

Sunday, February 15, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



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

Wade In Duh Wadduh!
Spiritual, arr. William Farley Smith

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come worship the Lord.

All: Praise the Lord on high

One: Worship the Lord from the mountaintop.

All: Worship our Lord and King.

One: Let the earthquake and the people tremble.

All: Let the nations revere the Lord of life.

Gathering Prayer

One: Source of light and love, reveal to us your glory. As you appeared to your servant Moses in the devouring fire on Mount Sinai, appear to us now in power and might during our time of worship. As you revealed Christ's resplendent light to his disciples on the mountaintop, reveal your radiant light to us during our fellowship together. Transform us with your glory, that our souls might shine your light into a world shrouded in darkness.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Grieved God,
We are ashamed. We confess that we have not loved the way this world deserves. We have allowed children to starve. We have cast away generations of Black people behind bars, often for “crimes” that were necessary for our survival. We have been spineless about holding law enforcement accountable for their actions. We’ve been more concerned with performative activism and online diatribes than looking our own neighbor in the eye, than demanding more for the marginalized in our communities. We have not voted with compassion. We have not voted at all. We have changed our very benches to keep the homeless from their rest. We have exploited land and sea, allowing our own filth to colonize the deepest beauties of the world. As we contend with all the ways we’ve perverted the glory of the world, we hardly feel worthy of forgiveness. But we humbly ask that you would forgive us. Have mercy on us, all our heartlessness, that we would be filled again with the fullness of our humanity.

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: Let your soul receive this rest: The God who sends thunder and lightning seeks to obliterate every system that threatens the dignity and shalom of the cosmos. Accept what mercy is available after what we’ve made of this precious sacred world—what we’ve made of one another. In all our greed, our deceit, our apathy, our moral deficiencies, may the divine forgive us, and work so that every injustice would at last be made right.

All: 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.

P R A Y E R S of 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.**

Choral Anthems

*Ain'-A That Good News
Go Down Moses*

T H E W O R D

Scripture Lesson

1 Kings 18. 16-18; Jeremiah 5. 26-31, 7. 2 - 8 NRSV

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" He answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. For the wicked are found among my people. They lie in wait like hunters; destroyers, they catch humans. Like a cage full of birds, their houses are full of treachery; therefore they have become great and rich; they have grown fat and sleek. They know no limits in deeds of wickedness; they do not judge with justice the cause of the orphan, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy. Shall I not punish them for these things? says the Lord, and shall I not bring retribution on a nation such as this? An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule as the prophets direct; my people love to have it so, but what will you do when the end comes? Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah, you who enter these gates to worship the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. Do not trust in these deceptive words: "This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord."

For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave to your ancestors forever and ever.

Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Good Trouble is God's Trouble

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.

Choral Anthems

Poor Man Lazarus

Yonder Come Day

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

Worshippers are invited to come to the table down the center aisle and return to pews along the side aisles. Communion is non alcoholic and gluten free. Donations can be placed in the offering plate by the table. 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

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands
African American Heritage Hymnal #150

Benediction

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Preacher: Rev. Joel Mackey

Liturgist: Lorraine Provost

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Choir: The Voices of Legacy; Velmar Brown, director

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Dorrie Dodge

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Nancy Ogden

Black History Month Profile: Booker Taliaferro Washington 1856-1915

By Henry Gardner

Renowned educator, author and orator, Booker T. Washington was born into slavery in Virginia and rose to become one of the most influential leaders in America, advocating for the education, employment and civil rights of African Americans.

He was educated at Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute (now Hampton University) and Wayland Seminary. He was the first head of Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Alabama. He emphasized the importance of both higher education and technical skills and training as the vehicles for economic advancement for African Americans, with primary emphasis on skilled trades that could lead to entrepreneurial pursuits and economic independence. This emphasis brought him into a long lasting debate with W.E. B. DuBois, another pioneer for African American advancement in education and civil rights. DuBois argued that higher education should be the primary emphasis for the masses.

