

Sunday, May 11, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Detail of Empty Tomb
by Anne Cameron Cutri

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 Glorious Day has Come
by Johann Sebastian Bach*

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: This is the season of resurrection.

All: Let us rejoice and celebrate!

One: This is the day the Lord has made.

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

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain
Glory to God #234

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: Come God and bring new life to the dead places in our hearts. When we are weary and afraid, help us trust your never-failing love. May this love banish our fears, nourish our spirits, and deepen our 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

God's love is faithful and everlasting. This is the day that God has made. It is filled with new life and hope.

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 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.

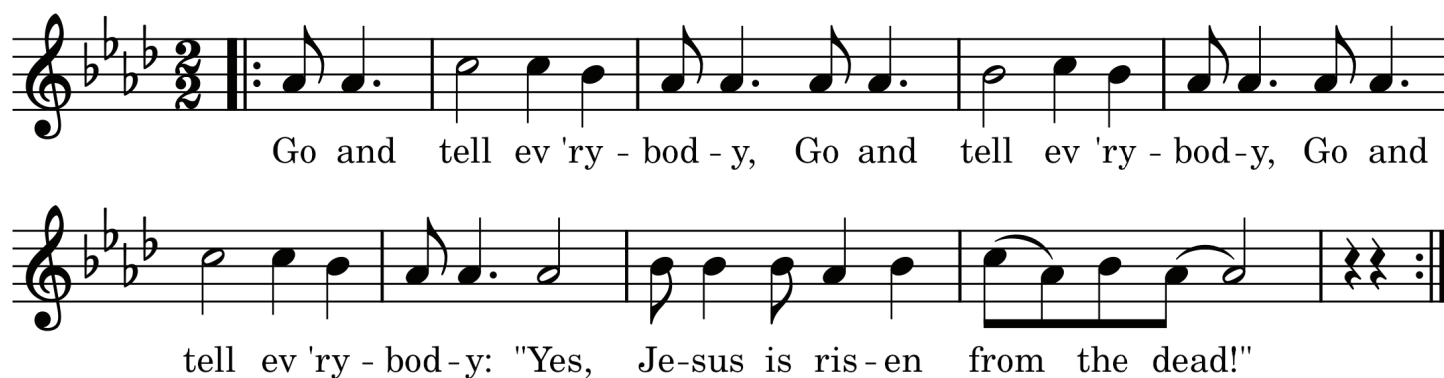
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

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

Luke 24. 1-12 NRSV

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went 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 the hands of 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.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

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

Song

Ain't-a That Good News
African American Heritage Hymnal #592

Invitation to the Offering

Let us rejoice and give thanks this day, bringing our gifts to God.

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

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: God of life and love, we are grateful for your promise of resurrection and new life. Your love is stronger than the powers of evil and injustice. With joy, we bring our gifts to you this day. Use our gifts and our lives to proclaim Christ's triumph over death.

All: Amen.

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

*Go to the World!
Glory to God #295*

Benediction

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

All: Alleluia!

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.

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: Cole/Carter Provost

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Dorrie Dodge

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Anne Margaret Manay

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Maggie and Chris Harmon

Community Partners Gathering Builds Connection and Collaboration



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 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.

Building Community

By Ben Baab

Garden(ing) Party on May 18 after the Fellowship Time

Bring your green thumbs, love for plants, and tolerance for maybe getting your hands a little dirty and help us care for the plants in our courtyard area. If you can, bring gloves and small gardening tools – soil and fertilizer will be provided.

Online Research Opportunity

As we pursue the priorities identified in the congregational survey (congregational, faith-based, and mission-aligned activities), grant funding could help us address some facility accessibility issues and reinforce our financial resources. Grants for making places of worship ADA-compliant are available. Help us identify those grants and learn how to apply for the funding. Contact me for details at bfbaab@gmail.com.



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.



Joshua Day Marquez Preaches at First Church on May 4



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

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email to make an appointment

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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. Community Partner event photos by Micheline La Mont.

Sign up to be on our email list:

firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings