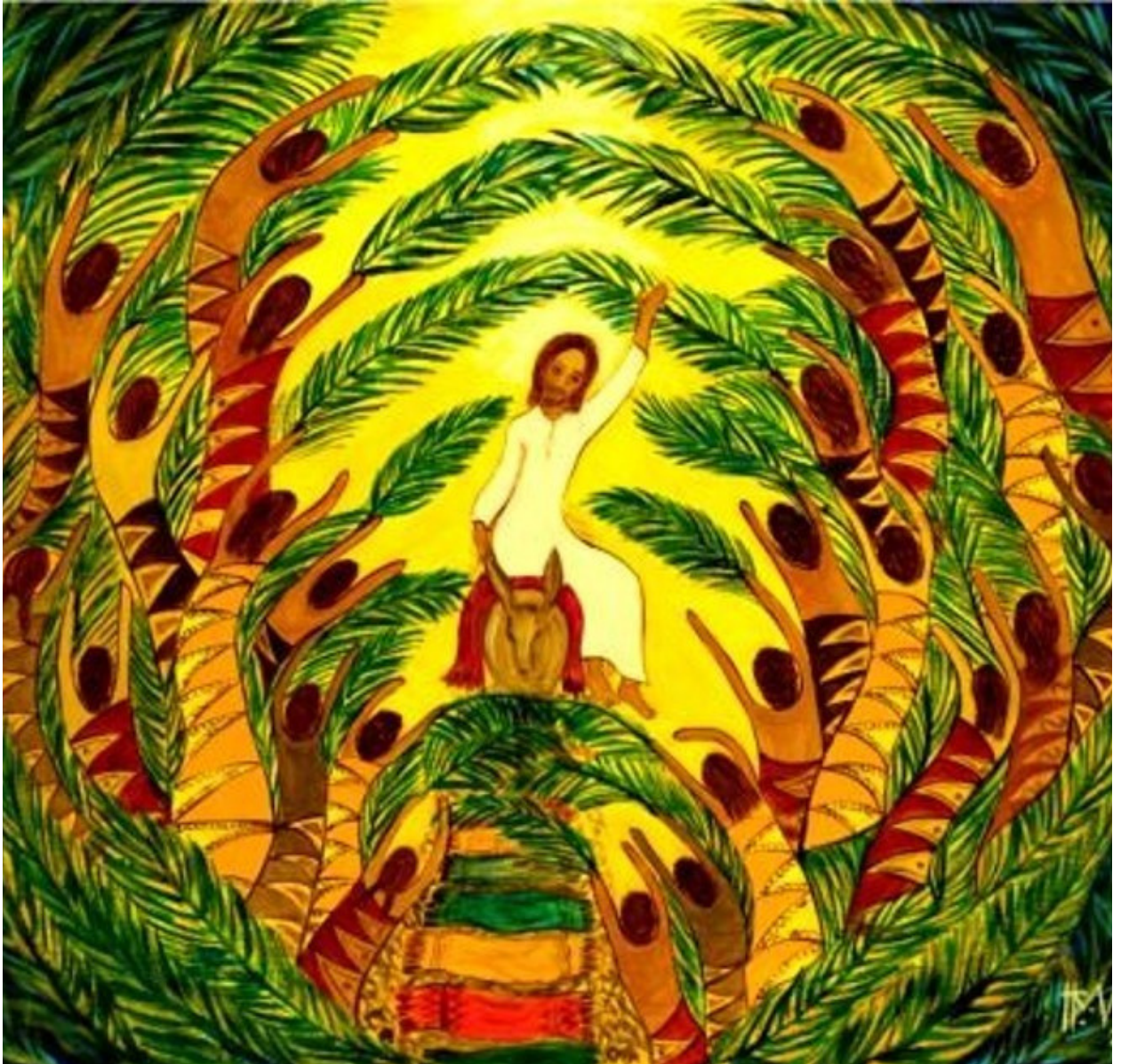


March 29, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



WELCOME

Visitors:

- If you would like to join our email list, please fill out the form at firstchurchoakland.org.
- 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 three and under.
- You may also use the **Parent Corners** in the back and front right corner of the sanctuary.
- Children's **worship bags** are available in the narthex or from the ushers.
- On the first Sunday of the month we celebrate **Family Worship & Communion**. On all other Sundays, children may join in **Godly Play**. Children are escorted to Classroom 2 during the *Passing of the Peace* and rejoin their families during Fellowship Time.

ORDER of SERVICE

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.

INVITATION to WORSHIP

Prelude *Hosannah!*

Théodore Dubois

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Give thanks to God, who is truly good.

All: Hosanna in the highest!

One: Praise Christ, whose love abounds with grace.

All: Hosanna in the highest!

One: Welcome the Spirit with songs of praise.

All: Hosanna in the highest!

