

Sunday, May 18, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



The Doubt of St. Thomas
by He Qi

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

Berceuse
Louis Vierne

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: With trumpet sounds and singing hearts,

All: we come to praise the Lord.

One: As faithful witnesses of Christ's grace and love,

All: we come to praise the Lord.

One: Coming here with our doubts and our faith,

All: we come to praise the Lord.

Gathering Prayer

One: God of mystery and miracles, breathe your peace upon us. Reveal your presence, as we look for you each day. Strengthen our faith and our trust, as we pray for miracles for one another and for all of your creation.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight
Glory to God #817

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: Loving Christ, you welcomed Thomas' questions, even his doubts. Welcome us, too, with your grace and your love. Offer your hand of forgiveness and show us the truth of your presence. Fill us with the power of your love, that your grace, forgiveness, and love may flow freely to others. In gratitude and joy, we pray.

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

In grace, we are forgiven.

In love, we are freed.

In Christ, peace and assurance are ours.

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

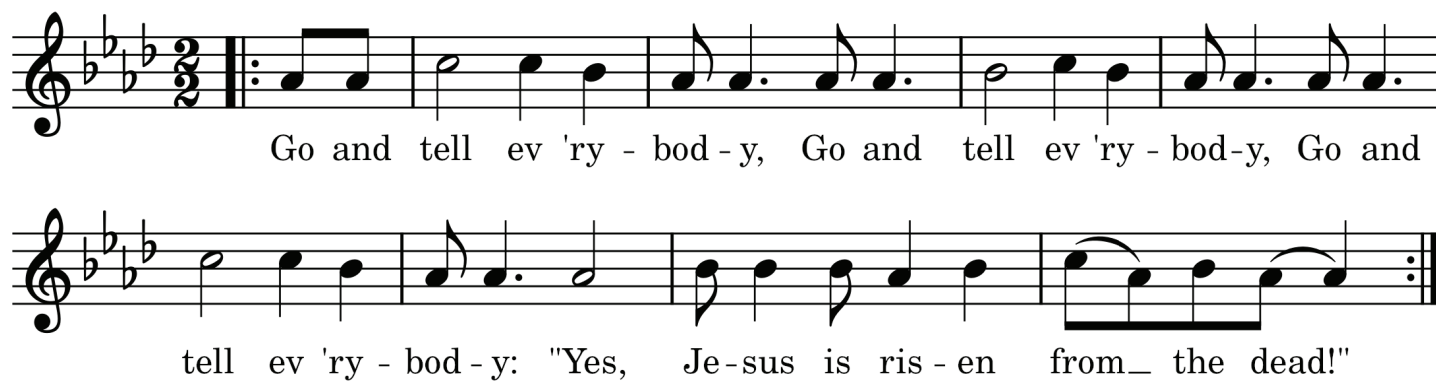
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

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.



THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

John 20. 19 - 29 NRSV

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."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

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 to the W O R D

Wondering Together

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

Song

*Now the Green Blade Riseth
Glory to God #247*

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

*Head Full of Doubt / Road Full of Promise
by The Avett Brothers*

Prayer

S E N D I N G O U T to be T H E C H U R C H

Invitation to Community Life

Song

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
African American Heritage Hymnal #563*

Benediction

One: Go forth as witnesses to the miracle of God's love.

All: We go to bring the miracle of God's love to the world.

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: Lachlan Welsh

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Raenelle Tauro

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Chris and Maggie Harmon

Place of Worship Photo Display Open for Public Viewing

We are hosting the 'Place of Worship' photography show in hopes that it will spur continued conversations within our church community about how we steward our church campus to love God and love our neighbors.

Each week you will find questions/prompts on the whiteboard in the center of coffee hour – please take time to look at the photographs and write responses to the prompts. Allow the Spirit to work in our midst.

Here are the prompts from last week.

Share an idea about what church is

- * Mankind does not need monasteries to live, but monasteries need mankind to live
- * A community that believes in hope, kindness, and compassion.
- * Church = joy on dark days
- * Church is a place where community is formed and hope is found in unexpected ways
- * A community that doesn't matter where they worship or who is there but matters about love and hope in God.
- * Church is coming together – listening, praising, and practicing the word of God
- * The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be guide and critic of the state, never its tool. (Dr. King)
- * Church is meeting people that you wouldn't have normally talked to
- * Where you live is a temple if you treat it like one

What do you see in the large composite of all the churches in Oakland?

- * So many churches!
- * I wonder if they are open during the other six days



- * Such varied architecture: basic to elaborate, small to large, nondescript storefront to specific religious space
- * Hope and pain

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.



Join in the June 8 Pilgrimage



Join Interfaith4Ceasfire and IM4HI in the pilgrimage in public witness for the Palestinian Right of Return to their homes and families and affirm the human right to remain, return, and migrate. This effort is part of the global movement of Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimages that began last year and continues on.

We gather in pilgrimage across spiritual and cultural communities because we uphold human life, dignity and mutual well-being as foundations of our spiritual beliefs. We recognize that the atrocities being carried out by U.S. tax dollars against the Palestinian people are intertwined with cruel and harmful U.S. policies of family separation, incarceration and criminalization that harms immigrants, unsheltered people, Indigenous, trans and BIPOC communities.

To register for the event, please visit:
im4humanintegrity.org/2025/04/right-of-return-pilgrimage/

Stewardship News & Reflections

By Maggie Harmon

One definition of “stewardship” reads, ‘the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.’

Are there things in your life that you consider worth caring for and preserving? Of course there are! Consider, how do you engage in this act of stewardship?

Save the Date for our Fall Retreat: September 27-28, 2025



Join us at the beautiful Zephyr Point Presbyterian Center for a weekend of peace and joy. Please see Pastor Matt if you are interested in helping to plan the retreat.



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 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 TODAY after Coffee Hour

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.





Place of Worship artist Nicolò Sertorio and Lachlan Welsh enjoy the opening reception.

**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

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 Anne Margaret Manay, Clerk
 Erick Bevington, Treasurer

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Temple Tidings

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