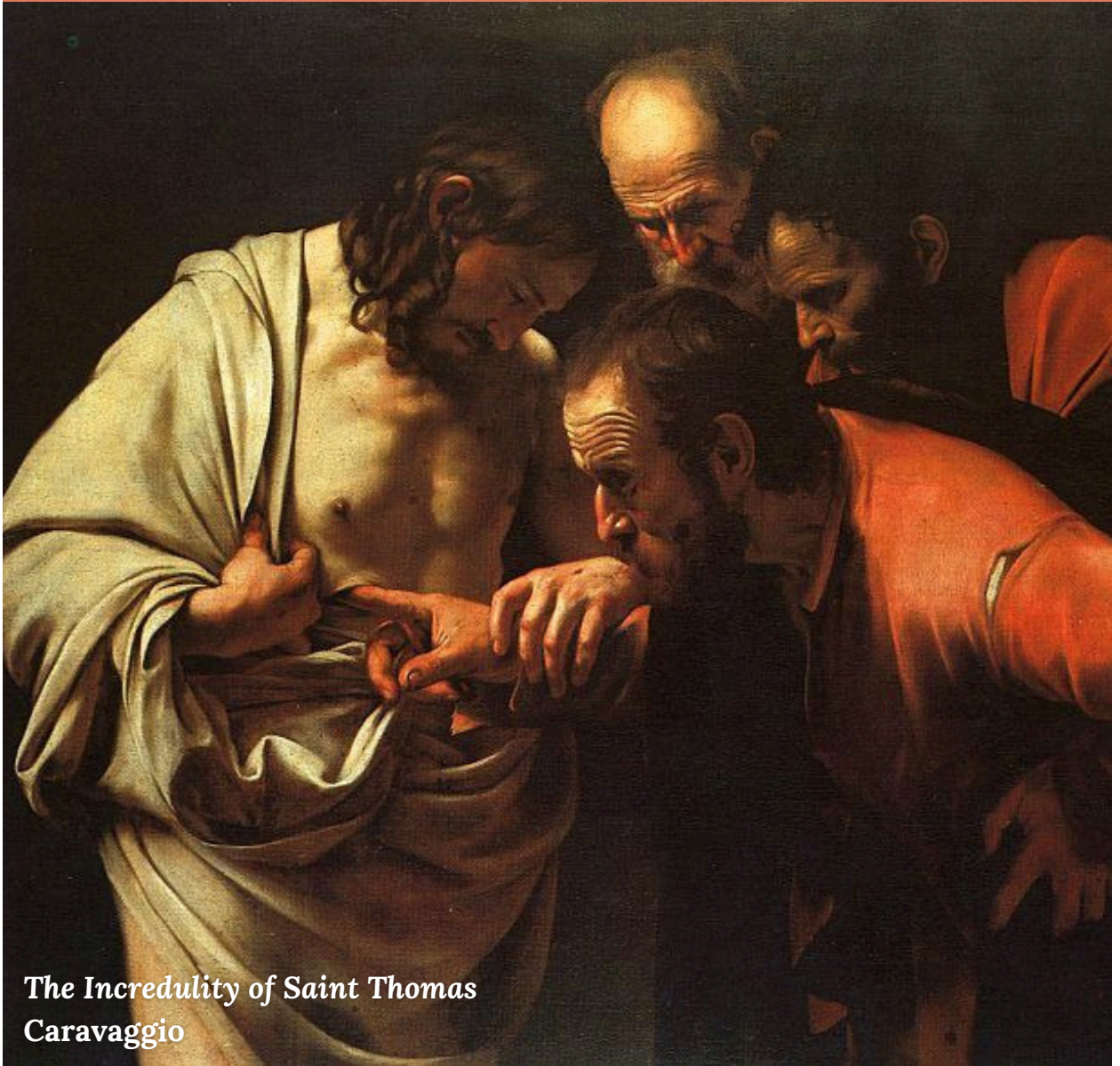


April 26, 2026

# First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



*The Incredulity of Saint Thomas*  
Caravaggio

# WELCOME

## Visitors:

- If you would like to join our email list, please fill out the form at [firstchurchoakland.org](http://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      *There Is No Greater Love*

Isham Jones and Marty Symes

*April is National Jazz Appreciation Month.*

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: With trumpet sounds and singing hearts,

**All: we come to praise the Lord.**

One: As faithful witnesses of Christ's grace and love,

**All: we come to praise the Lord.**

One: Coming here with our doubts and our faith,

**All: we come to praise the Lord.**

## Gathering Prayer

One: God of mystery and miracles, breathe your peace upon us. Reveal your presence, as we look for you each day. Strengthen our faith and our trust, as we pray for miracles for one another and for all your creation.

**All: Amen.**

*Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.*

Hymn            *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Glory to God #268

## CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

### Confession

One: Loving Christ, you welcomed Thomas' questions, even his doubts. Welcome us, too, with your grace and your love. Offer your hand of forgiveness and show us the truth of your presence. Fill us with the power of your love, that your grace, forgiveness, and love may flow freely to others. In gratitude and joy, we pray.

**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: In grace, we are forgiven.  
In love, we are freed.  
In Christ, peace and assurance are ours.

**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.*

## The Lord's 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.**

*Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.*

Hymn            *Go and Tell Ev'rybody*            African American Heritage Hymnal #284

## THE WORD

### Scripture Lesson

John 20. 24 - 29 NRSV

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon            *Eyes to See*

Rev. Sally Steele

# 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.*

Hymn      *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

Glory to God #817

## Invitation to the Offering

As we have been blessed, so we share our blessings with others. Let us give generously.