Gathering Prayer

One: Christ of both celebration and sorrow, be with us in our time of worship today and in the week ahead. Help us embrace the fullness of your story, both the triumph and the tragedy. Strengthen us to proclaim blessing and hope, no matter the circumstances, that we may be children of your promise, both now and forevermore.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing. Children are invited to join in the festive Palm Sunday procession, beginning in the back of the church.

Hymn *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* African American Heritage Hymnal #226

CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Faithful One, we want to be as faithful to you as you are to us. Help us sing your praises joyously and proudly, even when the jeering crowds frighten us. Walk with us in moments of celebration and times of trouble. Guide our steps, save our lives, and help us bring your message of love to the world. Hosanna, faithful One; hosanna in the highest.

All: Amen.

You are invited into a time of silent, personal reflection.

One: In the name of the one who loves us unconditionally, we pray:

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: Rejoice and be glad, for God's steadfast love endures forever!

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 gather at the side door to follow leaders to Godly Play.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and 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

Cole Arthur Riley

God of the Palms,

Thank you for drawing near to us. We have known what it is to encounter "help" that isn't truly help. We have known white savior complexes and the narrative of white heroism, which has always secretly delighted in suffering, so it might be the hero again and again. Thank you for showing us a different way: a God who rejects privilege, a God who is unbothered by sitting on a donkey if it means you are drawing near to us. As we wait, take away the fear that has settled on our souls. Help us to trust in the arrival of goodness even in the wake of suffering. Let this Palm Sunday speak the language of welcome; that we would never turn hope away when it appears. **Amen.**

Please remain seated.

Hymn

There is a Balm in Gilead

African American Heritage Hymnal #524

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 21. 1 – 11 NRSV

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

One: For the Word in scripture, the Word made flesh and the Word in our hearts.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Depends on Where You are Standing*

Rev. Matt Prinz

RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

Rev. Matt will lead the congregation in reflection on reading and sermon. Afterward, please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Invitation to the Offering

May Christ's values of generosity, grace, and love guide our giving of time, talent, and treasure. May these values become the focus of our thoughts during this time of offering.

Ushers will collect the weekly offering. Donations can be placed in the offering plate. You may also donate using this QR code on your smartphone:

Music During the Offering *Ride On, King Jesus*

Hall Johnson

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

One: We give you thanks, Christ Jesus, for your goodness and your grace. Blessing the gifts and lives we offer to you, that they may bring goodness and grace to your world. In gratitude and joy, we pray.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Song *Guide My Feet*

African American Heritage Hymnal #131

Benediction

One: With songs in our hearts,

All: we move toward the cross.

One: May God bless us

All: with strength for the journey ahead.

One: Go with God,

All: knowing Christ is on the journey with us.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Linda Carter

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Raenelle Tauro

Pianist: Myles Ogden

Bassoonist: Shawn Jones

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Anne Margaret Manay and Dorrie Dodge

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Elizabeth Cureton and Shawn Jones

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Tuesday

12pm

Interfaith Gathering at ICE Offices

630 Sansome St., San Francisco

Good Friday

6pm

Scripture, prayer, chant

Easter Sunday

10am

Festive worship

Support First Church Youth in Sports!

Come to these games at home and away and support some of our local youth athletes.



Myles Ogden: Skyline JV Baseball

April 16th at 4:30pm versus Alameda

April 27th at 4:00pm versus San Leandro

Micah Ogden: Skyline Varsity Volleyball

Home

April 2nd versus Oakland Tech at 6pm

April 17th versus Oakland High at 6pm

Away

April 1st at San Leandro at 5:45pm

April 22nd at Encinal at 5:15pm

April 29th at Oakland Tech at 6pm



Ruby Prinz: Varsity Lacrosse

April 15th at 5pm at Oakland Tech

April 20th at 5pm at Skyline

April 22nd at 5pm at Skyline

April 29th at 5pm 5pm at Oakland Tech

May 6 at 5pm at Oakland High



Women and Christian Mission

There is little doubt that women are heavily involved in doing Christian mission work. Most missiology studies estimate that 60 percent of all Christian mission workers are women.

The fact that the clear majority of Christian mission workers are women, led to my writing a book, *Women and Christian Mission: Ways of Knowing and Doing Theology* (Pickwick Publications 2015). I wrote it in order to answer two questions:

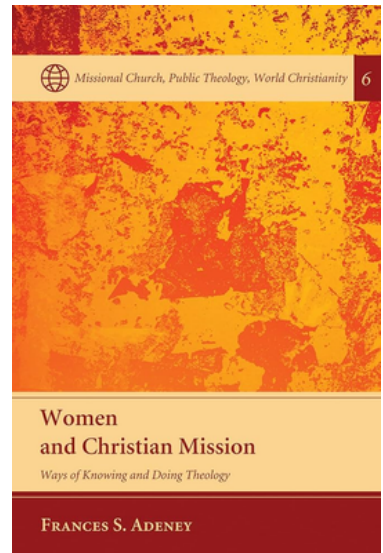
- (1) What roles do women play in doing Christian mission?
- (2) Do women mission leaders and workers experience any special benefits and/or obstacles in doing mission work because they are women (i.e. not men)?

