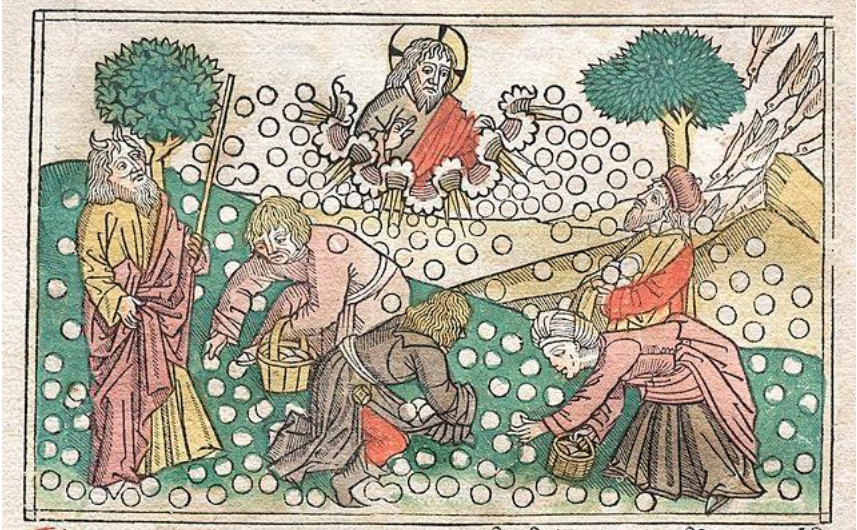


# Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 24, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship



*Manna Falling from Heaven, Nuremberg Bible, Germany*

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And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

*Exodus 16:10*

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## First Presbyterian Church

Mailing address: P.O. Box 2729; San Bernardino, California 92406

909.882.3308

[www.fpcsb.net](http://www.fpcsb.net)

**COMMISSIONED LOCAL PASTOR:** DR. WENDY L. LAMB

**MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT:** REV. DR. STEPHEN SMITH

**PASTOR EMERITUS:** REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST;

AMY GANO, BELLS

# Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

**This service is being livestreamed** and can be viewed on our YouTube channel in real time or as a recording. **Large-print copies of this order of service**, as well as **audio enhancement devices** are available **from the ushers**.

## **We gather on Sunday for 3 reasons:**

- **To seek God**- whom we find in sacred text and sacrament, in music and in song, in prayer, in the beauty of this space, in the stillness where we can hear our hearts. We offer God our thanks and praise, our lament and longing, and our resources. We let go of burdens and receive grace and forgiveness. We see the One our hearts love.
- **To practice Community** – rejoice w/those who rejoice, weep w/those who weep. To break bread with those whom we love and those whom we need to love more fully. We practice things our culture does not emphasize: resting, forgiving, sharing. Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us, and we cannot do so without practice.
- **To listen for our Call**- often an invitation to go out and be or do or remember. God is speaking all the time: through conscience, nature, friends, and certainly scripture. We gather to listen for that Call and to recommit ourselves to discipleship.

Information on our common life can be found on our website [www.fpcsb.net](http://www.fpcsb.net), along with sermons and newsletters. You can participate in our work by supporting us financially with a one-time or sustaining donation.

Children are **welcome** in worship. Younger children may go to the Nursery at any time.

**OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

# MORNING WORSHIP†

Lector: Brent Nord

## REFLECTION before the SERVICE

In the wilderness, God can seem very far away, or absent altogether. It may take weeks, months, or even years to get on track again. In the meantime, every well, every drop of manna, every raven bearing bread in its beak, is salvation. As Walter Brueggemann, renowned theologian and Old Testament scholar, said, "Like manna, [God's] wilderness presence is always enough on which to survive, but not too much. Like manna, he can be graciously received but not stored or presumed upon. Like manna, it is given out of fidelity but never fully seen and controlled." --Rachel Held Evans, *Inspired*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Two Monks*  
(See the Music Box)

*W. Zeitler*

*Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.*

### INTROIT

*Spirit of the Living God*<sup>1</sup>

*Daniel Iverson*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

### \*CALL to WORSHIP<sup>2</sup> (From Psalm 105)

O give thanks to the Lord!

The Lord hears the cries of the people.

✠ Give thanks to the Lord.

The works of the Lord are great.

Remember what God has done.

✠ Give thanks to the Lord.

God has done miracles,

and the Lord always remembers God's covenant.

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† The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

\* **Stand if you are able**    ✠ **The congregation will read.**

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Iona Abbey Worship Book, ©2001 Iona Community/Wild Goose Publications. All rights reserved. Used by Permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

- ✘ Give thanks to the Lord.  
Glory and praise are due to the Lord!

\*HYMN

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*<sup>3</sup>

FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain:* Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (*Refrain*)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (*Refrain*)

PRAYER of CONFESSION

- ✘ Gracious God, we have sought after things, but we have not sought after you. We have expected generosity, but we have not shown generosity. We have not been gracious or grateful. We have failed to remember all that you have done.

*(Moment for silent reflection and confession)*

Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude. Help us to share our gifts and strengthen our legs so that we can run after you, O God. Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

- ✘ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.

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<sup>3</sup> Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923. Music: William Marion Runyan, 1923. Text & Music ©1923, ren.1951 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

*(We stand and sing Alleluia)*

**\*ALLELUIA**

*William Zeitler*

Musical score for Alleluia in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and G4. Above the staff are the chords Em, B, Em, and D. The lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -" are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and G4, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and G4. Above the staff are the chords G, D, and a first ending bracket containing Em and B. The lyrics "lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!" are written below. A second ending bracket contains the chords Em, Bm, and Em, with the lyrics "Al - le al - le - lu - ia!" below it.

