

Sunday, July 20, 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 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

Communion

Welcome

by Alexandre Guilmant

Call to Worship

One: Are you hungry for a word of hope?

All: We come to be fed and nourished.

One: Are you yearning to see the bounty of God?

All: We long to see and believe.

One: Are you ready to witness the power of our God?

All: We are ready.

One: Come! Let us worship.

Gathering Prayer

One: Loving God, thank you for being present in our lives and in this time of worship. Speak love to our hearts and wisdom to our minds, that we might grow in your knowledge of love and that our lives might bear fruit of your knowledge and grace.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

Fill My Life by Robert Powell

Sung by the Choir

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

Confession

One: When the winds of life buffet us, God, we need your hand to hold us and your love to make us whole. Speak words of peace to our aching hearts, that we might find the courage to embrace the fullness of life you place before us. Correct our sight when our vision fades, and lead us in right paths when we lose our way.

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: God loves you. God forgives you. You are God's beloved.

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 the Sanctuary for the Agape Meal.

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. If you would like, there are two prayer stations available in the sanctuary for use during worship.

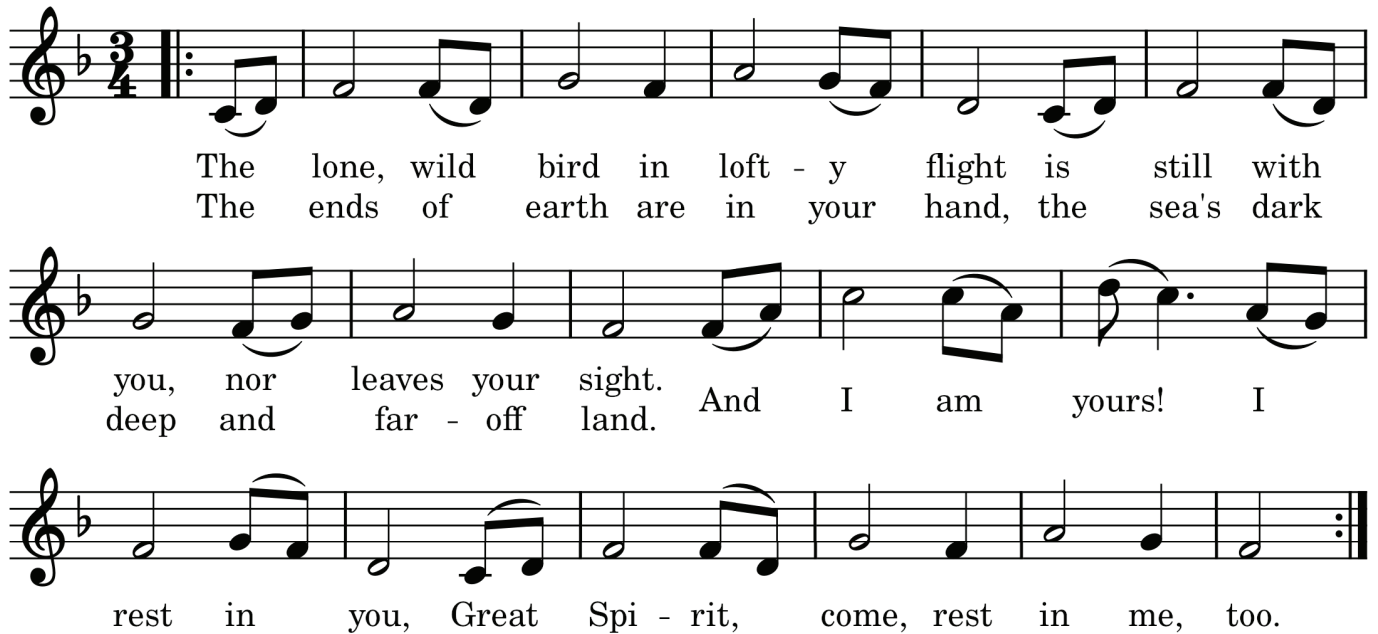
Prayer

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.

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.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 15. 32 - 38 NRSV

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for the crowd because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat, and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way." The disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?" Jesus asked them, "How many loaves have you?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled, and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. Those who had eaten were four thousand men, besides women and children.