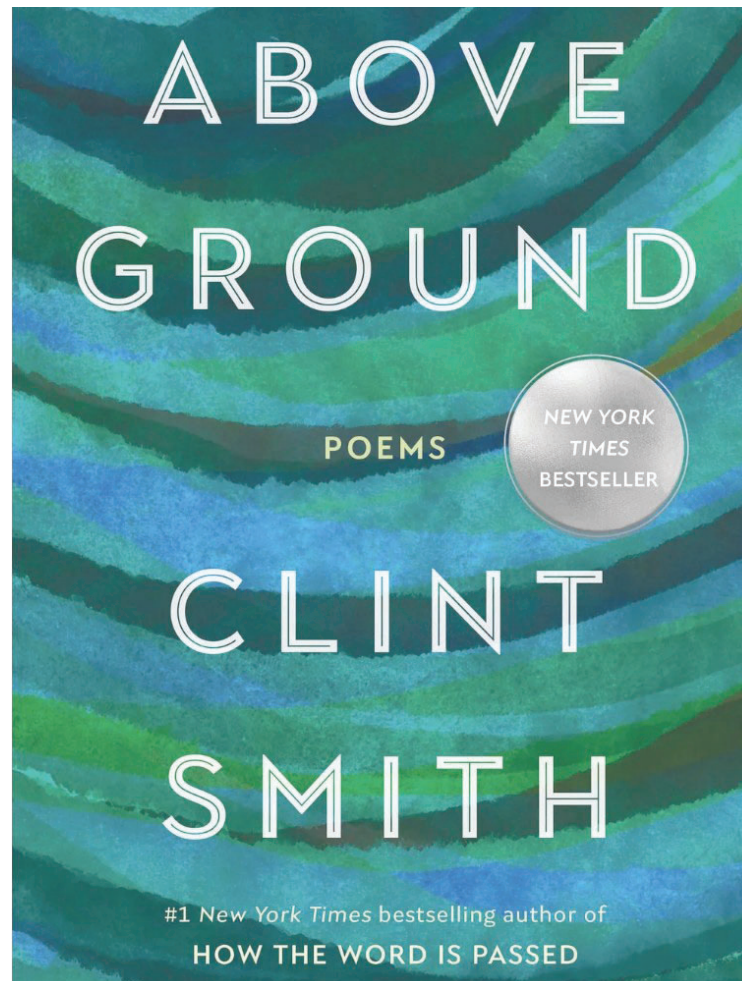


Washington came to national prominence with his Atlanta Address of 1895. This was followed by another well known work, his autobiography, "Up from Slavery." He was recognized by Blacks and Whites as the foremost leader of Blacks in the national community. He was a visitor to the White House and had the ear of President Theodore Roosevelt. His go slow approach in challenging racial segregation and voter rights suppression caused considerable consternation among many Black leaders, most prominently with DuBois, who advocated for more direct action and helped form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Criticized during his lifetime and for years thereafter for his collaboration with White segregationists, decades after his death a more favorable view of his leadership has emerged, recognizing his quiet diplomatic skills and acknowledging that he accomplished a great deal.

Dinner and Poetry: Feb. 26 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Pastor Matt's

Please join us for dinner and conversation about this incredible body of work by Poet Clint Smith. Dinner will be held at Pastor Matt's house. Please let him know if you would like to help with the meal preparation. Pick up a copy of the book from Pastor Matt and bring a favorite poem to share.



Clint Smith's vibrant and compelling new collection traverses the vast emotional terrain of fatherhood and explores how becoming a parent has recalibrated his sense of the world. There are poems that interrogate the ways our lives are shaped by both personal lineages and historical institutions. There are poems that revel in rediscovering the wonder of the natural world through the eyes of your children as they discover it for the first time. There are poems that meditate on what it means to raise a family in a world filled with constant social and political tumult. *Above Ground* wrestles with how we hold gratitude

and despair in the same hands, how we carry intimate moments of joy and a collective sense of mourning in the same body.

Smith's lyrical narrative poems bring the reader on a journey not only through the early years of his children's lives, but through the changing world in which they are growing up-through the changing world of which we are all a part. *Above Ground* is a breathtaking collection that follows Smith's award-winning first book of poetry, *Counting Descent*.

Your National Anthem

By Clint Smith

Today, a Black man who was once a Black boy like you got down on one of his knees and laid his helmet on the grass as this country sang

its ode to the promise it never kept and the woman in the grocery store line in front of us is on the phone and she is telling someone

on the other line that this Black man who was once a Black boy like you should be grateful we live in a country where people aren't killed for things like this

you know, she says, in some places they would hang you for such a blatant act of disrespect, maybe he should go live there instead of here so he can appreciate what he has

then she turns around and sees you sitting in the grocery cart surrounded by lettuce and yogurt and frozen chicken thighs

and you smile at her with your toothless-gum-smile and she says that you are the cutest baby she has ever seen and tells me how I must feel so lucky

to have such a beautiful baby boy and I thank her for her kind words even though I know I should not thank her, because I know that you will not always

be a Black boy but one day you may be a Black man and you may decide your country

hasn't kept its promise to you either and this woman, or another

like her, will forget you were ever this boy and they will make you into something else and tell you to be grateful for what you've been given.



Clint Smith



Please join us on Sundays in February for these special weekly services. Our theme: Celebrating 'Good Trouble' - ongoing work for freedom and justice.

Today - Rev. Joel Mackey preaching, Voice of Legacy choir, Building the Beloved Community discussion about 'good trouble' today during coffee hour.

Feb. 22nd - Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson preaching, Lucy Kinchen Chorale, potluck meal following the service.

Feb. 26th: Dinner and poetry night from 530 - 730pm at Pastor Matt's. We will be reading Clint Smith's Above the Ground.

Please Join Faith in Action for these Friday Ceasefire Nightwalks

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

We are walking our neighborhoods to carry this message: We love you and we want you to be alive and free! All walks start at 6 p.m.

Feb 20 ~ St. Patrick's, 1023 Peralta St

Feb 27 ~ At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.

Mar 13 ~ First Mt. Sinai, 1970 86th Avenue

Mar 20 ~ New Hope MBC, 892 36th Street

Mar 27 ~ At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.



Mark Miller Concert Brings Musical Joy to First Church





Church Members Support Monrovia's Senior Night.

**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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Temple Tidings

Elders

Ben Baab: Building and Grounds
Aaron Ruff
Gay Plair Cobb: Personnel/Food Ministry
David Alexander
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

Paul Roberts, Martha Baab, Lorraine Provost,
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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