

Sunday, October 26, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Members of the National Capital Presbytery

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

*Prelude in G Major
C.V. Stanford*

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Bless the Lord with all that is within us!

All: Bless God's holy name!

One: Sing to the Lord, loud and true!

All: Sing God's holy name!

One: Worship the Lord, in justice and mercy!

All: Let us bless, sing, and worship our God!

Gathering Prayer

One: You do not desire a fast of sackcloth and ashes, but a fast of righteousness. You ask us to loose the bonds of injustice, undo the thongs of the yoke, and set the captives free. Train our hearts to do what is right, God, not what is easy. May we live our days among the righteous, that we may never be moved, but dwell secure in your mercy and grace.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: God of power and justice,
like Jeremiah you weep over those
who wander from you,
turn aside to other gods,
and enter into chaos and destruction.
By your tears and through your mercy,
teach us your ways
and write them on our hearts
so that we may follow faithfully
the path you show us. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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: Know that we are redeemed in steadfast love and mercy. In Jesus Christ, our
prayers are heard, sins are forgiven, and our lives are made new!

All: Thanks be to God! 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 may go with leaders to Godly Play.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

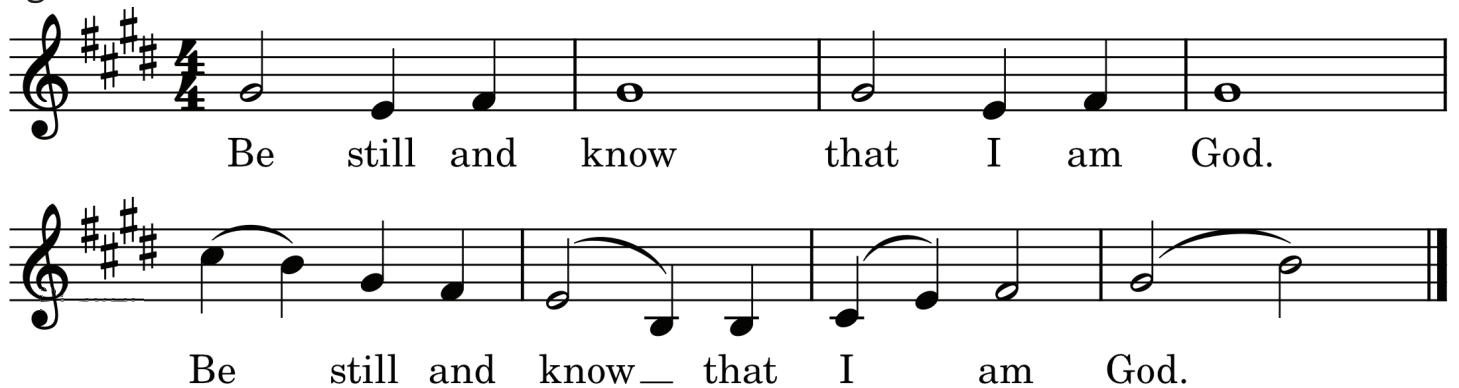
You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to privately share your prayer need with the pastor. If you would like, there are two tables set up with candles for prayer and salt water for lament.

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

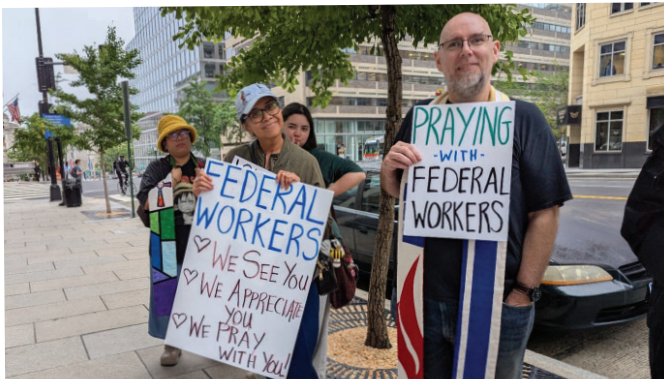
Be Still and Know



THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 58: 9-14 and John 8:1-11 NRSV



vs. 9 If you remove the yoke from among you,



the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,



vs. 10a if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,



vs. 10b then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.



vs. 11 The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong,



and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.



vs. 12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;



you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.



vs. 13 If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable;



if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;

vs. 14 then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

There's Always a Scapegoat

R E S P O N S E t o t h e W O R D

Sermon Continued

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

Song

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
Glory to God #729

Invitation to the Offering

One: Created by God to give and to share, let's give and share with love and generosity, not just in this time of offering but in the days and weeks ahead.

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.



Music at the Offering

Here I am, Lord
by Dan Schutte

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 overflowing abundance—you water the earth with life-giving rain; you clothe the meadows with glorious flowers; you deck the valleys with bountiful grain; you crown the year with your manifest blessings; you make the gateways of the evening and the morning shout for joy. With what can we come before you? How can we repay you for your grace and mercy? Receive the fruit of our labor. Receive also the gift of our humble thanks, and keep our hearts safe in your Spirit.

All: Amen.

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
African American Heritage Hymnal #371

Benediction

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Preacher: Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

Liturgist: Gay Plair Cobb

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Raenelle Tauro

Head Usher: Martha Bauman

Godly Play: Dorrie Dodge and Ruby Prinz

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Church Pot Luck

Get to know our guest preacher: Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe



The Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe has served in the National Capital Presbytery in Washington, D.C. for the past 19 years. Recently, she has been the Site Coordinator for the DC-Young Adult Volunteer Program.

She has served in congregations throughout the presbytery as an Associate Pastor at New York Avenue Presbyterian, Stated Supply at Garden Memorial, and Sabbatical Pastor for several other congregations throughout the presbytery.

She has hung her “purse” for the past three years at Faith Presbyterian Church while serving the presbytery-at-large as a leadership coach and Church Assessment Tool Interpreter (CAT) with individuals and groups seeking to be in relationship with their communities as the larger Body of Christ.

She is a graduate of Agnes Scott College, BA and McCormick Theological Seminary, MDIV. She has total faith that every era and every day, God is doing a new thing and it is our opportunity to participate in it! She lives in Arlington, VA with her husband, two children, and a hound dog!

Paper Flower Making Today for All Saints Celebration November 2

During our communion time on Sunday, November 2, we will be remembering saints who have died. Help us prepare by making paper flowers this morning during our coffee and by bringing pictures of your loved ones who have passed away to put on the communion table next week.

Thank you for remembering and celebrating the faithful witness of those who have gone before us.



©OAKLAND CEASEFIRE

Night Walks

Stop the gun violence! Oakland Ceasefire is a movement to stop the killings and more people going to jail. The walks are a uniting way to build a culture of peace and healing.

The walks take place in local neighborhoods to carry this message: We love you and we want you to be alive and free! Contact Pastor Matt or Suzie Indomi to organize First Church participation in an upcoming walk.

Nov. 14 ~ First Mt. Sinai, 1970 86th Avenue

Nov. 21 ~ St. Columba, 6401 San Pablo Avenue

Dec. 12 ~ Tabernacle MBC, 10115 Edes Avenue

Dec. 19 ~ At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.

Walks begin at 6 p.m.

Scan the QR Code
to learn more
about Ceasefire:



INFO:
alba@fiaeastbay.org



We're Making STONE SOUP TODAY!

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



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.



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, Cassandra Flipper

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510.488.3812
email to make an appointment

Rev. Joel Mackey, Parish Associate

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Jake Fontana, Music Director

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Micheline La Mont, Community Relationships Manager

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510.488.3810

Hours: Wednesday 2-4:30/Thursday 9-2:30

Gus Lopez, Head Custodian

510.290.9677

Erick Bevington, Treasurer

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Temple Tidings

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

Sign up to be on our email list:
firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings