

Sunday, February 22, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known

But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king



of Egypt commanded them, but saved the children alive

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

Air
from Suite No. 1 by Florence Price

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: In these uncertain times, we come together, searching for peace.

All: We will be still before the Lord and wait patiently.

One: We will open our hearts and minds, that the Lord may show us mercy.

All: When we trust the Lord, we can do good things and live with one another in peace and security.

One: The Lord is our refuge in times of trouble. In God, we find forgiveness, mercy, and love.

All: We will be still before the Lord and wait patiently.

Gathering Prayer

One: Holy One, we come together to pause, pray, and praise. Be with us in this place, that we may touch your mercy. You provide for us; help us claim the power of your love for our lives. Help us to measure out grace, shaking it together with forgiveness and give them to others as you would have us do.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Lord God, we come to you as imperfect creatures. We are afraid of the past and wary of the future. Yet, we yearn to feel your warm embrace. We long to touch your love and forgiveness, despite our shortcomings. Ease our journey toward mercy, as we grow in faith and love. Help us bless those who curse us and to pray for those who mistreat us. This is your direction for our lives and we will follow as we are able.

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: I am Somebody!
I am Somebody!
I may be poor, But I am Somebody.
I may be young, But I am Somebody.
I may be on welfare, But I am Somebody.
I may be small, But I am Somebody.
I may have made mistakes, But I am Somebody.
My clothes are different, My face is different, My hair is different, But I am Somebody.
I am black, brown, or white. I speak a different language, But I must be respected,
Protected, Never rejected.
I am God's child!

All: I am Somebody!
I am Somebody!
I am Somebody!

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.**

Choral Anthems

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

T H E W O R D

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 1. 15 - 21

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

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

Choral Anthems

*A City Called Heaven, arr. Leonard de Paur
Wade in the Water, arr. Moses Hogan*

Invitation to the Offering

God's generosity flows into our lives. Let us respond with generosity.

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.

