

Sunday, November 23, 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

Larghetto

Welcome

Elizabeth Stirling

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: Divine foundation, even as tumultuous winds shake us and the floor beneath us quakes, you firmly hold us. As the world around us rattles, you erase fear from our hearts. Whether on earth or in heaven, your loving Spirit endures. It pervades the limitless reaches of your creation. Lift us during times of trembling, enduring Spirit, and still us during moments of uncertainty.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Holy God, Sacred Serenity—the vibrations of our worry shake us to the core. We want answers now, not tomorrow. Our minds demand proof that all will be well. We refuse to wait with peace and patience for certainty. We blame ourselves for calamities, even when they are beyond our control. We accuse you for mishaps, even when your hand has only loved us. As the earth's roads crack below us, your sacred foundation sturdies us. May your strength embolden us in times of trouble and distress, that we may move forward with hope.

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: Whether under moonlight or during the day, the steadfast grace of God delivers us from the shame stirring within us. May the eternal comfort and hope of our Creator fill our hearts with peace and courage for the road ahead.

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.**

Songs

Let Us Break Bread Together
Rockin' Jerusalem
Sung by The Lucy Kinchen Chorale

T H E W O R D

Scripture Lesson

Luke 4. 16 – 30 and Galatians 5. 22 - 23 NRSV

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”

He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.

They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

RESPONSE to the WORD

Response to the Word

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

Songs

We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace

Ride the Chariot

Sung by The Lucy Kinchen Chorale

Invitation to the Offering

One: God's generosity overwhelms us and allows us to be generous. Let us practice generosity together by collecting our tithes and offerings.

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

Change My Heart, O God

Glory to God #695

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Musical notation for the Doxology in 4/4 time, consisting of three staves. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God from whom all - bless - ings flow, praise God all
crea-tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove ye heav - en - ly
host, praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost! A - men.

Prayer for the Offering

One: Holy, Steadfast Love, as we abide together in your realm, you bring stillness to our hurried world. Even as the world quakes and our anxiety builds, your peace blesses our souls. Help us share this serenity with our companions on the road. Bless the gifts we return to you this day, that they may bring unity to your realm and hope for a harmonious world.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
Glory to God #700

Benediction

One: The ways of empire wear us down and exhausted us.
They want our weariness to lull us into acceptance of abuse.
But God has another plan: for those who move in Her to spread wide the winds of Radical Love.
Let us go with God, hatching plans for liberation and conspiring of our collective salvation.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Lachlan Welch

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Dorrie Dodge

Guest Choir: Lucy Kinchen Chorale; Lori Willis, director

Benediction: Rev. Molly Bolton

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Anne Margaret Manay and Ruby Prinz

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Nina and Eric Lapachet

Please Join Us for these Upcoming Advent Events

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming Advent activities:

Sunday, November 30, 11 a.m.

Wreath Making during Coffee Hour



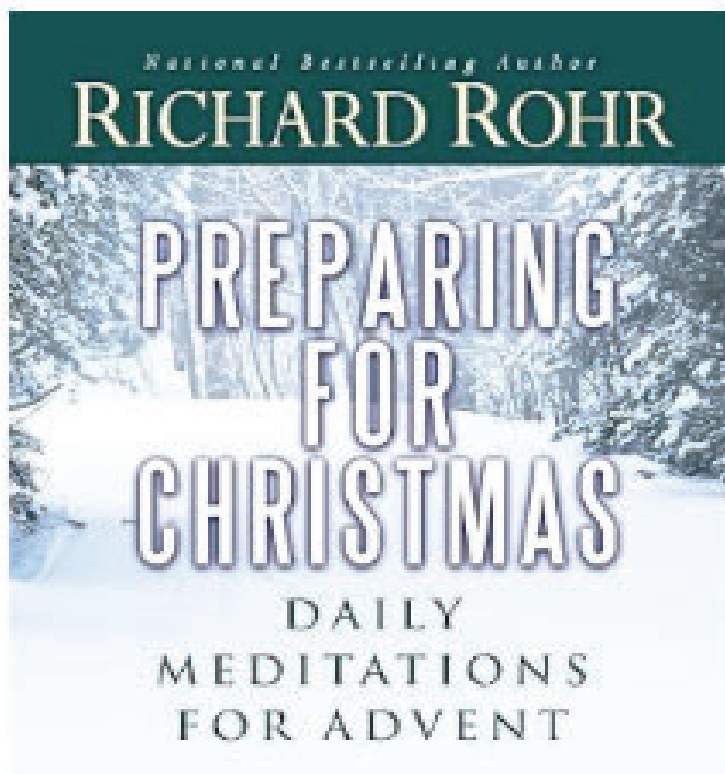
Thursday, December 4, 5-7 p.m.

Advent Dinner and Carols: Aaron Ruff and Sarah Postma hosting



Sunday, Dec. 7, 11 am

Advent Devotional and discussion of Richard Rohr's 'Preparing for Christmas' - discussion led by Maggie Harmon.



Wednesday, December 24, 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight service and Pop-Up Nativity



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!

Cantare Sets its Holiday Concert Lead with Love for Dec. 7, 4 p.m.



Cantare's December holiday set, Lead with Love, is always a highlight for audiences and will feature selections that focus on themes of the holiday season that include hope, promise, justice, love, peace, compassion, and unity.

Included are works by Willan, Memley, Hailstork, Runestad, Ešenvalds, and others, including C. H. Johnson's All of Us from Considering Matthew Shepard.

For tickets, visit cantareconvivo.org.



Come to the Lucy Kinchen Chorale Concert on December 6 at 4 p.m.



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.

Here is what your support makes possible:

- Congregational support - Flowers, meals, and greetings to support and cheer up those who need extra TLC in addition to prayer.

Pledge Season Ends Today

Pledge Season 2026: today is the last day to submit your pledge form for the 2026 budget year. While we are always happy to receive your gifts of time, talent, and treasure, your pledge of support allows us to accurately budget for the coming year.

Your contribution to the community allows us to plan for new ministry, expand the good work we are doing today, and understand how to meet staffing needs for the congregation.

- Youth appreciation projects like care packages to our college students away from home, and cards and gift bags for our younger students.

- Funds for emergencies within our Church family, for example, unexpected travel, technology needs, health care, food, or housing issues.

- Community support for organization such as Cease Fire which is working to reduce gang violence in Oakland. Other organizations include street ministries like Elevate Gospel Outreach who provide Thanksgiving dinner boxes for families in need.

Please lend your support in bringing cheer and comfort to those needing a helping hand.

A special message to our First Church family: Please let us know if you are in need or know someone who is. We welcome the opportunity to help. Just contact Pastor Matt or any deacon.

Please email maggieh@firstchurchoakland.org, complete the form online that was emailed, or leave your paper form in the offering plate.

Pastor Matt Visits First Church College Students in Oregon



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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