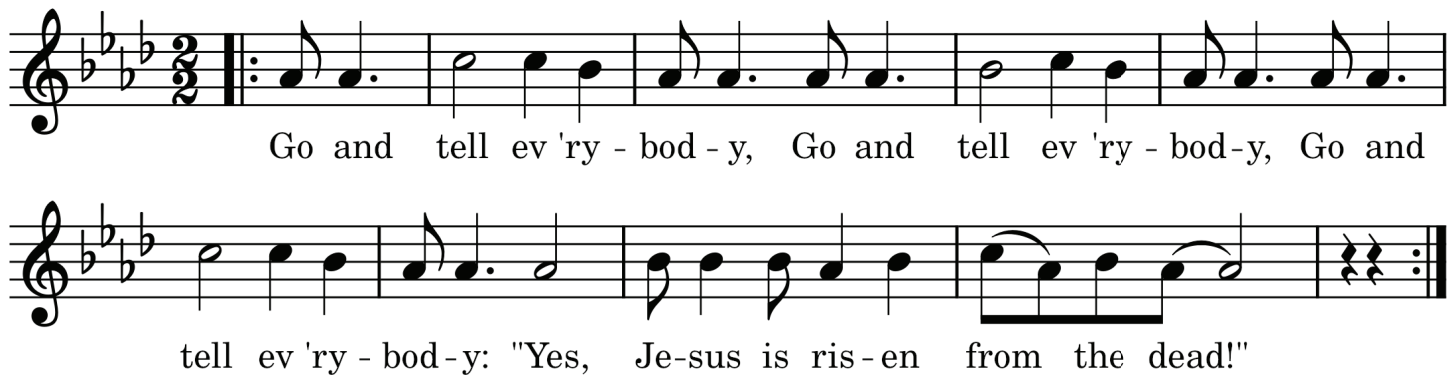
You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to privately share your prayer need with the pastor. If you would like, there are two tables set up with candles for prayer and salt water for lament.

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

Go and Tell Ev'rybody



THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

John 1.5; 20.19 - 23 NRSV

The light shines in the darkness , and the darkness did not overcome it.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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

Song

*Spirit of the Living God
Glory to God #288*

Invitation to the Offering

Let us share gifts of every kind in service of God's healing justice and love.

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:



Offertory

In the Bulb There is a Flower

Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Glory to God #607*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Prayer for the Offering

One: Abundant God, we are grateful for all your blessings, especially for the presence of the risen Christ. Bless these gifts, that they may help bring your love and light into our community and our world.

All: Amen.

Invitation to Community Life

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Song

*Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness
Glory to God #314*

Benediction

One: Siblings in Christ, may the love of God, the peace of the risen Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit fill your hearts, now and always.

All: Amen.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Joel Mackey

Preacher: Joshua Day Marquez

Liturgist: Derek Mueller

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Linda Carter

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Dorrie Dodge

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Sarah and Paul Roberts

Easter Celebration a Joyous Time for the Congregation



Place of Worship Photo Display at First Church May 1-30

PLACE OF WORSHIP

NICOLÒ SERTORIO



SHIFTING LANDSCAPES OF
FAITH IN AN AMERICAN CITY

OPENING EXHIBITION

05.09.25 6PM-9PM

ON DISPLAY TILL THE 30TH OF MAY



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

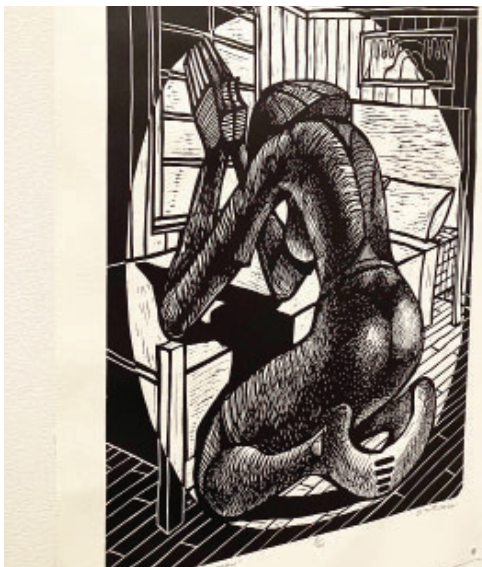
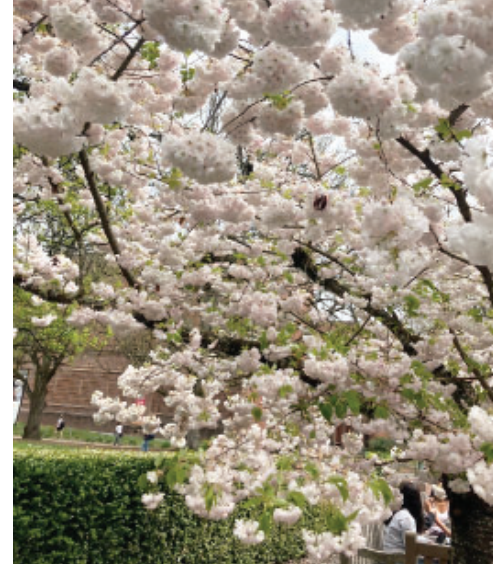


If you have energy and inspiration to join other PICO statewide federations for the Lobby Day for housing in Sacramento on April 28, please join us! We will provide bussing, food, and endless solidarity and community.

To register, please visit:

web.cvent.com/event/6e3e4bd7-c7do-4960-92e2-764cdc1297f7/regProcessStep1.

College Visits to Support Leah Marquez and Elizabeth Goodwin in OR



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.



Prinz Family Celebrates Easter



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



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

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Jake Fontana, Music Director

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Micheline La Mont, Community Relationships Manager

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Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper

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Temple Tidings

Temple Tidings is a weekly publication. All are welcome to contribute news, events and opinion. Easter photos by Linda Carter and Suzi Inadomi.

Sign up to be on our email list:

firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings