

Sunday, November 16, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Fruit of the Spirit

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 D
Healey Willan*

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: We sing to you, God, for you have been our strength. You open the waters of suffering and lead us safely through. You uphold us in times of deep distress and we exalt your holy name. Receive our honor and thanks, mighty God.

All: Amen.

Song

I Believe by Mark Miller

Sung by the choir

I believe in the sun even when it's not shining.

I believe in love even when I don't feel it.

I believe in God even when God is silent.

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 we hear praises of your past help and triumph, we wonder where you are today, God. We look at our lives and see hurtful relationships. We look at our nation and see communities suffering under oppression. We look at our world and see injustice and brutality. We need your mighty arm to shatter wrongdoing and corruption. When we are weak, strengthen our faith. When we despair, renew our hope. When we give up, stand us up in your just cause, that we might live for you.

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: We stand before God—a God of justice, a God of forgiveness and acceptance. This God raises us up and upholds us in our living. Praise be to God!

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.

P R A Y E R S o f t h e P E O P L E

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

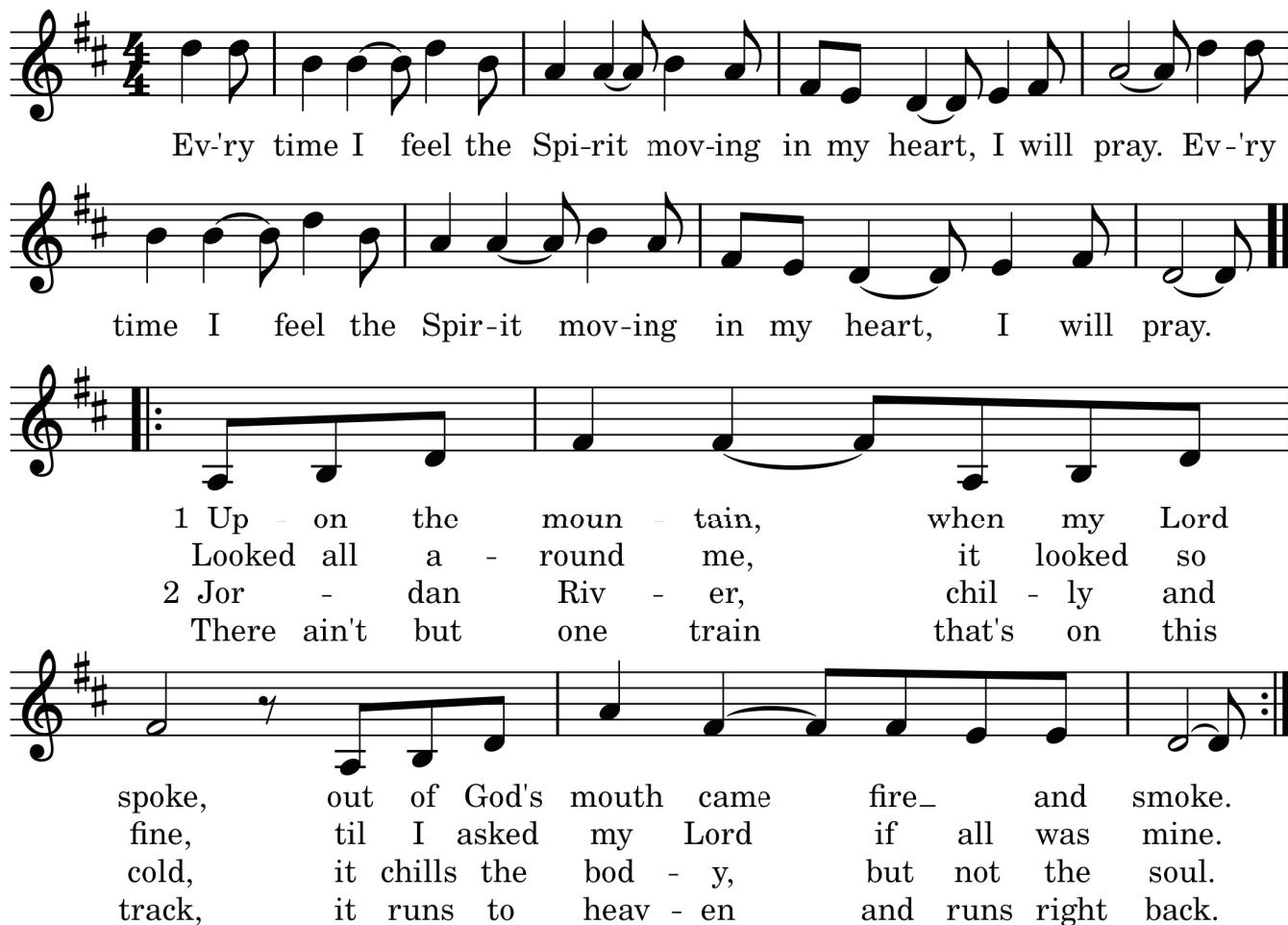
You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to privately share your prayer need with the pastor. If you would like, there are two tables set up with candles for prayer and salt water for lament.

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.

Song

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit



Ev-ry time I feel the Spi-rit mov-ing in my heart, I will pray. Ev-'ry
time I feel the Spir-it mov-ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain, when my Lord
Looked all a - round me, it looked so
2 Jor - dan Riv - er, chil - ly and
There ain't but one train that's on this

spoke, out of God's mouth came fire_ and smoke.
fine, til I asked my Lord if all was mine.
cold, it chills the bod - y, but not the soul.
track, it runs to heav - en and runs right back.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 18.21 - 34 and Galatians 5. 22 - 23 NRSV

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to

be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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.

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

Sermon Conversation

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

Song

*Lord of All Hopefulness
Glory to God #683*

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. 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

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

Prayer

Testimony

Why I Pledge to the Ministries of First Church Oakland

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

*Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior
African American Heritage Hymnal #435*

Benediction

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Linda Carter

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Raenelle Tauro

Choir: The First Church Choir

Pledge Testimony: Julia Marquez

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Aaron Ruff

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Charmaine Irmiter

Pastor Matt Visits First Church College Students in Oregon



First Church Staff Appreciation Sunday - November 23

During the month of November the congregation is invited to help put together gift baskets for each staff member as a way to say thank you for all they do. Possible contributions: gift certificates, candles, soaps, note paper, preserves, home baked cookies, seasonal paper napkins, coffee beans, or teas.

The baskets will be put together with cards on Sunday, November 23. Baskets are for Matt, Jake, Micheline, Rachel, Ava, Victor, Raenelle, and Marie If you are interested in participating contact Di Pagel at 925.324.5271 or dianapagel@gmail.com for ideas and suggestions. Thank you for helping make this a special Thanksgiving for them all.

Help Us Make 2026 a Year Filled with Good Deeds!



Would you like to bring some joy, cheer and comfort to others? By supporting the Deacon Fund you can make this happen and so much more. It's easy to do! Just use the special Deacon Fund envelope available in the pews. You can also send in a donation designated for the Deacon Fund.

Food Ministry Seeks Turkey Donations for Thanksgiving



Grocery donations of protein have slowed considerably in the last few weeks. With grocery stores offering bargain prices for turkeys (while supplies last) we thought it would be a good time to stock up. However we don't have freezer space to store more than one or two large birds. So if you have room in your freezer to keep a turkey for a few weeks and would like to contribute a turkey to the Food Ministry, we would welcome your support.

We will coordinate a schedule to receive 2-3 turkeys a week that Food Ministry volunteers will cook and use in casseroles or sandwiches each week for as long as we have turkeys. Our partners at Temple Sinai are making the same request to their congregation. Between our two congregations we should be able to provide good nutritious meals throughout the holiday season.

Please let Dorothy Dugger know if you are interested--dorothy.dugger@gmail.com 510-927-0626 text or call. Thank you!

Why I Pledge to First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Maggie Harmon

You can give to a lot of places and causes in the world that do good and that express loving your neighbor. But the Church is the only place you give that is working to change your heart, it is an expression of loving God, and testifying to the way that God has given me the talents which I am called to grow and share.



We are told that the first commandment is to love God with our whole heart, soul, and strength. From that loving and the formation that happens in church community I become a person better capable of loving others. It is the church that teaches me how to live as a child of God.

Martha and Ben Baab

God has blessed us in many, many ways. We believe we serve as a conduit for God's blessings and are meant to share God's blessings with our community. Through



choir, the food ministry, and work on the facilities, we give our time, talents, and treasure to support the work and worship of our community. We pledge for two practical reasons: pledging holds us accountable and helps our church leaders plan and make decisions.

Julia Marquez

As an elder I receive regular updates on our church finances from Maggie, elder for stewardship and finance and am very aware that our church needs our financial commitment and



generosity to support our ministries. I am also made very aware of how dedicated Maggie is to ensuring we manage our finances responsibly. However, I tithe to First Church because it is one of the ways I live out my faith. It demonstrates both my commitment and my belonging to this faith family. When I consider the ways 1st Church serves the community, I feel proud - this is my church, I am part of this goodness. 1st church (y'all) need me just as I need you to carry out God's work in the world.

Renowned Composer Mark Miller to Lead Feb. 2026 Choir Concert

By Jake Fontana

This February we will have the pleasure of welcoming organist and composer Mark Miller to First Church. Mark will visit us on Saturday, February 7, 2026 to lead a choral workshop and concert in honor and in celebration of Black History Month.

Mark is a graduate of Juilliard and Yale University who is equally at home in classical, gospel, and contemporary styles, and his music blends all three. You will have heard his music here already in anthems like “Child of God,” “We Resist (Prayer Chant),” and “Lament”. Our choir has been working hard on his music for almost a year. Mark often writes his own lyrics for his songs, and many of the texts emphasize themes of social justice and building the beloved community.

I first met Mark while studying sacred music at Yale, where he opened my eyes to the richness of liturgical music in a breadth of traditions and genres. Before meeting Mark, my musical background focused on the ancient and the classical -- it was wonderful music to learn and perform, but it was a small slice of the profession and of great church music. If you’ve ever heard me play a cool chord on the piano or a good gospel shuffle on the Hammond, it’s probably because Mark taught me to!

We are collaborating with Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church to bring Mark to the Bay Area. Their choir will join ours for the Saturday workshop and concert, and Mark will worship with LOPC on Sunday morning.



LOPC’s choir director, Bryan Dunnewald, is a good friend and colleague, and I hope this concert will be an opportunity for our choirs and congregations to get to know one another better through music and fellowship. If you’d like to be involved in welcoming Mark and LOPC to our church, please be in touch.

I hope you will plan to attend the concert (and afterparty!) on February 7th, which will be a great way to dive into Black History Month with song, prayer, poetry, and more. I am thrilled to have Mark join us, and I’m sure it will be a wonderful event for our church and community.

In the words of Mark’s music, “draw the circle wide, draw it wider still!”

Central Region Immigration Forum

Topics that will be discussed:

- How to support immigrant communities
- Be educated and equipped to respond
- Learn what churches are doing at this moment

Sunday, November 16, 2025
3:00pm - 5:00pm



**First Presbyterian
Church of Berkeley**

2407 Dana St, Berkeley, CA 94704



Contact admin@sfpby.org



Boxes of Love®



2025 PACKING PARTY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST @ 6PM

BASIC MINISTRIES 6537 FOOTHILL BLVD, OAKLAND, CA 94605

*** WE WILL PACK 250 THANKSGIVING BOXES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO OAKLAND RESIDENTS ***

EACH BOX WILL CONTAIN A COMPLETE THANKSGIVING MEAL WITH A TURKEY AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS

--- VOLUNTEERS WELCOME ---

Contribute a Warm Coat or Blanket to our Neighbors



Do you have unused blankets or gently used jackets that you could donate to them? Please bring items between now and Christmas and we will offer them with our lunches.

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, Cassandra Flipper

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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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