





**Fifth Sunday in Lent  
The Feast of St. Patrick  
March 17, 2024  
10:30 a.m. Worship**

*Patrick of Armagh* by Marcy Hall.  
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/MarcyHallArt>

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**Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will  
my servant be also.**

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*--John 12:26a*

## **First Presbyterian Church**

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

**909.882.3308**

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

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

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

**MINISTRY OF VISITATION: LAURIE STAFFORD**

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

**WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST;**

**AMY GANO, BELLS**

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

## 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 Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Phyllis Hough

## REFLECTION before the SERVICE

The way of the Three Sisters reminds me of one of the basic teachings of our people. The most important thing each of us can know is our unique gift and how to use it in the world. Individuality is cherished and nurtured, because, in order for the whole to flourish, each of us has to be strong in who we are and carry our gifts with conviction, so they can be shared with others. Being among the sisters provides a visible manifestation of what a community can become when its members understand and share their gifts. In reciprocity, we fill our spirits as well as our bellies.

Robin Wall Kimmerer,  
*Braiding Sweetgrass*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*A Lenten Prelude*

Charles Callahan

*Susan Addington, flute*

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

## OPENING SENTENCES<sup>1</sup>

One thing I have asked of the Lord,  
this is what I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life;  
to behold the beauty of the Lord  
and to seek God in the temple.  
Who is it that you seek?

✠ **We seek the Lord our God.**

Do you seek God with all your heart?

✠ **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Do you seek God with all your soul?

✠ **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Liturgy for this service drawn from Celtic Daily Prayers by Andy Raine and John C. Skinner,  
©Nether Springs Trust, 1994

Do you seek God with all your mind?

✘ **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Do you seek God with all your strength?

✘ **Amen. Christ, have mercy.**

## DECLARATION of FAITH

✘ **To whom shall we go?**

You have the words of eternal life,  
and we have believed and have come to know  
that You are the Holy One of God.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

## INTROIT

*I bring my heart to Thee<sup>2</sup>*

*David H. Williams*

I bring my heart to Thee Thou Lamb of Calvary. Hear Thou my prayer to thee,  
O living God. Amen.

## \*CANTICLE

Let us pray this version of St. Patrick's Breastplate together.

✘ **Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.**

Christ, as a shield overshadow me.

Christ under me; Christ over me;

Christ beside me on my left and my right.

This day be within and without me,

lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;

in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.

This day be within and without me,

lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Christ as a light; Christ as a shield;

Christ beside me on my left and my right.

**\*HYMN 543** *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

GREEN TYLER

## TIME with the CHILDREN

*[Children are always welcome in worship.*

*There are activity bags in the narthex.*

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

**SCRIPTURE** **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*Old Testament, pg. 735*

**John 12:20-26a**

*New Testament, pg. 106*

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

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<sup>2</sup> ©1964 J. Fischer and Bros. All rights reserved. Use by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

**SOLO**

*Go, Silent Friend*

LONDONDERRY AIR

**SERMON**

*Saint Patrick*

*Pastor Wendy Lamb*

**ANTHEM**

*Here I Am, Lord<sup>3</sup>*

*Dan Schutte*

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry, All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone, I will speak My word to them, Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord, . . . I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord, . . . I will hold Your people in my heart. Here I am, Lord, here I am.

## **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 during the offertory, or on your way out – or by mail or online.)*

## **OFFERTORY**

### **\*DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

- ✠ 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<sup>4</sup>**

- ✠ 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.

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<sup>3</sup> Text & Music: Dan Schutte; arr. Craig Courtney. ©1981 Oregon Catholic Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

<sup>4</sup> Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre

**\*MOMENT for REFLECTION**

**\*BLESSING**

Deep peace of the running wave to you  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you  
Deep peace of the gentle night to you  
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you  
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you  
Deep peace of Christ to you. Amen.

**RESPONSE**

*Paul Sjolund*

Jesus our only Joy be Thou, As Thou our prize wilt be; In Thee be all our glory  
now, And through eternity.

**POSTLUDE**

*Fugue in Bm, WTC I      J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

*(For health reasons we are not greeting at the door)*

**GREETERS:** Jeoff Molcan, Shelby Obershaw

**USHERS:** Al Rueda, *Lead Usher*

Lynn Usher, Tim Usher, *Security Ushers*

**SOUND ENGINEERS:** Dan Direen, Brent Nord

**LIVESTREAM ENGINEER:** James Welte

**CAMERA OPERATORS:** Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK**

**Ron & Ruby Kraft, Deanna Long**

***Elders:*** Brooke Dvorak, Pat Morris, Matha Pinckney

***Deacons:*** Katie Smith, Rebecca Allen, Brad Smith

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

***Mar 18*** Rebecca Nelligan

Todd & Elizabeth Wright

***Mar 22*** Laura Munz

***Mar 23*** Ann Aguilera

Grant Garcia

***Lenten Quiet Nights*** will continue each Thursday through March 21<sup>st</sup>. Come at 5:30 p.m. to the Fireside Lounge for a quiet, contemplative service, followed by a simple supper of soup and bread. The service includes space for silence, and the supper is an opportunity for fellowship. Please join us.

***Palm Saturday!*** Next Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will gather in Fireside Lounge at **9:00 a.m.** for a morning of fellowship and creation, to make palm crosses for Sunday. Everyone invited! No experience required! (Please bring your own scissors!) **At 10:00 a.m., we will prepare the sanctuary for Palm Sunday.** We invite you to join us!

***One Great Hour of Sharing.*** The great challenge and privilege of our faith is that we are called to be repairers of the breach and to live in solidarity with our siblings in Christ, wherever they might be. When you give to the One Great Hour of Sharing, you help restore hope, provide food to the hungry and accompany the poor and oppressed.

This Lent, you can provide safety, sustenance and hope to our most vulnerable siblings in Christ. Remember, when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. ***We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering next week on Palm Sunday.***

***Maundy Thursday Service, March 28, 5:30 p.m.*** Before the joy of Easter, we must accompany Christ through Maundy Thursday. We invite you to come with us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper and welcome the mystery of the cross.

***Butterfly Cookies Needed to celebrate resurrection and new life during Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday.*** Please bring yours to the kitchen before Worship on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for your help!

***Saturday Morning, March 30<sup>th</sup>,*** you're invited **help the Worship Committee prepare our sanctuary for Easter morning.** Bring your garden's most beautiful flowers, blooming branches, and greenery. (If you bring them in buckets of water, they will stay fresh until arranged!) Bring pruning shears and garden gloves if you would like to help make arrangements. We will gather at **9:00 a.m.** Come join us, whether you have flowers to bring or not, in our tradition of beauty and creativity, as we prepare for Easter!

***Companions on the Inner Way Retreat Opportunity,*** Spring 2024

First Pres San Bernardino has a long history of supporting and attending Companions on the Inner Way Retreats. Companions on the Inner Way offers a safe communal place to explore deep longings for the Holy. Grounded in the Christian tradition, the guided retreats incorporate body, mind, and soul through presentations, dialogue, spiritual practices,



art, music, movement, and worship with Eucharist. We strive to create an environment that is theologically curious, radically welcoming, and liturgically vibrant.

This year's retreat will take place from **Sunday, April 14 - Friday, April 19, 2024**. Its theme is 'Canticle of Creation, Mirror of God.' The retreat's brochure states that, "In the legacy of Celtic Christianity, we're reminded that the teachings of the Bible are a wee book, set beside the big book that is Creation." The presenters for this week will be Reverend Simon Ruth de Voil and Dr. Jeanette Banashak. More information is available on the website, [www.cotiway.org](http://www.cotiway.org), where you can also register.

Scholarships are available. Please contact Christa Wallis at [chriwallis@aol.com](mailto:chriwallis@aol.com) if you'd like to receive a scholarship to help defray the cost of attending.