Logos by Mary Oliver

Why worry about the loaves and fishes?

If you say the right words, the wine expands.

If you say them with love

and the felt ferocity of that love

and the felt necessity of that love,

the fish explode into many.

Imagine him, speaking,

and don't worry about what is reality,

or what is plain, or what is mysterious.

If you were there, it was all those things.

If you can imagine it, it is all those things.

Eat, drink, be happy.

Accept the miracle.

Accept, too, each spoken word

spoken with love.

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

Reflection

Song

I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

Glory to God #770

Celebration of an Agape meal

(an Agape meal is an ancient tradition of table fellowship and a practice of holy hospitality. In the early church Agape meals were a time of fellowship for the People of the Way. This ritual meal can be celebrated without the presence of a minister in Word and Sacrament yet it acknowledges our koinonia - fellowship of Christ's body.)

Song

Taste and See

Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the Lord. — Oh,

taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, — of the Lord.

One: God's love never ceases.

All: God's mercies never come to an end.

One: Welcome to this meal, in the name of Christ.

All: We come as different people united in Christ as family.

One: We come to share in God's love for the world.

All: We come to receive the gift of God's abundance, not only in food and drink but also the gifts God has given us in each other.

Invitation to the Meal

Song

Taste and See

Celebration of our Fellowship

Prayer of Blessing

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

Invitation to Community Life

Song

Lord, You Give the Great Commission, verses 1-3

Glory to God #298

Benediction from *Sometimes* by Mary Oliver

One: Instructions for living a life:

Pay attention.

Be astonished.

Tell about it.

All: Amen.

S E R V I N G i n W O R S H I P T O D A Y

Preacher: Aaron Ruff

Liturgists: Suzie Inadomi and Di Pagel

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Raenelle Tauro

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Nina and Eric Lapachet

Food and Mary Oliver Poetry Enjoyed by First Church Community



Happy Reunion with Matthew Major

Matthew Major came to this church when he was younger and then his family moved.

He has returned to the area and recently, perhaps 20 years later, he reunited with Ryan and Lia who happened to be in town.

Then



Now



Three Matthews



Come to the Ceasefire Teach-in with Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee

Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee

Ceasefire Teach-In Series



A Call to Learn, Understand & Act for a Safer Oakland

Join Mayor Barbara Lee, Oakland Police Chief Floyd Mitchell, Dr. Holly Joshi, Department of Violence Prevention Chief, and a panel of leading community safety and justice experts for an interactive community learning experience will unpack the facts, data, and lived realities behind gun violence in Oakland – and explore how Ceasefire and other proven strategies are evolving to meet the moment.

Upcoming Dates/Locations:

July 19, 2:30pm - 4pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church
114 Montecito Avenue

July 24, 3:30pm - 5pm, St. Columba Church
6401 San Pablo Avenue

July 31, 3:30pm - 5pm, Montclair Presbyterian Church
5701 Thornhill Drive

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/OCFTI>



Summer Food Ministry Opportunities Available

Summer is vacation time and so it is for food ministry volunteers as well. Three of our Sunday morning volunteers who prepare sandwich bag lunches will be travelling for much of August and parts of September. If you've wanted to try out helping with the Sunday lunch prep now is the perfect time to get your feet wet. And your help will be greatly appreciated. Nina Lapachet maintains an electronic signup sheet that shows when volunteer slots are open and need to be filled. You can signup anytime in the week before you want to volunteer. Just email

Nina at ninalapachet@gmail.com and she will send you the link to the signup sheet. Open the sheet, click on the time slot you want to volunteer and add your name. This lets us know if we have enough volunteers (or need to try to stir up a couple more) and prevents us from having more people than needed (nothing worse than making the time and effort to volunteer and there not be enough work to do). Many thanks for thinking about including the Food Ministry in your summer plans.

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:



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

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.

Text Giving Now Available



We have made it easy to donate to First Church with a new text giving function. First Church text giving number is 510.880.1329.

You can also access our donation page via this QR code:



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*

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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
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Temple Tidings

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

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