

Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



The Lucy Kinchen Chorale

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

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

All: Let us enter God's presence.

One: God will teach us the ways of peace.

All: Let us travel along God's paths.

Gathering Prayer

One: Everlasting God, we begin our journey toward Christmas with hope stirring within.
Teach us how to get ready. Show us how to prepare our hearts for Jesus. Help us walk
in your ways as we follow your Son, Jesus Christ. Guide us on your paths of peace and
understanding, as we prepare our hearts anew for the road ahead.

All: Amen.

Song

An Advent Prayer
by Allen Pote
sung by the Choir

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Holy One, we want to know your plan. We want to know when and how things will happen. You have shown us your ways and taught us to walk in the paths of peace. Teach us to trust your never-ending care, for our future is in your hands. Help us cast aside our holiday worries and live with Advent joy!

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 offers us peace and security.
God goes with us on our journey.

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, vs. 1-2
Glory to God #88

T H E W O R D

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 2. 1-5 and Romans 13. 11-14 NRSV

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
In days to come
 the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
 and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
 to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
 and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
 and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations
 and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
 and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
 neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob,
 come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Walk This Way

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

Response to the Word

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

Song

Down By the Riverside

**I'm gonna lay down my heavy load
Down by the riverside.**

Chorus: I ain't gonna study war no more.

**I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield
Down by the riverside.**

**I'm gonna put on my long white robe
Down by the riverside.**

Invitation to the Offering

One: As God has been generous with us, let us gather our tithes and offerings to be generous with others.

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

*Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)
by Amy Grant & Chris Eaton*

Prayer for the Offering

One: God of all goodness, as we walk in the light of your love, we are blessed by the abundance of your gifts. You give us the beauty of nature, food to nourish our bodies, and communities to love and support us. Out of our abundance, we bring gifts to you. May these gifts increase peace in our community and throughout the world.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

*Lead With Love
by Melanie DeMore*

You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love.

Benediction

One: May peace flow in our streets.
May security bless our neighborhoods.
And may serenity reside in your hearts.
Go walk in the light of the Lord!

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Preacher: Maggie Harmon

Liturgist: Pauline Ahanotu

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Guest Keyboardist and Choir Director: David Morales

Choir: The First Church Choir

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Dorrie Dodge

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Dorothy Dugger

Please Join Us for these Upcoming Advent Events

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming Advent activities:

TODAY! 11 a.m.

Wreath Making during Coffee Hour



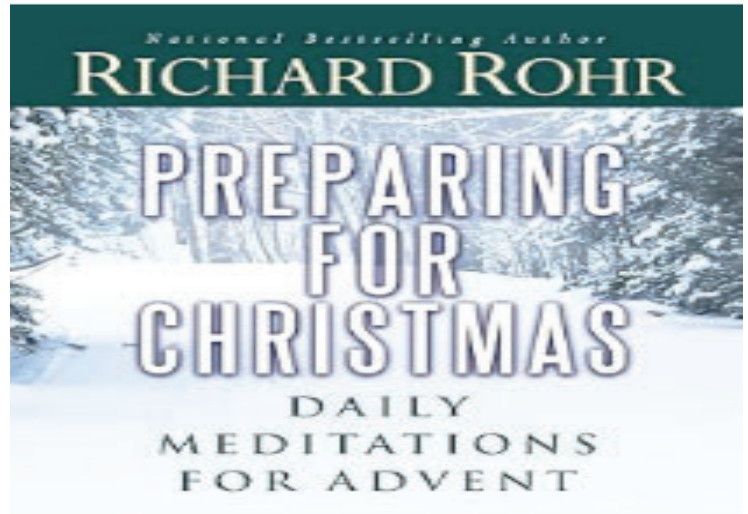
Thursday, December 4, 5-7 p.m.

Advent Dinner and Carols: Aaron Ruff and Sarah Postma hosting.



Sunday, Dec. 7, 11 a.m.

We will be reading *Preparing for Christmas* by Richard Rohr as we move through the season of advent. Group discussion on 12/7 after workshop and a community dinner the week of 12/15 (tbd based on group availability). Enjoy a bit of quiet contemplation as we expectantly watch and pray for the coming of guiding hope in Jesus during a season that can be all too stressful. Pastor Matt has books available. Please let Maggie Harmon of Julia Marquez know if you plan to participate.



Wednesday, December 24, 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight service and Pop-Up Nativity.



Give a Child with an Incarcerated Parent a Gift this Christmas



You can bless local children this Christmas by participating in the Angel Tree program. Find the tree in the Reception room during coffee hour and choose a child or children to support with a small gift.

All of the children have a parent who is incarcerated and this is an opportunity to support that relationship. Care giver contact information is on the card and gifts should be delivered in coordination with caregivers prior to Christmas.

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.



How to Tell the Truth

By Paul Williams

When you just have to talk, try being silent.

When you feel reluctant to say anything, make the effort to put what you're feeling into words.

This is a place to begin.

Pushing gently against the current of your own impulses is an effective technique for dislodging and discovering your truth.

How to tell the truth?

Taste it and remember the taste in your heart.

Risk it from the bottom of your love.

Take the risk of telling the truth about what you're feeling.

Take the risk of telling your loved one your secrets.

It's true you might be misunderstood.

Look and see if you're willing to trust yourselves to misunderstand each other and go on from there.

When someone speaks to you and you feel yourself not wanting to hear it try letting it in. You don't have to agree that they're right. Just take the risk of listening as if they could possibly be speaking some truth—and see what happens.

Listen as if. Listen as if you can't always tell what the truth is. Listen as if you might be wrong, especially when you know you're right. Listen as if you were willing to take the risk of growing beyond your righteousness. Listen as if love mattered.

Pastor Matt Joining Presbyterian Delegation in Palestine Dec. 8-19



Pastor Matt is joining a learning cohort of Presbyterian pastors, led by Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, to Palestine Dec. 8 - 19th. The delegation is sponsored by Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center (Sabeel). The Sabeel delegations are meant to provide opportunities for delegation participants to meet with Palestinian leaders, activists, artists, and community members to gain insight into life and faith under occupation. It is the hope that participants come and see, and go and tell.

For more information about the trip visit:
reyes-chow.com/december-2025-palestine-delegation-invitation

The P.C.U.S.A. has a long history of support and advocacy for the Palestinian people.

Please keep Pastor Matt and the delegation in your prayers.

Congregation Enjoys Tacos and Staff Appreciation Day



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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