*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:*



Offertory Music      *The Holy Christ is Risen*

Johann Sebastian Bach

Doxology      *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Musical notation for the Doxology, consisting of three staves of music in 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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: Mighty God, pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts. Bless them with your miraculous power, that they may become mighty gifts of love, justice, and peace— gifts with the power to heal our world. In your holy name, 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            *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Glory to God #465

Benediction

One: Go forth as witnesses to the miracle of God's love.

All: **We go to bring the miracle of God's love to the world.**

## SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

**Pastor:** Rev. Matt Prinz

**Preacher:** Rev. Sally Steele

**Liturgist:** Lachlan Welsh

**Music Director:** Jake Fontana

**Song Leader:** Raenelle Tauro

**Pianist:** Micah Ogden

**Vocals:** Casey Pineda

**Head Usher:** Matthew Inadomi

**Godly Play:** Di Pagel and Monrovia Prinz

**Fellowship Time Refreshments:** Charmaine Irmiter

Excerpt            from *Jazz as Communication*, an essay by Langston Hughes

...Now, to wind it all up, with you in the middle—jazz is only what you yourself get out of it. Louis's famous quote—or misquote probably—"Lady, if you have to ask what it is, you'll never know." Well, I wouldn't be so positive. The lady just might know—without being able to let loose the cry—to follow through—to light up before the fuse blows out. To me jazz is a montage of a dream deferred. A great big dream—yet to come—and always *yet*—to become ultimately and finally true.

Jazz is a heartbeat—its heartbeat is yours. You will tell me about its perspectives when you get ready.

# Today's Guest Preacher: Rev. Sally Steele



Sally Steele is a nonprofit leader, ordained minister, and social entrepreneur working at the intersection of community, nature, and spirituality. As Co-Founder and CEO of Outdoorithm Collective and its sister social enterprise, Outdoorithm, Sally creates spaces in nature where families can flourish. The Collective's immersive experiences reconnect families with each other and the land, while Outdoorithm uses AI-powered technology to make public lands more accessible and help people find their perfect campground. Sally is an REI Fellow and a Louisville Institute grantee exploring the connection between nature and spirituality. Previously, she served as Co-Executive Director of City Hope in San Francisco. Sally lives in Oakland with her husband and four daughters.

## Stewardship Gratitude

We are the beneficiaries of God's inclusive love, and as a community seek to welcome all to share in this joy. What a gift!

Over the years First Presbyterian has been the beneficiary of numerous bequest and memorial gifts. We want to gratefully acknowledge the names of those we know and invite you to share names of those we have missed so that we can build a living memory of all who have shared with the church.

We are grateful to:

James Buhler  
Dewitt and Lelia Davison  
Rose Davison  
Evelean Hebrard  
Lisa Olson  
Elliott Royer  
Norman Terry  
Marilyn Williams



And so many others... please email [office@firstchurchoakland.org](mailto:office@firstchurchoakland.org) so that we can include everyone who has remembered the church as a part of their legacy.

"Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it... that way, God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and God will get all the credit as the One mighty in everything."

1 Peter 4:8-11 (The Message).



# First Church Visit to College Students

Pastor Matt flew to San Diego last week to visit Cami Inadomi at U.C. San Diego. Cami is majoring in Psychology. She is enjoying her neuroscience courses, cooking salmon bowls with her roommates, weight lifting with friends, and playing intramural soccer. Cami is moving off campus for her junior year and studying abroad in the Netherlands this fall. Cami will be back in Oakland this summer. Cami requested that we pray for her upcoming exams and for her as she searches for off campus housing for next year. (We visit each of our college students each year as a way to support and care for them during this important season in their lives.)





# Interfaith Pilgrimage for Palestine: May 9, 2026

On May 9, 2026, please join us on this year's Interfaith Pilgrimage for Palestine. This year our prayerful, public witness calls for an end to military cargo shipments from Oakland to Israel. As the drumbeat of war and war profiteering grows louder, we deepen our commitment to non-cooperation with harm and support the Oakland People's Arms Embargo to proclaim: Divest from war. Invest in life.

This Mother's Day, Interfaith4Palestine (I4P) honors the sacred roots of this day by lifting up the suffering of children in Palestine and everywhere violence prevails. We protest the devastation of war and call for the immediate cessation of policies and actions—abroad and at home—that fuel violence, displacement, and ethnic cleansing.

As people of spirit and faith, we seek to disrupt the harm being done, be it by governments, private corporations, or public institutions. We see the Oakland People's Arms Embargo as an urgent opportunity to raise our united voices and demand that public infrastructure be used for the public good, and not as enablers for the military industrial complex. Our local airport (OAK) has been identified as the starting point for F-35 parts that end up in Israel. These military stealth fighters have not only been used to surveil and bomb Gaza, but have now been identified as bombing Iran.

So come and walk with us. Pray with us. Sing with us. As we move together, we hold fast to a future where children are never collateral, but our greatest inheritance—and our shared hope. Find out more and register: [bit.ly/I4P2026pilgrimage](https://bit.ly/I4P2026pilgrimage)



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:gaycobb@gmail.com), Dorothy Dugger [dorothy.dugger@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy.dugger@gmail.com), or Nina Lapachet [ninalapachet@gmail.com](mailto: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.





# Water Bottles for West Oakland Middle School

West Oakland Middle School has lead in their faucets and recently installed fresh water stations throughout the campus. They need at least 60 metal water bottles so each kid can have access to clean water.

Please collect water bottles by April 30.



**Project Peace**

## 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

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

## Church Staff

### Rev. Matt Prinz, Pastor

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510.488.3812

email to make an appointment

### Rev. Joel Mackey, Parish Associate

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510.326.5590

### Jake Fontana, Music Director

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### Gus Lopez, Head Custodian

510.290.9677

### 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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