

Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 15, 2023 10:30 a.m. Worship



I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him. *1 Corinthians 1:4-5a*

First Presbyterian Church

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MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT: REV. DR. SANDRA R. TICE

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN SMITH

COMMISSIONED LOCAL PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

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, 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, February 5th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Wanda Skipper

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

A 30,000 foot view of church history is revealing. When we were in power (politically and militarily) we caused incredible damage and betrayed the mission of Jesus of Nazareth. When we were pushed to the edges or forced to face a great injustice, we found our voice and purpose. We remembered that our mandate is love and not force.

Bishop David Nagler, *The Gift of the Ec-centric Church*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Pavanne pour une infante défunt* M. Ravel (1875-1937)
(*Pavanne for a Dead Princess*)

Susan Addington, Flute

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

*CALL to WORSHIP

Among the poor, among the proud,

✘ **Christ walks with us.**

In celebration, in consolation,

✘ **Christ comes where we are.**

In this place, in every place, for this time, for all time,

✘ **Christ is coming to make all things new.**

*HYMN 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

PRAYER of CONFESSION

✘ **God of Light,**

we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light.

We follow the false lights of success and fortune.

We follow dim light that calls us to be Beloved by following rules.

We follow the fading light of our individual preferences.

Forgive us for not seeking the true Light of Your love for us and for all the world.

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

* Stand if you are able

✘ The congregation will read.

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

**Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion and justice,
in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed.**

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le al - le - lu - ia!

Chord symbols: Em, B, Em, D, G, D, Em, B, Em, Bm, Em.

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship. After Time with the Children, our children pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to join Nancy Horstmann & Jeanne Clark for KidSpace in Room 11. Parents, please pick your children up immediately following worship.

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

ANTHEM *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*¹ Kathleen Thomerson

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. *In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.* I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. *In Him there is . . .* I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. *In Him there is . . .*

SCRIPTURE Psalm 27:1

Old Testament, page 503

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

New Testament, page 165

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

¹ Words & Music: Kathleen Thomerson; arr. Benjamin Harlan ©1970 Celebration. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONCLICENSE #A706254.

SERMON

Sandy Tice

SUNG REFRAIN *We Will Take What You Offer*²

Iona

- ✘ We will take what you offer, we will live by your word;
we will love one another and be led by you, Lord.
We will take what you offer, we will live by your word;
we will love one another and be led by you, Lord.

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDRETH

- ✘ 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 339**

Lift Every Voice and Sing *J. Rosamond Johnson*

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE**

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*³ *Peter C. Lutkin*

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift his countenance upon you; and give you peace, and give you peace, the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you, be gracious, the Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Canzona

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Jim Huffstutler, Bob Saenz, Ramon Ramirez

Elders: Jeanne Clark, Susan Skoglund, Alex Smith

Deacons: Chris Wright-Thomas, Dan Direen, Robin Edwards

GREETERS: Jeoff Molcan, Laura Munz

USHERS: Lynn Usher, *Lead Usher*

Al Rueda, Tim Usher, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

This Weeks' Celebrations

***Jan 16* Esther Olsen**

Deon & Patrick Garcia

***Jan 17* Lynette DuClos-Adelson**

Mark Munz

***Jan 20* Beverly Kristoffersen**

If you would like to have your birthday or anniversary included in our list of celebrations, or if you would like to make a correction to something that is already listed, please contact Mimi in the church office (909-882-3308), or email pres.first@gmail.com with the name and date.



Congregation members are invited to an
Open House
Sunday, January 15th at 11:30 a.m.
to visit
Oak Tree D Street
opening here on
Tuesday, January 17th!
Come see the facilities and celebrate this new thing
that is being done!

Annual Reports! If you are a committee chair or in charge of some activity, it is time to submit your annual report for 2022. The reports must be submitted to Amy Smith (amym952@aol.com) or to Mimi Lange (pres.first@gmail.com) **by Tuesday, January**. Questions? Contact Mimi or Amy, and they will be happy to help you.

The Food Ministry is asking for volunteers to help bag food this **Monday, January 16th**, in preparation for the following Saturday's food distribution.

Come to **Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m.** Questions? Contact Rick Rodriguez or Marilyn Kraft. Thanks for your support.

Submit articles and announcements for the **February edition of the *First Press*** to newsletter@fpcsb.net by **Thursday, February 19th**. Articles need not be formatted in any particular way, as the editor must reformat them anyway. If you submit artwork or photos, please attach them to your email rather than embedding them in the body of the email or Word document.

Leonard Scholarship Applications. Applications for fall 2023-2024 are available in the church office and on the church website. **All applications must be in the church office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28th, 2023.** Any questions can be emailed to Lynda K. Savage at Lksavage3@gmail.com.

Offering Envelopes are available from the church office. If you haven't got yours, contact the church office, and we will arrange a way to get them to you.

Save the Date! On **Sunday, December 31st, 2023** we will celebrate our 150th anniversary as a church! Watch for more information. **If you have current photos or photos from years past showing the life of our church**, you can help with the celebration by giving us a copy. There is a box on the reception desk in the office to put the photos in. Please write your name on the back of the photo if you want it to be returned to you. If you would prefer to have us make a copy and return the original right away, just let the office staff know, and that is what we will do.

Per Capita Apportionment for 2023. Per Capita is sent to Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly for administrative expenses so that mission dollars are spent on mission. The amount set for 2023 is \$40.00 per member. We hope that our members will consider giving \$40 per church member in addition to your regular offering to help us meet our \$8,520.00 obligation to the larger church. Thank you for your help.

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

We just looked at the 'Logos' – an idea that goes back to the Greek philosopher Heraclites around 500 BCE. Heraclitus (and his intellectual heirs) said that Logos is the organizing principal that turns the cosmos and everything in it (including you and me) from a pile of atoms into the magnificent dancing structures we see all around us, from the unbelievable 'machine' that is a single cell, to the organization of entire galaxies. It's a lot like the Laws of Physics, except 'Physics' suggests what we've figured out so far, whereas Logos encompasses the vastness of the structure of the Cosmos and everything in it that still remains a mystery. (And may forever remain so.)

Let's consider Logos a little more. Since it governs the entire Cosmos, it's infinite in extent, and since it's here for all time past, present and future, it's infinite in Time as well. Sounds a lot like the attribute ascribed to God called 'Omnipresence'. It's also immutable — it does what it does whether we like it or not. There's no getting around the Law of Gravity when nobody's looking, no fudging the Laws of Thermodynamics. The entire Cosmos obeys its implacable Laws, from individual cells to massive galaxies. Sounds a lot like the attribute ascribed to God called 'Omnipotence'.

The Logos also can't be seen, heard, felt, touched or tasted — it's not material. It operates on a plane 'above' the physical in the sense that a boss 'above' their workers organizes the tasks of those 'under' them. It's 'metaphysical' in the original sense of that term: "above the physical". So are the Laws of Physics. And Mathematics, for that matter. In other words, I don't see how you can not believe there is some organizing principle greater than ourselves governing the Cosmos. The theist says this organizing principle has consciousness, whereas the atheist says it does not. But those are both 'metaphysical' stances.

Where Heraclitus' Logos differs from the usual concept of God is that the Logos wasn't conscious. But in the Abrahamic religions (those descended from Abraham: Judaism, Christianity and Islam) God is conscious something like we are. Not all religions are so: Buddhism doesn't acknowledge a supreme God or deity, but they do have the 'dharma' which is something like the laws that govern our spiritual lives. Taoism has the 'Tao': the source of everything and the ultimate principle underlying reality. Something like the Logos, except that the Tao is fundamentally unknowable and inscrutably mysterious ("the Tao that can be told is not the true Tao..."). I think it's safe to say that religions (and the non-religious) all agree there is something greater than ourselves running the show, they disagree on whether it has consciousness, and its nature if it has one.

Interestingly, there is a movement in physics suggesting that the Cosmos may be conscious after all, an idea called 'panpsychism' (though they do not equate this consciousness to any particular religion's understanding). In your spare time you also might check out "Integrated Information Theory" which attempts to provide a framework capable of explaining why some physical systems (like us) have consciousness, and what it would take for other systems to be conscious (Animals? Artificial Intelligence? The entire Cosmos?). Sometimes it seems to me that the deeper we dig into the Cosmos and ourselves, the more bizarre, strange, and miraculous it all becomes.

* * *

Ravel wrote the "Pavane pour une Infante Défunte" when he was 24 while in conservatory. It has become one of his more popular pieces. A 'pavane' is a slow dance from the 16th century. Asked about the title, Ravel said, "The title has nothing to do with the composition. I simply liked the sound of those words and I put them there, that's all." Ravel also stated that the piece depicted a pavane as it would be danced by an Infanta (daughter of a ruling monarch in Spain or Portugal) as painted Diego Valazquez — a 17th century painter at the court of King Philip IV of Spain.

-- William Zeitler