

Sunday, December 7, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Peaceable Kingdom

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

Fantasia on "Veni Emmanuel"

Alec Rowley

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: People of God, Christ has invited us here!

All: We gather to praise God, who brings justice and righteousness to all.

One: We gather to give thanks to God for hope and peace.

All: Blessed be the Lord, who has done marvelous things.

One: Let us praise God together!

Gathering Prayer

One: God of hope and peace, as we worship you this day, may we catch a glimpse of your peace; may we open ourselves to receive your grace; may we welcome one another, as you have welcomed us; may we prepare hearts and our lives, for Christ to be born in us once again. And when our worship is done, may we be renewed in body and spirit, prepared to bring your righteousness and justice to the world. In the name of Christ, we pray.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Merciful God, there are days when we lose our way. We forget, or simply don't trust, your vision of peace. We ignore the cries of those seeking justice. We fail to bear good fruit in our lives.

Forgive us.

Remind us that we are yours. Teach us how to make peace with ourselves and with our neighbors. Help us proclaim your message of hope and continue our journey to Bethlehem—a journey of faith to a cradle of love. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray.

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: Siblings in Christ, the God of steadfast love encourages us to continue in the faith. Rejoice, for God brings forgiveness and healing. Thanks 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 remain in the sanctuary for Family Worship.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Write a word or prayer for what you hope on one side of your prayer tag and word/prayer for what you fear in this season on the other side. Bring your prayer tag forward and attach it to the prayer tree.

Song

Light of the World

Prayer

Lauren Daigle

**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.**

Musician Appreciation

Thank you to the many singers and instrumentalists who generously provided their musical gifts to the church this year. We are so grateful for the beauty and musical leadership you bring to our worship week after week.

Song leaders: Linda Carter, Dorrie Dodge, April Edwell, Mira Manickam-Shirley, Anne Margaret Manay, Susannah Prinz, Marilyn Reynolds, Raenelle Tauro

Instrumentalists and soloists: Ben and Martha Baab, Ben and Eva Chandler, Elizabeth Cureton, Jameia Hughes, Shawn Jones, Matthew Major, Leah Marquez, Keith and Micah and Myles Ogden

Choir members: Frances Adeney, Ben and Martha Baab, Linda Carter, Paul Cobb, Elizabeth Cureton, Dorrie Dodge, Alma Draper, Diane Hill, Howard Lee, Anne Margaret Manay, Marilyn Reynolds, Raenelle Tauro, Lachlan Welsh, Carol Zell

T H E W O R D

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 11. 1 – 10 NRSV

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall
inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Reflection

R E S P O N S E to the W O R D

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Song for Preparing the Table

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Glory to God #83*

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

Seed, Scattered and Sown

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

1. *There's a star...*
2. *If you take...* Rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low. *It will lead...*
You'll forget...

Rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low. Fol - low, fol - low,

fol - low, fol - low, Rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.

Please come forward while singing to stand around the around the Hammond organ as a church community.

Benediction

One: May the God of love fill you with joy and peace.
May the peace of Christ be with you, now and forevermore.
And may the Holy Spirit fill your days with hope.

All: Amen.

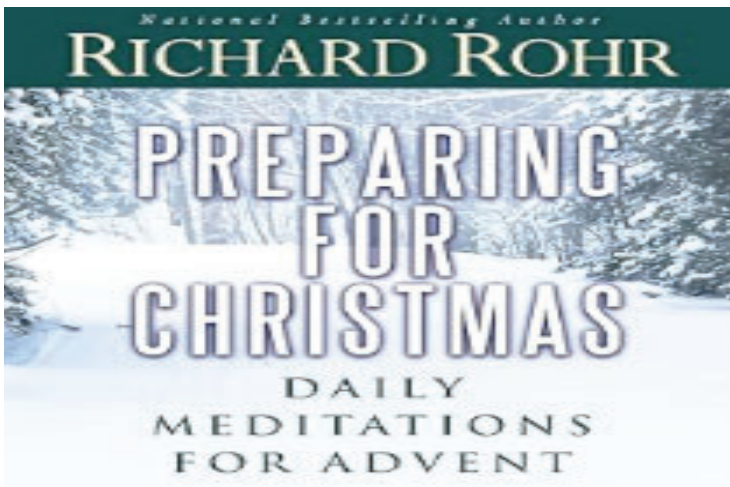
SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz
Liturgist: Suzie Inadomi
Music Director: Jake Fontana
Song Leader: Linda Carter
Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi
Fellowship Time Refreshments: Maggie Harmon

Upcoming Advent Events

TODAY at 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.



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.



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.

Caregiver contact information is on the card and gifts should be delivered in coordination with caregivers prior to Christmas.

Stewardship News & Reflections

By Maggie Harmon

Stewardship: the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving...

For over 100 years First Presbyterian church has been cared for by those who worship, share, and create community within its walls. Today it is our turn to assume responsibility for caring for this precious place. Your gift in any amount allows us to continue to live as the beloved community, sharing our resources, and joyfully worshipping together.

Please support the ministry of First Presbyterian with a gift today.



DVC Standout Marc Manheimer joins Cornelia Ruff to make Lunches for Macro



Building and Grounds Report

By Ben Baab

Appreciations: The fearless Sanctuary lighting helpers: Eric Lapachet, David Morales, and Victor

Ongoing: *Sanctuary lighting* – After weeks of trying to find a company that services theatrical lighting and does service calls, I gave up. Instead of completely throwing in the towel, Victor held the longest ladder we have while I climbed 20 feet almost up to the fixtures. Once there, and holding on for dear life, I decided that 1) I didn't know how to access the lightbulb and 2) I only really had one hand to work with because the ladder was nearly vertical. Regrouping, I found three, brave helpers, and we assembled three tiers of scaffolding.



Victor and I climbed to the top, and then Victor climbed a stepladder to get to the fixtures. There are four different types of fixtures. We removed two types and a bulb from the third. The fourth was not accessible from the scaffolding/ladder combination. I then shopped thoroughly on the Internet and found the closest matches I could. The product number was worn off on one of the bulbs, but I found one online that looked very similar – so far, it looks like it's not similar enough to work. On Monday, Victor and I reattached the two fixtures with new bulbs in them – one worked, one didn't. The other new

bulb that shines on the organ pipes works too. We removed the non-working fixture so that I could try again to get it to work. I may end up taking it somewhere. We plan to reconvene on Wednesday and work on the left side bank.

Concrete repairs – This, too, is an ongoing saga. I had met with an estimator from Groundworks who then scheduled the repair. On repair day, I received a phone call (while in the dentist chair but still conscious) from the job foreman. After my appointment, I met him in the garage. He warned me that we might have a sinkhole in progress, perhaps due to a broken pipe. He advised having the drain pipe inspected. Upon quick consultation with my trusted advisors, Chris and Erick, I decided to purchase a 100' drain camera and scope out the garage drain for breaks. I found none. I am planning to call Groundworks back and reschedule the poly-jacking after I have marked where the pipe is.

Liquid amber tree removal – I submitted an online application with the city for tree removal. They sent me signs to post for 20 days on the trees to solicit public comment, which I did. The 20 days are up on December 11th. After that, the city will either send us a permit or a denial. If we receive the permit, Bartlett's has tendered a reasonable bid for the removal. Once the trees are removed, Jordan Griggs will replace the damaged concrete and level out the parking lot entrance.

Sidewalks repairs – I submitted a sidewalk damage report with the city for the Broadway sidewalk many weeks ago. Much to my surprise, and without any notice, on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, someone from the city marked all the damaged places. Definitely, something for which to give thanks! Stay tuned.

Archives – Over 1000 books, journals, and magazines have been catalogued.

Pastor Matt Celebrates 5 Years of Serving at First Church Oakland



A Prayer for Traveling in the Dark

By Jan Richardson

Go slow
if you can.
Slower.
More slowly still.
Friendly dark or fearsome,
this is no place to break your neck
by rushing,
by running,
by crashing into
what you cannot see.
Then again,
it is true:
different darks
have different tasks,
and if you
have arrived here unawares,
if you have come
in peril
or in pain,
this might be no place
you should dawdle.
I do not know
what these shadows
ask of you,
what they might hold
that means you good
or ill.
It is not for me
to reckon
whether you should linger
or you should leave.
But this is what
I can ask for you:
That in the darkness
there be a blessing.
That in the shadows
there be a welcome.
That in the night
you be encompassed
by the Love that knows
your name.

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.



**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

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welcome to contribute news, events and opinion.

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