

February 26, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship

# *Good Enough:*

Embracing the Imperfections  
of Life and Faith

*Lent 1*

"Ordinary lives can be holy."

---

---

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.

*Luke 13:1*

---

---

## **First Presbyterian Church**

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

**909.882.3308**

[www.fpcsb.net](http://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](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, March 5<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Our deacons will set the table so all may be made welcome.**

# Morning Worship†

## REFLECTION before the SERVICE

In this season, we hope to carve out the space between despair and hope, between believing everything is possible and nothing is possible. We are on the lookout for beauty and meaning and truth in the midst of lives that didn't turn out like we thought they should. We can have lives where God breaks in and surprises us. We can learn to believe that we are blessed regardless of how our lives appear on social media or at high school reunions.

Kate Bowler, Jessica Richie. *Good Enough*.

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Fugue ("the Wedge")* J. S. Bach (1685-1750)  
*BWV 548*

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

## INVITATION to LENT

### SUNG RESPONSE

*Good Enough*

What in our lives do we dream about for tomorrow, void of sorrow?  
Time spent regretting decisions of our yesterdays, mistakes we made?  
Sometimes we get what we get,  
life disappoints us and yet,  
God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough. *[repeat]*

## CALLING on GOD *(Based on Psalm 91)*

Let us pray together:

✘ **Holy One, Our Refuge and Shelter,**  
**we call out to you,**  
**sometimes in praise, sometimes in distress.**  
**Whether we can feel it or not, you are here.**  
**Open us this day to your presence**  
**in the smile of a friend, in the call of a bird–**  
**in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days.**  
**Amen.**

---

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

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

## TIME with the CHILDREN

*[Children are always welcome in worship. After the time with Children, we invite our children ages 4 to 11 to go to 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.]*

**\*HYMN 65**

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CWM RHONDDA

## PRAYER of CONFESSION

We find ourselves hungry for many things that we believe will bring us satisfaction. In today's Gospel, the devil expects that Jesus will jump at the chance for glory, fame, and the quick fix. Who wouldn't? But Jesus keeps remembering what God has said until the Tempter slinks away. What are the temptations that catch your ear, singing out promises that your life should be more special than it is? What if ordinary life is already holy? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

*(Moment for silent reflection and confession)*

## ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Hear this word from the Letter to the Romans: "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart... Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from feeling not-good-enough, and comparing ourselves to others. God invites us to love our ordinary lives and see their true beauty. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

## ANTHEM

*And Can It Be That I Should Gain*<sup>1</sup>

*Jim Taylor*

And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued? *Amazing love! How can it be that Thou my God shouldst die for me?* He left His Father's throne above, So free, so infinite His grace; Emptied Himself of all but love, And bled for Adam's helpless race: 'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me. *Amazing love! . . .* 'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies! Who can explore His strange design? In vain the first-born seraph tries To sound the depths of love divine! 'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore, Let angel minds inquire no more. Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast-bound in sin and nature's night: Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray, I woke, the dungeon

---

<sup>1</sup> Text: Charles Wesley, 1738. Music: Jim Taylor. Words & Music © 2003 Hinshaw Music, Inc. All rights Reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254,

flamed with light: My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee. *Amazing love!* . . . No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head, And clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach th'eternal throne, And claim the crown, through Christ my own. *Amazing love!* . . . .

**SCRIPTURE Joel 2:12-13**

**SCRIPTURE Luke 4:1-13**

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**                    *An Imperfect Life and Faith*                    *Rev. Dr. Sandy Tice*

**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.)*

**BELL OFFERTORY**                    *(A) Little Suite*                    *Douglas Wagner*

**\*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**                                    *Be Not Afraid*<sup>2</sup>                                    *Bob Dufford*

**You shall cross the barren desert,  
but you shall not die of thirst.  
You shall wander far in safety**

---

<sup>2</sup> Text based on Isaiah 43.2-3; Luke 6.20ff. ©1975, 1978, Robert J. Dufford, SJ and Oregon Catholic Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.



All liturgy and leader parts Marcia McFee ©  
[www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough). Used and adapted with permission.

“Good Enough” theme song by Marsha Charles, Marcia McFee, Chuck Bell.  
Used with permission of Worship Design Studio.

