

Sunday, May 3, 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 *Prelude in D Major*

Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Trust in God, our firm foundation.

All: God is with us here.

One: Rest in the Spirit, our peace beyond peace.

All: May the Spirit guide our way.

Gathering Prayer

One: Faithful God, you are our refuge and our strength, a mighty fortress in a world in chaos and turmoil. Protect us, but also encourage us to be brave. Strengthen us to face this world and to make it a better place. Inspire our worship, that this time we may deepen our faith and place our trust in you.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn *How Firm a Foundation*

Glory to God #463

CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Mighty God, we want to be brave, but it's tempting to be small and afraid. Lift us up when we fall down. Protect us from our own doubts and fears. Shine your face upon us with mercy and grace, that we might find the courage and strength to be steadfast and faithful, loving and righteous. Be our strong foundation, so that we may grow up as your household, your family, and your people of justice, love, and mercy. In hope and gratitude, 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: God's faithful love is true, and God's strength is enough. Rest in God's love and trust in God's strength, for these gifts are all we need.

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 remain in the sanctuary for Family Worship.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and 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.

Solo *I Don't Want to Live on the Moon*

Jeff Moss

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.**

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 139. 1 - 12 NRSV

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE to the WORD

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Song for Preparing the Table *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling* Glory to God #418

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Holy Meal and 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.*



Solo *The Call*

Regina Spektor

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please come forward to sing as a church community around the Hammond organ.

Song *Lead Me, Guide Me*

**Refrain: Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

I am weak, and I need Thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour;
Let me through the darkness Thy face to see,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. **Refrain**

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

I am lost, if you take your hand from me;
I am blind, without Thy Light to see;
Lord, just always let me Thy servant be,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

Benediction

Song Continued

I am weak, and I need Thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour;
Let me through the darkness Thy face to see,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

*Refrain: Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Storyteller / Preacher: Di Pagel

Liturgist: Ruby Prinz

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Ruby Prinz

The Immigrant's Creed

by Jose Luis Casal, Presbyterian pastor, mission leader, and Cuban immigrant

I believe in Almighty God,
who guided the people in exile and in exodus,
the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon,
the God of foreigners and immigrants.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
a displaced Galilean,
who was born away from his people and his home,
who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger,
and returning to his own country suffered the oppression
of the tyrant Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power,
who then was persecuted, beaten, and finally tortured,
accused and condemned to death unjustly.
But on the third day, this scorned Jesus rose from the dead,
not as a foreigner but to offer us citizenship in heaven.

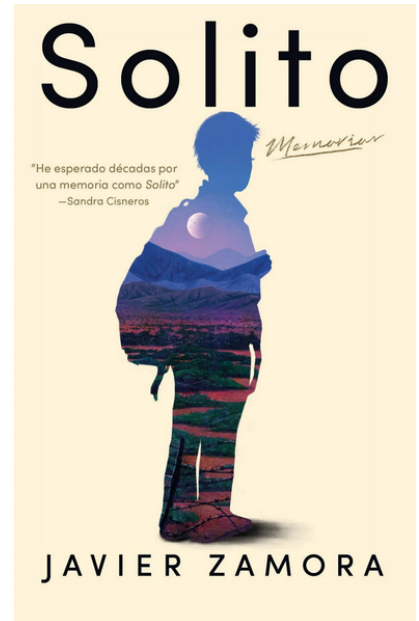
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,
who speaks all languages, lives in all countries,
and reunites all races.

I believe that the church is the secure home
for the foreigner and for all believers who constitute it,
who speak the same language and have the same purpose.
I believe that the communion of the saints begins
when we accept the diversity of the saints.

I believe in the forgiveness of sin, which makes us all equal,
and in reconciliation, which identifies us more
than does race, language, or nationality.

I believe that in the resurrection
God will unite us as one people
in which all are distinct
and all are alike at the same time.

Beyond this world, I believe in life eternal
in which no one will be an immigrant
but all will be citizens of God's kingdom,
which will never end. Amen.