***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*

At age 20, a bright German young man, Georg Neumark (1621-1681), packed his few belongings and left his home in the Thuringian forests. By hard work and frugality, he had saved enough for his first year at the University of Königsberg. Seeking to travel with others because of roving thieves, Georg joined a group of merchants in Leipzig. But after passing through Magdeburg, they were waylaid and robbed on the Gardelegan Heath. Georg lost everything except his prayer book and a few hidden coins.

His university hopes dashed, Georg retraced his way through villages and towns, looking for work. Months passed, and the onset of winter found Georg poorly fed, scantily clothed, cold, and homeless. Just when he was near despair, a pastor named Nicolaus Becker of Kiel befriended him.

Becker wanted to help Georg secure employment, but there was nothing. Then, a position opened unexpectedly — a tutoring job in the home of a local judge named Henning. Georg was hired on the spot, and that very day he composed "If Thou But Trust In God To Guide Thee." (816 in our hymnal.)

While tutoring, Georg saved his money, and the next year he proceeded to Königsberg and enrolled in the university in June 1643, studying law. Shortly afterward, he again lost everything, this time in a fire. But by now, he had no doubt in God's ability to both guide and provide.

After graduating in law from the University of Königsberg, Georg found employment in civil service while building a reputation as a poet and hymn writer.

In 1657, "If Thou But Trust In God To Guide Thee" was published in Neumark's own book of songs, set to a melody he himself had written. He entitled the seven stanzas: "A hymn of consolation. That God will care for and preserve His own in His own time — based on the saying, 'Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain you.' (PS 55:22)"

In later years, Neumark recorded the circumstances of the hymn, saying that his "good fortune, coming suddenly as if it had fallen from heaven, greatly rejoiced me, and on that very day I composed to the honor of my beloved Lord the well-known hymn, 'If Thou But Trust In God To Guide Thee.'"

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Bach has been generally regarded as 'old-fashioned' — even by his contemporaries. But from time to time (with fair frequency) he wrote

things far ahead of his time. This morning's postlude is one of them. But it has a backstory...

There are twelve notes to an octave, giving us twelve "keys": C, C sharp, D, etc. So we have the "key of C", the "key of E-flat", and so on. As it turns out, it's impossible to tune these twelve notes of the keyboard so that all twelve keys will be in tune. This has been known since Pythagoras, 5th century BCE! When keyboard instruments like organs and harpsichords took their modern form around the 14th century, they tuned them so a few keys would be in really good tune, and the rest would be wildly out of tune. Over time the trend was to try to fudge things, so you could have more keys in imperfect but usable tune. This fudging is called 'tempering'. By Bach's day the trend had reached the point where composers wanted to be able to use all twelve keys, and so 'well-tempering' was invented where all the keys were a little out of tune, but usable.

To demonstrate the musical possibilities of this, Bach wrote his "Well-Tempered Clavier" ('clavier' = 'keyboard') in 1722 — 24 Preludes and Fugues, one in each of the 12 major and minor keys. (A prelude & fugue in C major, one in C minor, one in C-sharp major, one in C-sharp minor, etc.) He enjoyed the project so much that he wrote another set twenty years later. He intended these pieces as more than just a demonstration of the possibilities of well-tempered tunings, but also as an encyclopedia of compositional techniques — a pedagogical resource for both players and composers. And indeed it has been — Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, a long list of composers have studied it deeply. (As have I.) Stravinsky would routinely play from the Well-Tempered Clavier before beginning a composing session.

Since this is the very last piece in a set of pieces in all 12 major and all 12 minor keys, we shouldn't be surprised when Bach uses a fugue subject consisting of all 12 notes in the octave. Which makes for a fugue subject that is rather severe and austere. So Bach alternates between developing the tension of this challenging idea with the repose of a gentle counter-idea. His use of chromaticism (making a point of using all 12 notes of the chromatic scale) was quite advanced for Bach's time — we have to wait until the late 19th/early 20th century to find music with this same degree of chromaticism.

Since this may not be everyone's cup of tea, I'm playing it as the postlude. But to me this is what Lent is about — remembering the dark side of Life. So playing this piece seems an apropos way to conclude Lent.

*--William Zeitler*

*Cover Art*  
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