

Sunday, July 6, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Saint Mary Oliver
By Kelly Latimore

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 Lord's Prayer
Georg Boehm

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Before we even knock,

All: Christ opens the door and invites us in.

One: Before we can ask,

All: God knows our every need.

One: Come to seek; come to pray; come to worship,

All: for the Spirit has called us here.

Gathering Prayer

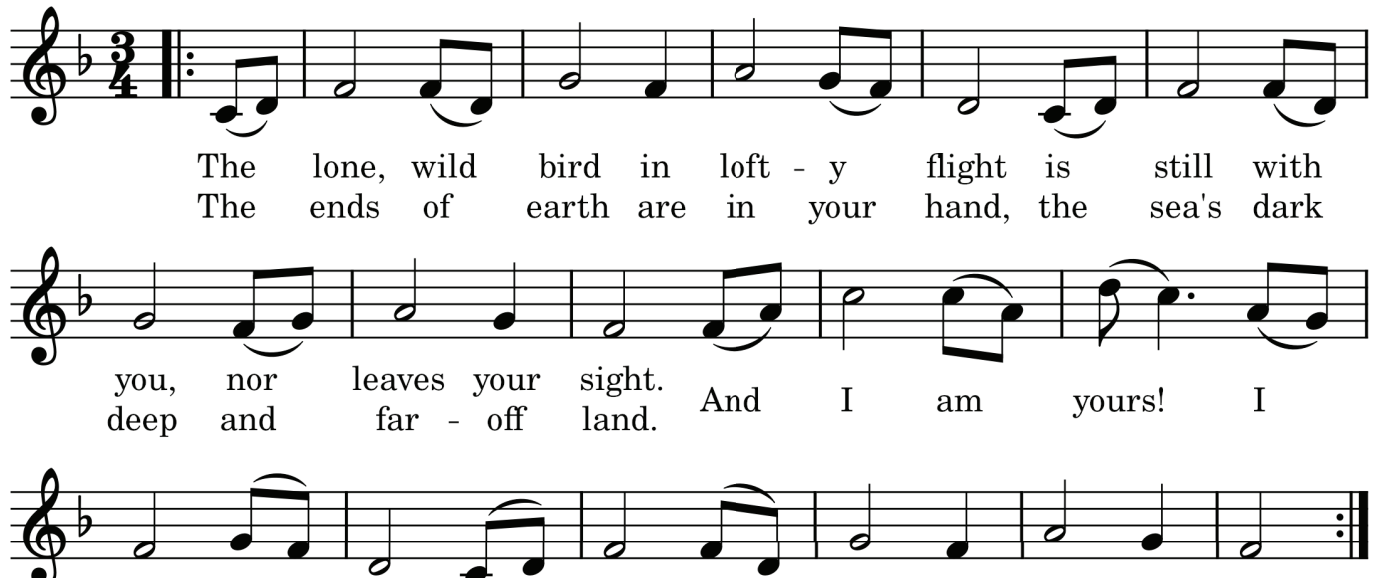
One: Sustaining God, grant us our basic needs. Where there is hunger, give us bread. Where there is homelessness, give us shelter. Where there is loneliness, give us friendship. Where we have wronged another, guide us into reconciliation. And where we have been wronged, lead us on the journey of forgiveness. Save us in times of trial, and lead us in the Way of life.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

The Lone, Wild Bird



The lone, wild bird in loft - y flight is still with
The ends of earth are in your hand, the sea's dark
you, nor leaves your sight. And I am yours! I
deep and far - off land.
rest in you, Great Spi - rit, come, rest in me, too.

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

One: Grow in our lives, Christ Jesus. Make our hearts larger with each gift of your grace. Make our spirits stronger with each moment of your mercy. As you fill our lives with your presence, fill our hearts with your love, that we might grow into your likeness. As we grow in your love, may we give our love and grace as freely as you have generously given your love to us.

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

One: In the grace of Christ, we are connected to God's love, both now and forevermore.

All: Amen.

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 remain in Sanctuary for Family Worship.

P R A Y E R S of the P E O P L E

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.

Solo

*The Water
by Johnny Flynn*

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.**

T H E W O R D

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 6. 7 – 15 NRSV

“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

“Pray, then, in this way:

Our Father in heaven,
may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

May your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.

Poems by Mary Oliver

‘Praying’

it doesn’t have to be the blue iris,
it could be weeds in a vacant lot,
or a few small stones;
just pay attention,
then patch a few words together and don’t try to make them elaborate,
this isn’t a contest but the doorway into thanks,
and a silence in which another voice may speak.

‘The Summer Day’

Who made the world?

Who made the swan, and the black bear?

Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean—

the one who has flung herself out of the grass,

the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,

who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—

who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.

Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.

Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don’t know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down

into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,

how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,

which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn’t everything die at last, and too soon?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do

with your one wild and precious life?

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

Conversation Continues

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

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Song for Preparing the Table

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
Glory to God #469*

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 Solo

*Shape of a Mountain
by Abigail Lapell*

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me

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

I'm gonna work so...

I'm gonna pray so...

Benediction

Sometimes by Mary Oliver

*Instructions for living a life:
Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.*

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Susannah and Ruby Prinz

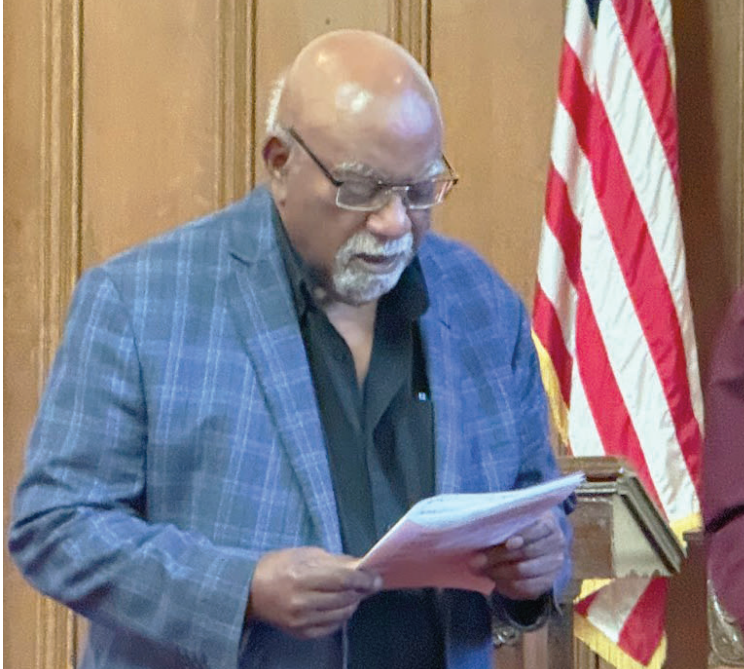
Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Nancy Ogden

Juneteenth Worship and Panel on Lev. 25 and the Year of Jubilee



July Sermon Series – Mary Oliver collection of poems Devotions – Spirituality, Creation, and God

Church Community Dinner

Thursday, July 10

5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Pastor Matt's house

Mary Oliver has touched countless readers with her brilliantly crafted verse, expounding on her love for the physical world and the powerful bonds among all living things.

Now, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet returns with a stunning and definitive collection spanning more than five decades of her esteemed and celebrated literary career.

Carefully curated, *Devotions* features Oliver's work from her very first book of poetry, *No Voyage and Other Poems*, published in 1963 when she was twenty-eight, through her most recent collection, *Felicity*, published in 2015.

This timeless volume, arranged by Oliver herself, showcases the beloved poet at her edifying best. Within these pages, she provides us with an extraordinary and invaluable collection of her passionate, perceptive, and much-treasured observations of the natural world.

Born in a small town in Ohio, Mary Oliver published her first book of poetry in 1963 at the age of twenty-eight. Over the course of her long career, she has received numerous awards.