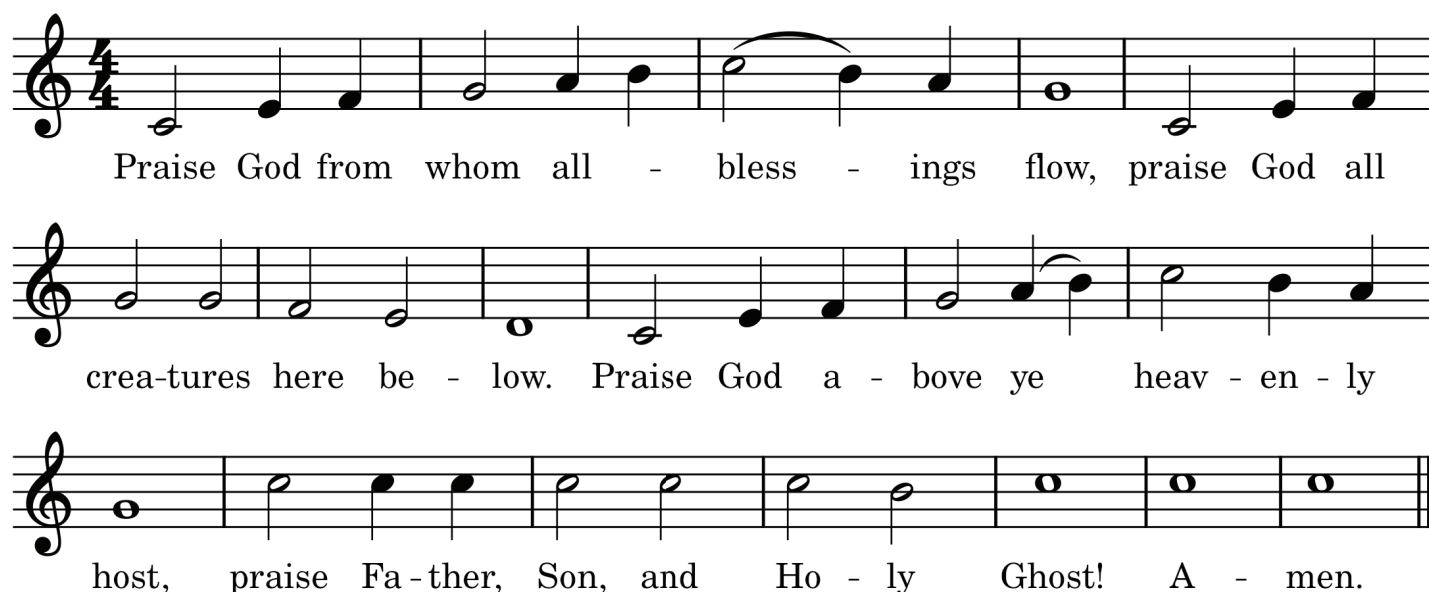


Music at the Offering

*Lento e teneramente
from the Bassoon Set by Adolphus Hailstork*

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



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

Holy God, we bring this offering of our money, prayer, and labor to advance your work of mercy. We willingly and joyfully celebrate your generosity, by sharing our abundance with the church, our community, and the world. Bless these gifts, as they go forth to do good.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

*Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing
African American Heritage Hymnal #540*

Benediction

Poem

Here with Us
Charles Curtis Blackwell

After Silence

Comes the diminishing
Of life pursuing dreams
Departs

Departs

Departs

And in the stillness of feelings
Have begat a place
Away

Away

God

God can feel our touch

Nearer to thee

Nearer to the comfort
of our soul

Before we stood

In the remembrance of sorrows
the same lips that cried out loud
for mercy

For mercy to be

Out loud the Spirit cries

While battled in a storm

Oh my God

Oh my God

Here you are

S E R V I N G i n W O R S H I P T O D A Y

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Preacher: Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson

Liturgist: Gay Cobb

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Lori Willis

Choir: The Lucy Kinchen Chorale; Lori Willis, director

Bassoonist: Shawn Jones

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Aaron Ruff, Monrovia Prinz

Black History Month Profile: Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm

1924-2005 Un-bought and Un-bossed

By Henry Gardner

The no nonsense, self-assured Shirley Chisholm became the first Black woman in 1968 to be elected to Congress. She entered the House of Representatives and served notice immediately that she was not there to ask for a seat at the table, she was demanding it. She represented the Bedford-Stuyvesant district in Brooklyn for seven terms, 1969 to 1983. She became the first Black candidate for a major party nomination for president and the first woman to run for the presidential nomination. She often said she was un-bought and un-bossed.

Born in Brooklyn, she spent several early years of her life in Barbados and never lost that acquired accent. Her father was a laborer and baker's assistant and her mother a skilled seamstress. Her parents sent her and her sisters to live with her maternal grandmother who gave her strength, dignity, and love and taught her that she could be anything she wanted to be and that she was as good as anyone else. She said she did not need the Black revolution to teach her that.