Liturgy For the People and By the People



Each Sunday, we gather to worship in community to worship God. We follow a traditional order of worship (call to worship/prayer, confession, prayers of the people, scripture/sermon, offering/communion, benediction) to connect with our past and as a backbone for creative ways of expressing our faith. Sometimes we lift up our voices in prayer and other times we write them down and attach them to our prayer tree. Jake and Pastor Matt meet each week to reflect upon the past worship service and to plan upcoming gatherings. Pastor Matt chooses scriptures and themes that connect with our ongoing spiritual formation as a church community. We seek to be guided by a diversity of voices in prayers and music that reflect God's beloved community.

We wanted to invite the creativity of our whole church community by sharing the upcoming themes for our worship gatherings. Do these themes remind you of a story from the bible? A poem? Or piece of art? Would you like to write a prayer? Is there a song that comes to mind? Would you like to design the cover of the bulletin for one of these months?

Here are the themes:

May – Exile and Return – looking at the warnings of the prophets, the people of God being taken into exile and ultimately returning; God's faithfulness through it all

June – Pride month – expanding our understanding of God's beloved community

July – Poetry and Spirituality – allowing the imagination and creativity of poets to expand our understanding of sacred scriptures - do you have a favorite poet that you think would work well? (Mary Oliver was our poet last year)

August – We will use one parable and look at it from different angles for four weeks – do you have a favorite parable or story you think we should use? (Last year we reflected on the parable of the Good Samaritan)

Please email all creative suggestions to both Pastor Matt (matt@firstchurchoakland.org) and Jake (jake@firstchurchoakland.org)

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.

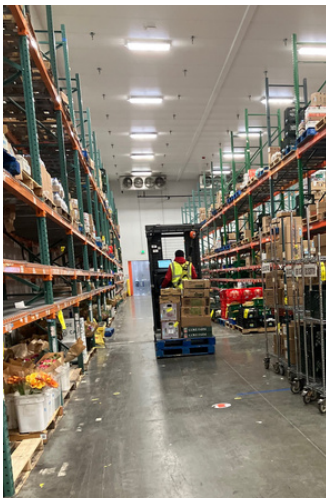
As people of spirit and faith, we seek to disrupt the harm being done, be it by governments, private corporations, or public institutions. We see the Oakland People's Arms Embargo as an urgent opportunity to raise our united voices and demand that public infrastructure be used for the public good, and 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



Saturday Morning with First Church Food Ministry

Each Saturday morning, food ministry volunteers head early to Good Eggs, Whole Foods, and Arizmendi bakery to pick up donated food. Pastor Matt joined Paul at Good Eggs a few weeks back. The Good Eggs warehouse is located in West Oakland near the Port of Oakland. Pastor Matt and Paul put on extra jackets and gloves as they searched through racks of food to see what could be used for Sunday/Monday meals. Bread, bok choy, stir-fry sauces, mushrooms, fancy cheeses, ready made meals were in abundance. They loaded up 268 lbs. of food into Paul's car and brought it to the church kitchen. Volunteers sort through all the donations, communicate with Sunday/Monday leads about what is available, load fridges and freezers, prep hardboiled eggs, and share extra donations with Presbyterian Mission Homes. If you would like to join the Saturday morning crew, please talk with Dorothy Dugger or Pastor Matt.



First Church Visit to College Students

Pastor Matt flew to Atlanta, Georgia last week to visit Cole Provost at Morehouse college. Cole is enjoying his first year. He is taking courses in business, intro to religion, and Spanish this semester. Cole and a friend are starting a new club for students from the Bay Area, to build community and make connections. He is enjoying making new friends, time for personal growth, and discerning if he wants to play basketball more competitively again. Cole will be coming home over the summer break. Cole asks for prayers for his upcoming final exams and for a safe journey home. (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.)



Celebrating National Jazz Appreciation Month



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

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

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Temple Tidings

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