

Sunday, October 19, 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

In You is Joy
by Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: God calls us to be people of the Spirit.

All: We are people filled with love, joy, peace, and patience.

One: God calls us to live by the Spirit.

All: We are people practicing kindness and generosity, faithfulness and gentleness.

One: God calls us to be beloved children.

All: We are children of promise—people of God's glorious hope.

One: Come! Let us worship.

Gathering Prayer

One: Come, Holy Spirit, and renew us in this hour of celebration. We rejoice that you make us your partners in pursuit of a just and peaceful world. With Jesus, we ask the question, "Will there be faith on earth?" Will we settle for mere beliefs, or will we yield to the deep longing for your will to be done, here and now? Teach us to hope, work and cry out for your justice and peace to be made real. Walk with us, Jesus, until we joyfully reach the day of heaven and earth coming together.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: You call us, Lord of Life, to a faith that stays in motion. You urge us to grow in wisdom and to be reconciled with all. Yet, we fail to understand that faith is not something fixed. It is not a goal to be achieved, a place where we arrive and then rest. Call us anew, dear Christ, to seek you in neighbors who need us. Help us pursue peace with more persistence than those who pursue violence. Grant us an unyielding faith—a faith that transforms our own hearts and the world around us. This we pray in your name, which is Love.

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 accepts us and calls us to accept all God's children. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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 may go with leaders to Godly Play.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

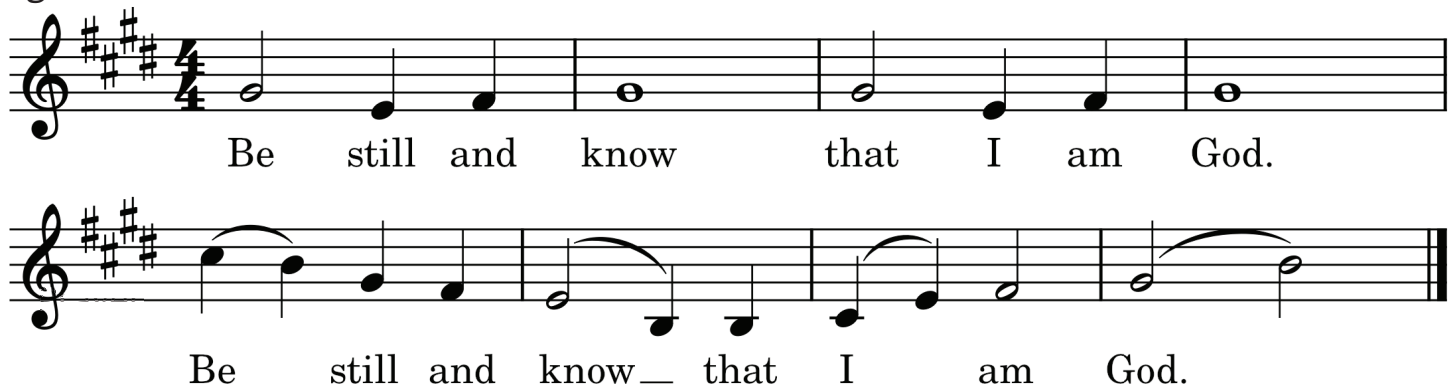
You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to privately share your prayer need with the pastor. If you would like, there are two tables set up with candles for prayer and salt water for lament.

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

Be Still and Know



THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Galatians 5. 13 - 26 NRSV

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

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

Rev. Joel will lead the congregation in reflection on reading and sermon.

Song

Joy Overflows My Heart

Joy overflows my heart, I sing a new song to the Lord

Joy overflows my heart, I sing a new song to the Lord

I will praise His name, I will honor Him,

Singing Glory, Hallelujah, joy overflows my heart

What shall I render, what shall I render, what shall I render to you, O Lord?

I will praise you, O Lord, and shout Hallelujah,

What shall I render to you, O Lord?

You give me joy, oh,

You give me peace, oh,

You give me everlasting life,

I will praise you, O Lord, and shout Hallelujah,

What shall I render to you, O Lord?

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you,

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts,

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself and when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you in your mercy sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us and to reconcile us to you. He stretched out his arms upon a cross and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Words of Consecration

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take eat; This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you; This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Holy Meal & Offering

Please come forward when invited by ushers. Communion is non alcoholic and gluten free. Ushers will collect the weekly offering. Donations can be placed in the offering plate. You may also make a donation by scanning this QR code with your smartphone, or by texting your donation to 510.880.1329.



Communion Music

Prayer

Joy of the Lord
the Rend Collective

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

I've Got Peace Like a River
African American Heritage Hymnal #492

Benediction

One: God's steadfast love never ceases. May we never fail to share this love with others. Go in the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Spirit, now and always.

All: Amen.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Preacher: Rev. Joel Mackey

Liturgist: Maggie Harmon

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Susannah Prinz

Choir: The First Church Choir

Head Usher: Louise Hill

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Raenelle Tauro

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Sarah Potsma and Aaron Ruff

We're Making STONE SOUP on October 26

Perhaps you are familiar with the folktale of Stone Soup. It is the story of a hungry traveler who comes to a village and places a large pot of water and a stone in the town square. As a villager comes by to inquire, the traveler invites him to share the delicious soup when it is ready, "But it would really taste better with a little bit of salt." The villager willingly brings salt to add to the soup. Other villagers come by and each is invited to contribute an ingredient and share the meal. The story ends with the whole village enjoying a delicious stone soup.

On Sunday, October 26 we will be preparing Stone Soup for a pot luck meal after worship service. The soup pot will be on the stove in the kitchen before service. You may bring an ingredient to add to the pot or a side dish or dessert to share.

Stone Soup



Sign ups will be in the reception room during coffee hour today and next week. Let's enjoy this truly community meal together.

Mark your Calendar for our October 2-4, 2026 Church Retreat



Join us next year at Zephyr Point at Lake Tahoe for an opportunity to gather in a beautiful space, to step away from everyday rhythms of life, to build community with other members, and to connect with God.



**The Flourish Collective's
Faith & Justice presents**

**A Conversation with
Author, Theologian, and
Civil Rights Leader**



DOMINIQUE GILLIARD

**Join us as Dominique shares how to reflect God's heart for
justice and stand with the marginalized in today's
challenging political climate.**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025

4PM - 6PM @ Oakland City Church

**2735 MacArthur Blvd,
Oakland, CA 94602**

REGISTER

TheFlourishCollective.org/events

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS



First Church Donates 118 Boxes of Tissues to Local Schools



Thanks to all who donated to the First Church Tissue Drive last month. We received 118 boxes of tissues which will be distributed to Oakland Unified School District classrooms.

Teachers typically supply items such as tissues out of their own pockets, so they will gratefully receive this gift from First Church.

Do you need a Name Tag?

If you need a name tag, please write your name on the sheet of paper in the Name Tag Box, located at the back of the Church during the service and in the Reception Room during Fellowship Hour.



Monrovia and Clementine Head to Coffee Hour



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 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

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Monrovia Prinz, Martha Bauman, Charmaine
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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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