“A Blessing for a Joyfully Mediocre Journey” from [Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection](http://www.katebowler.com/goodenough) by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.  
Used with permission. Purchase the book at [www.katebowler.com/goodenough](http://www.katebowler.com/goodenough).

**GREETERS:** Jeanne Clark, Linda McCarl

**USHERS:** Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Tim Usher, Mark Adelson, *Security Ushers*

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

**VIDEO ENGINEER:** James Welte

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

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK**

**Ann Aguilera, Ruth Alford, Marianna Fowles**

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

***Deacons:* Katie Smith, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas**

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

***Feb 26* Christa Wallis**

***Mar 2* Kristine French**

Lynda Savage

Kurt Star

***Mar 3* Teofila Rosemarie Fletcher**

Asher Gano

***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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:churchoffice@fpcsb.net)!

***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

Lent to me is a paradoxical season of the church year: on the one hand dealing with titanic issues like Suffering, Death, and Eternity. But on the other it's a time of contemplation, of quietly turning inward. So for Lenten preludes I alternate between those two, starting off Lent with a titanic piece.

The 'fugue' is a rather curious form in the history of music. Fugues had their heyday in the baroque era, but composers still write them (including yours truly).

A fugue has two main features: 1) it's 'counterpoint', meaning it has multiple independent, equally important voices. In most music, one player gets the cool main melody, and everyone else has to play a relatively boring supporting role. But in counterpoint, everyone gets an equally interesting part. Dixieland jazz is an excellent example of modern counterpoint. 2) Fugues are built around a main musical idea, called 'the fugue subject'. And just to make sure you know what that is, the fugue starts with the subject all by itself, and when each additional voice comes in, the first thing it has to do is announce once again the fugue subject. Once all the independent voices have announced the fugue subject, the composer can pretty much do what they want, except that the fugue subject needs to dominate the piece.

Fugues are considered really hard to write, mostly because it's hard to write good counterpoint — where all of the separate voices each have an interesting melodic part, but all those melodic parts fit together. If you think about the political/social tension between 'each of us citizens has independent rights', but "all of us also have to work together and fit together to make the community work as a whole" — melodious individually, and melodious together — I can't think of a better musical metaphor for happy humanity than the fugue.

It's so difficult a musical form to pull off that most fugues are at best on the stodgy side. Bach himself — considered the master of that form — wrote plenty of less than thrilling fugues. But from time to time he was able to make the fugue transcend itself.

For a moment we need to go back to Athanasius Kircher (1602-1680), a brilliant and eccentric Jesuit polymath who wrote about everything from volcanoes to Egyptian hieroglyphs. (He had himself lowered into a volcano so he could get a closer look!) He also wrote a massive tome about music (some 1100 pages long) called *Musurgia Universalis* — 'The Universal Musical Art'. Amongst many other wonders, the *Musurgia* contains a round that can be sung by twelve million two hundred thousand

voices! Kircher also articulated 8 basic types of music: sacred, canon (rounds), fantasy, madrigals, songs, dance, symphony, and dramatic (opera?). He described the fantasy (Latin: *Stylus Phantasticus*) as: "the most free and unfettered method of composition, bound to nothing, neither to words, nor to a harmonious subject." Bach's [in]famous 'Tocatta in D minor' is an excellent example of the *Stylus Phantasticus*.

So if you imagine a music spectrum where on one end you have highly structured music – like fugues, and on the other end the freest of the wild and free – like fantasies... what if you composed a Musical Paradox that was BOTH? A structured fugue and a fantasy – **IN THE SAME PIECE?** You'd end up with this morning's prelude. This fugue is nicknamed 'the Wedge' because the notes on the printed page form a wedge-like pattern.

Bach wrote this piece later in life, so it represents the culmination of many decades of effort mastering – and transcending the form. He easily wrote many hundreds of fugues – far beyond 10,000 hours – to get to the place where he could write this one. Just the idea of writing a musical paradox like this – and so magnificently pulling it off – boggles my mind.

In Dante's famous *Divine Comedy* (1321), the entrance to Hell has a sign over it: "Abandon all hope all you who enter". Any more that seems to be the sign over the six-o'clock news. Of course much of the media news deliberately caters to serving up the worst of humanity because that garners an audience. But an antidote, it seems to me, is to remind ourselves of the greatness that can be humanity. In the arts, in the sciences, in athletics, in political statesmanship, in charitable service, in every human endeavor – greatness walks among us still.

*–William Zeidler*