The answer to the first question was fairly easy to answer through simple observation. Although there are some women mission leaders, most are men. Most women in leadership positions are chairs of local church mission committees on mission ministry. The rest are workers—lots of workers.

The answer to the second question is much more nuanced. Do women mission workers have any benefits/advantages because they are women? Yes, of course. And do women mission workers face some obstacles in doing mission work because they are women? Yes, of course. But what are the benefits? And What are the obstacles? To find these more specific answers I did two types of research.

First, I read the appropriate literature written on that subject. Books like Dana Robert, *American Women in Mission* (Mercer 1997); Sister Angela Dries, OSF, *The Missionary Movement in American Catholic History* (Orbis 1998); Marianne Kattoppo, *An Asian Women's Compassionate and Free Theology* (Maryknoll 1980); and many others.

Second, I did interviews with Christian mission workers, mostly women mission workers. Lots of interviews, almost one hundred. Interviews with women around the world. At a mission conference in Brazil. In Geneva, Switzerland at the headquarters of the World Council of Churches. At meetings of IAMS (International Association of Mission Studies) for seven years running. In Louisville, Kentucky at the headquarters of the PC(USA). And of course at my home church and at every church I visited everywhere during those seven years of work. And of course among my friends and colleagues, many of whom are missionaries. I discovered lots of benefits. And lots of obstacles. And ways women missiologists and missionaries were faithfully taking advantage of the benefits and overcoming the obstacles. I wrote about them both in this book.



—Frances S. Adeney

Practices of our Church Community – Ways to Join Us

Worship Service Each Sunday we gather at 10am to sing, pray, confess, and worship God together. We invite our community to participate in our worship services through singing, reading, praying, ushering, or sharing testimony. Do you like to write prayers or help connect music to themes in scripture? Talk with Di Pagel (Elder of Worship), Jake Fontana (Music Director) or Pastor Matt if you would like to help lead/design our worship services. You can also help us create space for conversation and building community through providing food during our coffee hour (11-12). Email Julia Marquez jmarquez@fbcl-visa.com if you would like to contribute.



Food Ministry Each week, more than 40 volunteers share over 300 meals with our neighbors through our food ministry. Volunteers gather donated food on Fridays and Saturdays from local supermarkets and bakeries. Meals are prepared on Sundays and Mondays and are shared with neighbors and delivered to local encampments. We have opportunities to serve during the week, each Saturday, and Sunday. Email Gay Plair Cobb gaycobb@gmail.com, Dorothy Dugger dorothy.dugger@gmail.com, or Nina Lapachet ninalapachet@gmail.com to get involved.



Bible Study Wednesday nights at 7pm via Zoom we gather around the sacred texts of scripture to study and reflect upon our lives and take new steps of faithfulness together. No need to study beforehand, just sign up for our weekly emails, click on the Zoom link and join conversation. Come with a desire to build community and listen for God's Spirit in the midst of scripture. Talk with Henry Gardner or Maggie Harmon or Pastor Matt for more details.



Building the Beloved Community Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. constantly spoke about God's work of building the beloved community - a community bridging across the differences of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability. Building the Beloved Community is one lens we use to look at all of our ministry at First Church. We also host conversations, book groups, attend concerts and art shows, to learn, reflect, and to help us build God's beloved community within our church community, in our neighborhoods, and city. Talk with Suzie Inadomi, Pastor Matt or Pastor Joel to learn about ways to join BBC work at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland.



Faith in Action "Justice is what love looks like in the public" – Cornel West. How do we put our faith into action to love our neighbors? One way we live out our faith is joining the ministries of Faith in Action East Bay, who for over 40 years have advocated and worked in areas of gun violence, immigration, education, housing, and equity in Oakland and the larger Bay Area. Members of First Pres. regularly join FIA Ceasefire night walks, advocate for affordable housing, and seek to support new structural changes for equity and justice. Talk with Pastor Matt to get involved and our new community organizer Chris Logan.

Community Life - God is community Three in one and we are made for community. Creating spaces for community around meals, discussion groups, backyard firepits, and outings together (B's game, beach trip, etc.) are an important ministry within our church community. Do you like to host events, love connecting with others, enjoy building community? Talk with Julia Marquez or Pastor Matt and join them in planning our next community life events.



Nnamdi, Jameia and baby Patricia



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



Scan this code with
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First Church News
and past editions of
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

Martha Baab, Martha Bauman, Cassandra
Flipper, Charmaine Irmiter, Lorraine Provost,
Pam Prinz, Paul Roberts

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510.488.3812

email to make an appointment

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Jake Fontana, Music Director

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Gus Lopez, Head Custodian

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Erick Bevington, Treasurer

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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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