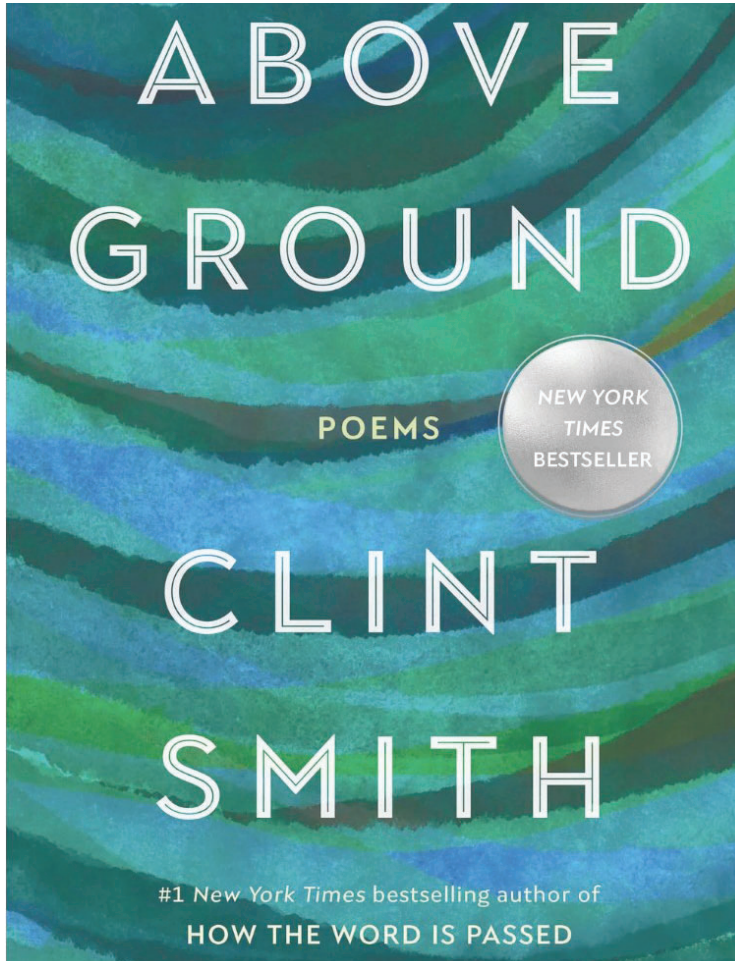


Chisholm was politically active in a long list of organizations and civic endeavors. As early as the 1940s, as a student at Brooklyn College, she was a member of the Harriet Tubman Society, advocated for end to segregation in the military, and pushed for courses in Black history, and for more women in student government. Her political career began when, against resistance because she was a woman, she persisted and ran and won the election to the New York State Assembly in 1964. During her presidential campaign she said she met more discrimination as a woman than for being Black. In recognition of her tremendous accomplishments advocating for the marginalized and the underrepresented, and for her warrior-like spirit, she was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015.



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



Clint Smith

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.

Come to the Day of Remembrance Interfaith Vigil on February 25

INTERFAITH MOVEMENT FOR HUMAN INTEGRITY

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE INTERFAITH VIGIL 2026

Join us in
ceremony,
ritual, music,
dance, and take
action to honor
all life and
protect
communities
currently
targeted by ICE

SACRED PROTECTION

すべてのいのちを守るため

Bear witness to
testimonies by
former WWII
incarcerates and
current-day
members of our
community
facing
detention and
deportation

FEBRUARY 25, 2026 | 11 AM - 12:30 PM

ICE FIELD OFFICE, 630 SANSOME STREET, SAN FRANCISCO

ON THIS DAY WHEN WE REMEMBER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S FORCED SEPARATION
AND INCARCERATION OF OVER 125,000 PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY, WE PRAY:

MAY WE STOP REPEATING HISTORY!

MAY WE CLOSE ICE DETENTION SITES!

MAY ALL FAMILIES BE FREE!

CO-SPONSORS:

BAY AREA
DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE
CONSORTIUM



SYCAMORE
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH UCC
シカモア組合教会



BAY AREA DAY OF REMEMBRANCE CONSORTIUM

BERKELEY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

BERKELEY CHAPTER-JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF OAKLAND

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO

CHRIST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JAPANTOWN SANCTUARY NETWORK

PINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SYCAMORE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY

Micheline La Mont to Retire - Last Day will be March 5



Micheline is retiring on March 5. Please send cards and drop by to show your appreciation for her wonderful work with us.

Please share our job search with friends and neighbors. The QR code links to the job description.



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 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.

Voices of Legacy and Matthew Major Share their Talents with Us



Don't miss these upcoming Cantare and Nova Choir Concerts

2/28 - Nova recital & 3/7 - Aurora recital 3:00pm

Join Cantare's advanced youth choirs at their annual recitals, celebrating the achievements of our youth singers! These events are free to attend, and will be followed by a reception for snacks and socializing!

3/22 - The Three B's | Bach, Beethoven, Brahms 4:00pm

The Cantare Chorale will perform works by these three famous classical German composers

Use code FRIEND at checkout to get a 20% discount on tickets through March 13.

Visit cantareconvivo.org/bbb to get your tickets!

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
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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Hours: Wednesday 2-4:30/Thursday 9-2:30

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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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firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings