

Sunday, May 4, 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](http://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

*Today the Son of God Triumphs*  
*by Johann Sebastian Bach*

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come walk with us.

**All: We will join the journey.**

One: Let us talk together.

**All: We will listen and speak.**

One: Christ goes with us.

**All: Jesus guides our steps.**

Gathering Prayer

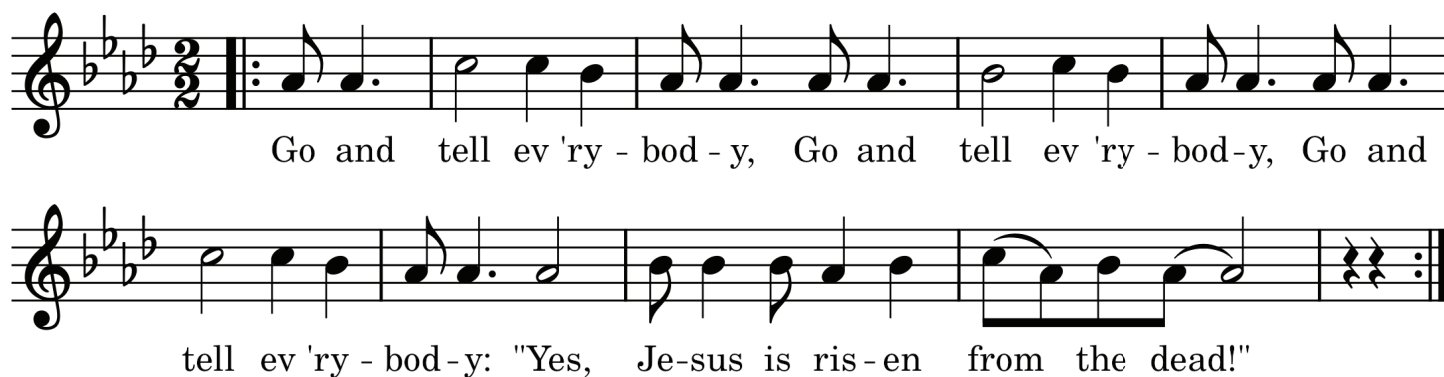
One: Holy One, we are often confused by the events in our world. Come and walk with us.  
Open our hearts to hear your truth. Plant the seed of new life within us. In trust of  
your loving presence, we pray.

**All: Amen**

*Please rise in body or spirit*

Song

*Go and Tell Ev'rybody*



## CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

One: God of love and compassion, we often fail to understand the truth of your love. We are frequently confused and filled with doubt. Life can feel meaningless. We wander down the pathways of life, longing to see our way more clearly. Open our eyes this day, that we may see your way of love and grace. Meet our confusion with the truth of your presence. Feed us with the true bread of life, and help us change our hearts and lives, that we may follow you with joy.

**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

By God's mercy, we are forgiven and loved. Thanks be to God.

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 stay for Family Worship.*

## PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

*Write a word or prayer for what you hope on one side of your prayer tag and word/prayer for what you fear in this season on the other side. Bring your prayer tag forward and attach it to the prayer tree.*

## 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

# THE WORD

## Scripture Lesson

*Luke 24. 13 – 35 NRSV*

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening

the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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 for Preparing the Table

*Come to the Table of Grace  
Glory to God #507*

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

*Who Will Roll Away the Stone?  
by Tom Wuest*

Invitation to Community Life

## **S E N D I N G   O U T   t o   b e   T H E   C H U R C H**

Song

*I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

*Please come forward while singing to stand around the Hammond organ as a church community.*

**I’m gonna live so God can use me,  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I’m gonna work so...**

**I’m gonna live so God can use me,  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I’m gonna pray so...**

## Benediction

One: As you walk the paths of life, know that Jesus is with you, blessing you with his presence.

All: **Amen**

## Song (Continued)

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

**I'm gonna sing so God can use me,  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna sing so God can use me,  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

## Poem

*Emmaus (based on Luke 24. 13 – 35)  
by Drew Jackson*

Making sense of tragedy is  
an impossible task.  
How do you shape meaning  
out of the absurd?

We would sit into the night,  
warming up plates made  
from meals prepared and delivered  
to us by all our other mothers.

There is a certain kind of hurt  
that can only be comprehended  
in the context of friendship,  
over bread broken.

So many that we had to keep  
more than a handful frozen.  
We would flow in and out of  
laughter and silence.

Those hours after the funeral  
at the repast I replay often:  
Jadie playing on the keys  
as the house erupted singing  
“Down by the Riverside.”

Bouncing between questions  
and the hesitancy of thinking  
about what had taken place.

And in the subsequent days  
after Mom flew away,  
we sat around the table  
on Grand Magnolia Dr.

And yet there in that space  
nothing made more sense.  
Something of heaven opened up  
and then left us quickly  
as it had come.

## 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:** Suzie Inadomi

**Music Director:** Jake Fontana

**Song Leader:** Susannah Prinz

**Guitarist:** Keith Ogden

**Head Usher:** Matthew Inadomi

**Fellowship Time Refreshments:** Tom and Pam Prinz

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



First Church Oakland invites you to the opening exhibition of the profound photographic exploration Place of Worship: Shifting Landscapes of Faith in an American City by photographer Nicolò Sertorio.

This meticulously documented journey through Oakland's diverse spiritual terrain, presented through a typological lens, presents a visual compendium of over 460 individual houses of worship, ranging from grand cathedrals to unassuming storefronts and a spectrum of traditions.

Captured with a deliberate objectivity in black and white, the exhibition invites contemplation on the beliefs and aspirations of Oakland's communities and the enduring search for meaning.

Please attend the opening reception on Friday, May 9 from 6-9 p.m.

## 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!

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.

Please talk with Suzie Inadomi or Pastor Matt to plan a Friday to attend together.

## Stewardship News & Reflections

By Maggie Harmon



“And these are God’s instructions: gather enough for each person, gather enough for everyone in your tent.” The People of Israel went to work and started gathering, some more, some less, but when they measured out what they had gathered, those who had gathered more had no extra and those who gathered less weren’t short – each person

had gathered as much as was needed.”  
Exodus 16:16-18 (The Message)

In so many ways we are given exactly what we need, just when we need it. Take a moment to reflect on what “gifts” are most meaningful to you, what “fills you up,” and what do you have available to share?

## 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.



**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.



**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.



## First Church Offered Discount Tickets for The Spanish Guitar



Returning to the First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary with his acclaimed program, *Spanish Romance*, Australian Andrew Blanch brings a musical journey like no

other. Andrew is one of the finest guitarists of his generation and his show is dazzling and unforgettable. Discount expires May 10.

Concert date: Monday, Sept 8 - 7 p.m., Sanctuary  
\$25 tickets can be purchased here:

<https://tinyurl.com/Church-discount-tix>

### 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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### 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](mailto:matt@firstchurchoakland.org)

510.488.3812

email to make an appointment

**Rev. Joel Mackey**, Parish Associate

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**Jake Fontana**, Music Director

[jake@firstchurchoakland.org](mailto:jake@firstchurchoakland.org)

**Micheline La Mont**, Community Relationships Manager

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510.488.3810

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

**Gus Lopez**, Head Custodian

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**Erick Bevington**, Treasurer

[erick@firstchurchoakland.org](mailto:erick@firstchurchoakland.org)

**Joan Clerk**, Bookkeeper

[joan@firstchurchoakland.org](mailto:joan@firstchurchoakland.org)

### Temple Tidings

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

Easter photos by Linda Carter.

**Sign up to be on our email list:**

[firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings](http://firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings)