

Transfiguration Sunday

February 19, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship



*Moyers, Mike. **Be Thou My Vision**, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" *Matthew 17:5*

First Presbyterian Church

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

909.882.3308

www.fpcsb.net

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, March 5th.
Our deacons will set the table so all may be made welcome.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Dotti Garcia

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

“All I want to say to you is, ‘You are the beloved,’ and all I hope is that you can hear these words as spoken to you with all the tenderness and force that love can hold. My only desire is to make these words reverberate in every corner of your being.” -- **Henri Nouwen**,

*from Life of the Beloved:
Spiritual Living in a Secular World*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Sanctuary of Faith

William Zeitler

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

*CALL to WORSHIP

You are our light and salvation; whom shall we fear?

✘ **You are the stronghold of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid?**

One thing we ask of you, O God, that we will seek after:

✘ **to live in your house all the days of our lives!**

*HYMN 32

I Sing The Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

PRAYER of CONFESSION

✘ **God of compassion,**

In Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory,

But we turn away, distracted by our own plans.

We confess that we speak when we should listen,

And act when we should wait.

(A moment for silent reflection and confession)

✘ **Forgive our aimless enthusiasms.**

Grant us wisdom to live in your light

And to follow in the way of Jesus, your Beloved.

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

* Stand if you are able ✘ The congregation will read.

(We remain seated for the refrain)

KYRIE ELEISON

James C. Huffstutler

✘ Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy on us!

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

The light of God's love shines in us through the Spirit.

Friends, believe the good news

✘ 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 - lu - ia!

Chords: Em, B, Em, D, G, D, 1. Em, B, 2. Em Bm, Em

ANTHEM

Let Songs of Praise Begin¹

Gordon Young

Let songs of praise begin to worship God on high! Let songs of praise begin to glorify our God! Sing praise to God, sing praise to God. Let all the people praise the Lord! We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture, we are God's people the sheep of God's pasture, we are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture, we are God's people the sheep of God's pasture, we are the children of God, we are the children of God! Let songs of praise begin to worship God on high! Let songs of praise begin to glorify our God! Sing praise to God, sing praise to God. Let all the people praise the Lord!. Let all the people praise the Lord!

SCRIPTURE Matthew 17:1-9

New Testament, pg. 18

And from the cloud there came a voice, saying:

This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him!

✘ Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Sandy Tice

SUNG REFRAIN *We Will Take What You Offer²*

Iona

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

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² ©1998 Iona Community/WGRG, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

**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

(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

- ✘ **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**

*We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*³

HYFRYDOL

**We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.**

**Light breaks through our clouds and shadows;
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word;
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the law and prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,**

³ Text by Carl P. Daw, Jr. ©1988 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

stands transfigured and complete.
 Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
 fearful lest our faith decline,
 we like Peter find it tempting
 to remain and build a shrine.
 But true worship gives us courage
 to proclaim what we profess,
 that our daily lives may prove us
 people of the God we bless.

TIME with the CHILDREN

[We welcome our children as we worship together. There are activity bags in the narthex. Infants through pre-K may go to the Nursery at any time.]

*ALLELUIA

William Zeitler

The musical notation is for the Alleluia, set in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of two staves. 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, and B4. A repeat sign follows. The melody continues with quarter notes C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, and C4. Chord markings above the staff are Em, B, Em, and D. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, and C4. Chord markings above are G, D, and F#m. A first ending bracket covers the notes G4, A4, B4, and C5, with a chord marking of B. A second ending bracket covers the notes G4, A4, B4, and C5, with chord markings of F#m, Bm, and F#m. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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!

CHANGING PARAMENTS

We will sing this until the paraments are changed:

REFRAIN 204

*Stay with Me*⁴

- ✘ Stay with me; remain here with me;
 watch and pray. Watch and pray. *(Repeat)*

As we sing, the paraments are changed, the Alleluia banner is carried out, the Watch and Pray banner is carried in, the worship leaders change their stoles, the Paschal candle is lighted.

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

⁴ © 1984 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé. GIA Publications, Inc., agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254

***RESPONSE**

***Over My Head*⁵**

arr. John L. Bell

Over my head, I hear music in the air, over my head, I hear music in the air, over my head, I hear music in the air: there must be a God somewhere. Now when I think on Jesus, I hear music in the air. There must be a God somewhere. Over my head, I hear music in the air, over my head, I hear music in the air, over my head, I hear music in the air: there must be a God somewhere

POSTLUDE

Alchemical Cauldron

W. Zeitler

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Charlene Peterson, Beverly Snell

Elders: Alex Smith, Tim Usher, Mary Bolaños

Deacons: Robin Edwards, Marianna Fowles, Rick Rodriguez

GREETERS: Jeanne Clark, Susan Skoglund

USHERS: Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Jim Siegmund, Al Rueda, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

This Weeks' Celebrations

***Feb 19* Kevin Law**

Amy Smith

***Feb 22* Janet McKinster**

***Feb 23* Martha Pinckney**

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.

⁵ African American Spiritual arranged by John Bell. ©1998 Iona Community/Wild Goose Resource Group, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission of One License #A706254.

Leonard Scholarship Applications. Leonard Scholarship 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.

Help us keep our website current! *If you are a committee chair or activity leader,* take a look at our website (<https://www.fpcsb.net>), and see if the information on your ministry is current and correct. If not, please send comments/corrections to webadmin@fpcsb.net. ***If you take photos of church activities,*** send them to the same address.

Save the Date! Sunday, December 31st, 2023 is when 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 letting us have 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. Or send Or send a digital photo or a scan of a photo to Mimi Lange at churchoffice@fpcsb.net!

Per Capita Apportionment for 2023. This is the money we must send to Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly for administrative expenses, ensuring mission dollars are spent on mission. The amount set for 2023 is \$40.00 per member, or \$8,250 for our congregation. We hope that some of our members will consider giving \$40 per church member in addition to your regular offering to help us meet this obligation. Please consider this if you are able. Thank you for your help.

The scale of the disaster facing Syria and Turkey after the Feb. 6 earthquake is becoming clearer. The 7.8-magnitude quake and its aftershocks have left more than 23,000 people dead and thousands more injured; these numbers will rise as search and rescue continues. **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)** is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas through long-standing partners in Syria, in addition to ACT Alliance members in Syria and Turkey, all of whom are already on the ground. PDA will remain active throughout the entire recovery process, accompanying our partners in the area as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience.

If you would like to give to support these efforts, financial support for relief efforts can be designated to **DR999999-ST Earthquake**. Gifts can be made by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to the church with “DR999999-ST Earthquake” written on the memo line.

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

Recently I wrote about how Roman Emperor Constantine (272-337) realized that flourishing 'renegade' Christianity could actually be an ally in his attempts to hold the Roman Empire together. So he legalized Christianity in 325, and convened the Council of Nicea to settle what the One True Christianity would be (so the One True Church could be of maximum usefulness to the Empire). And thus began the unholy alliance of Church and State that would characterize Western Christianity until relatively recent times.

There's nuance here I'd like to explore. One might be tempted to think what a poor choice the Catholic Church made jumping into bed with Constantine – easy to say when they've been feeding you to the lions and suddenly they offer to stop. But furthermore, one should remember that civilization as they knew it was coming apart at the seams. They were increasingly having to deal with barbarian hordes rampaging through the Western Empire. And the economic consequences of that (like crops). We in comfy 21st century America haven't had to deal with barbarian armies destroying everything in sight in the Inland Empire. Or real famine. Western Civilization, including the Western Church, was fighting for its very survival, and just surviving a fight for your very existence can be its own enormous accomplishment. And sometimes survival isn't pretty.

So I'd also like to highlight a few positive contributions of the Catholic Church in the millennium when they were the only Church around (400-1500-ish) just to balance things out.

The first is hospitals. To be sure there were 'medical centers' in the ancient world, notably the Temples of Aesculapius (the god of healing). However, there were only a handful of them in the Mediterranean world, so of course these would be inaccessible to the poor – due to the cost of travel alone.

Instead, a tradition evolved during the development of the Catholic Church when benevolent outreach included not only caring for the sick but also feeding the hungry, caring for widows and children, clothing the poor, and offering hospitality to strangers. This religious ethos of charity continued with the rapid outgrowth of monastic orders in the fifth and sixth centuries and extended into the Middle Ages. This idea of care for the poor – in the form of food, shelter, and medical care, was a uniquely Christian idea (dare I say Roman Catholic idea?) For example, our own St. Bernardine's Hospital here in San Bernardino: "It was in 1931 that the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word first founded a small hospital in San Bernardino. Today, that hospital – St. Bernardine Medical Center – has grown into a 342-bed, not-for-profit health care facility delivering

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compassionate, quality care to all who enter our doors." Of course many hospitals have been founded by Protestants too. My point is that the very idea of hospitals available to all was a Christian idea first developed by the Catholics.

My second observation is that virtually all Christian mystics in Christian history have been Catholic, for example St. Francis, Hildegarde of Bingen, St. John of the Cross, Catherine of Siena. Furthermore, when the Catholic authorities decided you had had a genuine mystical experience of God, it didn't matter if you were a man or woman – they pretty much left you alone, even when your Experience strained the boundaries of kosher Catholic theology.

My final observation is that early on the Catholic Church appreciated the importance of the Feminine – as exhibited by their veneration of Mary. We may disagree with this particular practice. My only point is that they had an appreciation of the super-importance of the Feminine, and gave the Feminine an extremely prominent place in their theology. (While oppressing women generally at the same time. We humans can be so self-contradictory!)

I'm not trying to put the Catholic Church on some kind of pedestal. Instead, I'm trying to show that from a place of ignorance it's easy to reduce folks to simplistic 'they're Good', or 'they're Evil'. But when one goes to the trouble to understand their context and history, whether it be an individual or a group or an institution, sometimes we discover that we might have made the same choices ourselves. Which in hindsight may not have been the best of choices. And maybe they also got some things right.

So, today, may we do our best to learn from the mistakes of the past, grateful for what they got right, and press on. Hoping that the mistakes WE will inevitably make won't be even worse! -- *William Zeitler*