

March 5, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship



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...How often have I desired to gather your children together as a  
hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

*Luke 13:34*

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## First Presbyterian Church

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

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[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, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.**  
**Our deacons will set the table so all may be made welcome.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Katie Smith

## REFLECTION before the SERVICE

In the meantime, tell God. All of it. Fiercely. Even the unanswered prayers. Don't leave out a single one. Even if you sit among broken things and your confidence seems to shrink with each day, know that you may feel lonely but you are not alone. You are united in love with all of suffering humanity, and with our God who came to suffer and die. A God of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. But one who also came that we might have life.

Kate Bowler, Jessica Richie. *Good Enough*.

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*The Shadow*

W. Zeitler

*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 27)

Let us pray together:

✘ **Holy One, Our Light and Salvation,**  
**we call out to you,**  
**sometimes afraid of the adversaries in life.**  
**Shelter us in days of trouble, lead us on level paths.**  
**Open us this day to your grace and peace,**  
**transform our frustrations**  
**into simple and good enough moments that fill our days.**  
**Amen.**

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

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

## TIME with the CHILDREN

*[We invite our children to remain with us in worship. There are activity bags in the narthex (entryway).*

*Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery as necessary.]*

### \*HYMN 35

### *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

### PRAYER of CONFESSION

Even Jesus sometimes got frustrated when people didn't understand him. We probably aren't receiving death threats from Herod as Jesus was, but our wellbeing could be threatened by the idea that if we just try hard enough, are nice enough, say just the right thing, life will go our way. We run around in so many directions, trying to herd the chicks into some imagined semblance of perfect formation. What if we could let go of needing all things and all people to be "just so" and instead learn to dance with the unfolding of that which is not ours to control? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

*(Moment for silent reflection and confession)*

### ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Hear this word from the Psalmist: "I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!"

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from feeling alone in fixing what feels so wrong with this world, inviting us to let go of the need to be God, so that we might recognize that God is with us, offering courage in difficulty. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

### ANTHEM

### *My Eternal King*<sup>1</sup>

*Jane M. Marshall*

My God, I love Thee; not because I hope for heav'n thereby, Nor yet because who love Thee not Must Die eternally. thou, o my Jesus, Thou didst me Upon the cross embrace; For me didst bear the nails and spear, And manifold disgrace, Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, Should I not love thee well? Not for the hope of winning heav'n, Or of escaping hell; Not with the hope of gaining aught, Not seeking a reward; But as Thyself hast loved me, O ever loving Lord! E'en so I love Thee, and will love, And in Thy praise will sing; Solely because Thou are my God, And my Eternal King.

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<sup>1</sup> ©1954 Carl Fischer, Inc. Text: 17<sup>th</sup> Century Latin poem translated by Rev. Edward Caswall. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

**SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:6-8**

**SCRIPTURE Luke 13:31-35**

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Out of Our Control*

*Dr. Wendy Lamb*

**MINUTE for MISSION**

*Katie Smith*

**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**

**CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION**

**SURSUM CORDA**

The Lord be with you.

✘ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

✘ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

✘ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PRAYER of THANKSGIVING**

**SANCTUS**

*James C. Huffstutler*

✘ **Holy, holy, Lord Almighty, God of power and might.**

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Glory in the highest!

Blessed! Blessed!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,

hosanna in the highest.

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE, 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.**

## **The PRAYER of CONSECRATION**

## **The WORDS of INSTITUTION**

## **SHARING the BREAD and CUP**

*(Communion will be served by intinction at two stations. As you feel ready, please come up the center aisle to a station, receive a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat it, and return to your seat by the side aisle. The cup is non-alcoholic. Gluten-free bread can be found at the station by the pulpit. There will be rovers to bring the elements to you if you do not wish to come forward.)*

## **SUNG PRAYERS**

*As we go forward to partake in the bread and cup, and as we wait and pray before and after, we sing our prayers together. These refrains will be sung over and over as we make them our own prayers.*

### ***These Are the Gifts of God***<sup>2</sup>

*Ruthanne Svendsen*

- ✘ **These are the gifts of God**
- These are the gifts of God**
- For the people of God**
- For the new creation**
- These are the gifts of God** *(Repeat)*
- Ev'ry time we eat this bread,**
- Ev'ry time we drink this cup,**
- We proclaim the risen Christ**
- These are the gifts of God.**

### ***Return to God***<sup>3</sup>

*Marty Haugen*

- ✘ **Return to God with all your heart**
- The source of grace and mercy**
- Come seek the tender faithfulness of God**

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<sup>2</sup> Text & Music: Ruthanne Svendsen. ©2009 Ruthanne Svendsen. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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*Wait for the Lord*<sup>4</sup>

*Jacques Berthier*

- ✘ Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart!

**PRAYER after COMMUNION**

- ✘ God of grace,  
You renew us at your table with the bread of life.  
May this food give us strength for the journey  
and help us to love and serve you in each other  
and in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

**\*HYMN 821**

*My Life Flows On*

*Robert Lowry*

**\*MOMENT for REFLECTION**

**\*BLESSING and BENEDICTION**

**RESPONSE**

*Good Enough Reprise*

God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough.