Her fourth book, *American Primitive*, won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1984. She has led workshops and held residencies at various colleges and universities, including Bennington College, where she held the Catharine Osgood Foster Chair for Distinguished Teaching.



Wild Geese

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue
air, are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.



A Message For Our Vulnerable Communities Amidst Our Current Administration

As Christians we are mindful of the biblical witness, which demands of us that we seek justice for immigrants and sojourners (Exodus 22:21), that reminds us that our treatment of immigrants corresponds directly to our treatment of Christ (Matthew 25:31-46), and promises us that in the fullness of time we will all be immigrants in the Kingdom of God (Isaiah 2:2-5, Revelation 7:9-11 and 21:22-27). As Presbyterians we have promised to be guided by our polity, which enjoins us to promote social righteousness (Book of Order F-1.0304), and by our confessions which call the Church to speak up “in each time and place there are particular problems and crises through which God calls the church to act” (Confession of 1967 9.43) and to “reject any ideology that would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel (Belhar Confession 10:8).

Therefore we, the Co-Moderators and Transitional Executive Presbyter at the Presbytery of San Francisco, condemn the unlawful and extrajudicial federal efforts

to inflict terror on immigrant communities, particularly in California, where Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers have targeted immigration courts, including in Concord and San Francisco, where people are engaging in the legal process of immigration. We applaud those who are upholding and engaging in the United States constitutional right to due process and peaceful protest. We know from our own scriptures that people move and have a right to do so. We keep in prayer all of those engaged in protecting our communities from unnecessarily aggressive enforcement seeking to ramp up their deportation numbers by targeting people at court, work, or their children’s schools.

Make sure you have the Rapid Response Network phone number appropriate to your county saved in your phone in case ICE comes to your house, place of business, or place of worship. Be reminded that relying on constitutional rights remains a viable tool to use in interacting with ICE. Unfortunately, places of worship are now considered public spaces unless there is an office area or other area marked “private.” Please contact the presbytery if you experience any ICE activity at your place of worship.

Alameda County Immigration Legal and Education Partnership (ACILEP)

- Phone Number: (510) 241-4011
- Operating Hours: M-F 6AM - 6PM
- Website: <https://www.acilep.org/>

For more information on resources, visit:
<https://bit.ly/SanctuaryPeopleResources>

Come to the Fall Retreat: September 26-28, 2025

Registration is now open for our Fall Church retreat. We hope that you are making plans to join us. This is a great opportunity to gather in a beautiful space, to step away from everyday rhythms of life in order to build community with other members and to connect with God. You don't want to miss this.

Here are the details:

Where: Zephyr Point Presbyterian Retreat Center, just north of South Lake Tahoe. It is a 3.5-hour drive from Oakland. We will arrange carpool rides for those who need transportation. Friday afternoon traffic to Lake Tahoe can be intense, so if possible, we encourage people to leave mid-day on Friday.

When: Sept 26 – 28th. We will gather for dinner and a short program on Friday night. Saturday morning, we will study scripture, have time for reflection and connection to others. The afternoon will be open to explore retreat grounds, sit by the lake, play games, take a nap etc. We will have a short program and possibly a campfire on Saturday night. Sunday morning, we will worship together following breakfast and then journey home.

Why: A church retreat creates space to deepen relationships over meals and time to go deeper in conversation. The beauty of Lake Tahoe and time away from home allows space for reflection, examination of our lives, and connection with God. To Register: please go to tinyurl.com/FPCOretreat or scan this code:



Care 4 Community Action Meets for First Time at First Church



Care 4 Community Action is a local group that organizes at the neighborhood level to deliver a working city government that is responsive to the needs of Oakland residents, and to dramatically increase the participation of Oakland residents in our democracy.

For more information, please visit its website: care4communityaction.org



Celebrate July Birthdays!



Please wish these people a happy birthday!

July 2: John Goodwin
July 13: Suzie Inadomi
July 23: Su Coburn
July 25: Diane Hill
July 26: Kassim Wesley
July 30: Connor Gillikin

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

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Temple Tidings

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