**TIME with the CHILDREN**

*[Children are always welcome in worship. After the Time with the Children you may go to KidSpace in Room 11.*

*Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]*

**ANTHEM**

***The Gift of Love*<sup>4</sup>**

*Hal H. Hopson*

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, And have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, But not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come, spirit, come, our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide ev'ry deed. By this we worship and are freed. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE Exodus 16:2-15**

*(Moses and Aaron and the Israelites have left Egypt and are now traveling through the desert.)*

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."

So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has

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<sup>4</sup> Text by Hal H. Hopson based on 1 Corinthians 13, Music American Folk tune arranged by Hal H. Hopson. ©1972 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Dr. Wendy Lamb*

**HYMN**

*We Give Thanks Unto You*<sup>5</sup>

*Haugen*

*(This hymn is based on Psalm 136 with a version of its repeating refrain, "his steadfast love endures forever.")*

**We give thanks unto you, O God of might,  
for your love is never ending;  
we give thanks unto you, the God of gods,  
for your love is never ending.**

**From of old you have led your people in faith,  
for your love is never ending;  
you have shown your compassion, strength, and love,  
for your love is never ending.**

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<sup>5</sup> Text & Music: Marty Haugen. ©1987 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

You delivered the ones who called unto you,  
for your love is never ending;  
from bondage to freedom, you brought them forth,  
for your love is never ending.

You give food and life to all living things,  
for your love is never ending;  
we give thanks unto you, the God of all,  
for your love is never ending.

### THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

*(We offer our gifts as a response to God's Word, to be part of God's purposes  
in the world. You may place gifts in the plate as they are passed - or on  
your way out - or by mail or online.)*

### OFFERTORY

#### \*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTY

✘ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost, Amen.

### PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and OUR 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.

#### \*HYMN

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.  
Let the water and the blood  
from thy wounded side which flowed  
be of sin the double cure,  
cleansing from guilt and make me pure.

TOPLADY

Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfill thy law's demands.  
Could my zeal no respite know,





***What is God calling us to be and do at this time in this place?*** That's the work of Mission Assessment. Learn more, or find a survey you missed, at <https://fpcsb.net/mission-assessment>, or click **Mission Assessment** from the church home page. Surveys or other feedback to the MAT can be sent to the office, to any member of the team, or left in the box at the table in reception.

***God's presence empowers us to bring peace to all people.***

Through our gifts to the **Peace & Global Witness Offering**, we as a single congregation, participate in this larger work that we would not be able to do on our own. A gift to this Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world, as well as right here at home. **We will take up the Offering next Sunday, October 1st, World Communion Sunday.**

***Reformation Sunday***, which we traditionally celebrate with bagpipes and dancers and shortbread cookies, will soon be here! We will have the Kevin R. Blandford Memorial Pipe Band and highland dancers. If you would like to help pay this cost, perhaps as a memorial to a loved one or friend, please get your offering, and the name of the person(s) you wish to honor, to the church office by **Tuesday, October 24th.**

***And what is Reformation Sunday without shortbread cookies?***

(Well, it's still Reformation Sunday, but we *really like* the cookies!) If you are able to bring shortbread for our celebration (you can make it or buy it), **please let the church office know by October 20<sup>th</sup>**, and then bring it to the kitchen before church on or before Sunday, October 29th. The church will purchase some gluten-free shortbread, so that everyone may celebrate!

***More news and announcements are available*** in your Friday *Keeping in Touch* emails. If you are not receiving these, and you would like to, contact Mimi in the church office.

### ***Music Box***

Once upon a time there were two monks on a long journey from one monastery to another — an older veteran monk and a new novice. The road took them to a river. No bridge — the road simply ended at the river banks and continued on the other side. They'd have to wade across the current.

Standing in the road on the river bank was an old woman — too frail to wade across. Now, one of the rules of the monk's order was no contact or conversation with women at all. "Inciting the flesh" and all that. Nevertheless, the older monk asked the woman if she needed help — she enthusiastically nodded 'yes' — and lifting her in his arms, carried her across the current and set her down on the other side. There the road forked. Waving thanks, the woman took one road, and the monks the other.

As they continued their journey, the younger monk was clearly upset. Miles later the younger monk could contain himself no longer. "I can't believe you violated the rules of our order not just touching, but **CARRYING** that — that — that woman! I can't believe you so flagrantly violated our sacred rules!"

The older monk replied: "Have you been carrying that woman in your mind all this time? Not just bodily, but mentally I set her down miles ago."

*-- William Zeitler*



*The seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a symbolic statement of the church's heritage, identity, and mission in contemporary form. Its power depends on both its simplicity and complexity, as well as its traditional and enduring qualities.*

*The basic symbols in the seal are the cross, Scripture, the dove, and flames.*

As a church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), our congregational life is governed by the Ruling Elders of our current Session:

Jeanne Clark, Susan Skoglund, Alex Smith, Tim Usher, Mary Bolaños,  
Brooke Dvorak, Pat Morris, Martha Pinckney, Lily Bolaños,  
Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough,  
and Clerk of Session Amy Smith

and supported by our Board of Deacons:

Rebecca Allen, Sharon Landeros, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord,  
Chris Wright-Thomas, Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Rick Rodriguez,  
Katie Smith, Brad Smith, and Dave Thomas

In this time of change for our congregation, a Mission Assessment Plan will be completed by our Mission Assessment Team:

Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher, Nancy Horstmann,  
Marilyn Kraft, Jim Morris, Brent Nord, Irene Sandoval Suverkrup