**POSTLUDE**

*Improvisation*

*W. Zeitler*

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

*All liturgy and leader parts Marcia McFee ©*

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*“Good Enough” theme song by Marsha Charles, Marcia McFee, Chuck Bell.  
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*“A Blessing for When You Realize Everyone is Struggling” from [Good Enough: 40’ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection](#) by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission. Purchase the book at [www.katebowler.com/goodenough](http://www.katebowler.com/goodenough).*

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<sup>4</sup> Words & Music by Jacques Berthier and the Taizé community. ©1984 Les Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc. exclusive North American Agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

**GREETERS:** Tom & Donna Garza

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

Jim Siegmund, 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**

**Jim Huffstutler, Ramon Ramirez, Robert Saenz**

*Elders:* Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann

*Deacons:* Steve Smith, Rebecca Allen, Sharon Landeros



## This Weeks' Celebrations

**Mar 5** Joyce Lyons  
**Mar 7** Kathy Showman  
**Mar 9** Sherman Ballard  
Brent & Joanna Nord

***Lenten Quiet Nights*** will be held on **Thursday, March 9** and **Thursday, March 23** at **6:00 p.m.** Join us for 20-25 minutes of silence, readings and contemplation followed by a simple soup and bread dinner in Fellowship Hall.

***Palm Crosses*** If you would like to come and make palm crosses on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> (no fooling!), let the church office know so we can plan.

***You shall be called Repairers of the Breach:*** Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) provide a way for those whose lives have been affected by poverty, hunger, or disaster—whether natural or human-caused—to begin to repair the lives of their families and communities. Our children are feeding their fat fish. Adults can feed a child's fish or pretend the designated envelope is a fish. Share God's love with people through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.** We collect fish banks and OGHS gifts on **Palm Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

***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 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

To me one of the more interesting thinkers of the 20th century has to be Carl Jung (1875-1961, pronounced "Yoong"). He was a psychiatrist by profession, and studied under Freud as a young man. He was absolutely devoted to Freud for a season, and then he started to question. For openers, he questioned that everything can be traced to 'sex'. But more importantly, whereas Freud seemed focused on the most psychologically tormented among us (and that is a worthy mission), Jung also wondered what the healthiest of human psyches might look like. Of what are we really capable? To answer that question, he was rather fearless in looking at both the light and darkness in his patients — and himself.

One of his ideas is 'the Shadow'. That we all have a 'Shadow' — a dark side of ourselves that we resist admitting to ourselves. One of his insights is that when we vehemently deny we have a Shadow, it manifests itself in unsavory ways somewhere else in our lives — something like 'whack a mole'. (The arcade game where a mole pokes its head out of a hole, you whack it, and another mole pops up out of another.)

Of course there is enormous similarity between Jung's 'Shadow', and the Christian idea of Sin Nature. But there is subtle distinction I'd like to explore.

'Sin', in Christianity, boils down to our inability to obey The Law (the Ten Commandments, etc.). That boils down to saying we have an inherent lack of will-power to follow these rather straightforward laws. And indeed we do lack that will-power (especially when Jesus raises the bar: that even being angry with your sibling is akin to murder. Jesus is absolutely right, that murder starts with — a thought).

But, is murder wrong in 100.00000% of the time? Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) was a deeply committed Christian, pastor, and writer, who found himself in World War II in Germany, and found himself in a circle of folks which included conspirators to assassinate Hitler. Bonhoeffer agonized over the decision — if murder is ALWAYS wrong, isn't it wrong even to murder Hitler? In the end he decided that there was no 'good' choice, only 'which choice is less evil?' He decided that it was better that one man should die than yet another million. (The attempt failed, of course, and Bonhoeffer along with his co-conspirators was executed.)

So there's another problem right there. If ONLY our choices were always between clear 'goodness' and clear 'evil'. A huge part of our problem is that we're so damn finite. Our understanding is so finite. Our ability to foresee the consequences of our choices is so finite. Our ability to kid ourselves that 'our motives are righteous and pure' when really they are

nothing but self-serving is boundless. When Adam and Eve chose to eat of the Tree of Knowledge, what they really ended up with was the Tree of the Big Lie: that it is always so simple as simple 'Good' and simple 'Evil'. Further motivated by their desire for "I want what I want right now and I don't care about the consequences."

Those are extreme examples, whereas I think most folks really do care about doing the right thing. But we're all still up against the same challenges: the Shadow side of ourselves that erupts when we least expect it. The challenge of making choices when we can't really foresee the consequences. Or those situations where there isn't a 'good choice', only: "which is LESS BAD?"

To me all of this is far more than a 'lack of will-power' – it's the basic nature of the multi-dimensional predicament in which we human beings find ourselves: dark sides of our own psyche's that unpleasantly surprise us; our inability to foresee the consequences of our actions; and our struggle to apply what seem like straightforward and worthy rules to the complex situations we confront.

Which boils down to this: we're human beings with infinite aspirations, but finite means. In one of his movies, Clint Eastwood famously said "A man's got to know his limitations." St. Clint has spoken truly. This is why we need Humility – and not hubris; Compassion – and not judgment. Because we've all got 'limitations', and they are profound.

Humanity's ability for greatness is unbounded. From the greatness of scientists and artists and so forth, to the greatness of the single mom who took on a second job to buy her son a piano (namely, my mother). And so many other examples too numerous to count of astonishing compassion and generosity.

Greatness – great and so-called 'small' – is all around us. What is necessary is to "know our limitations" – and to be gracious and compassionate to those around us, and to ourselves, in remembrance of that.

*--William Zeidler*