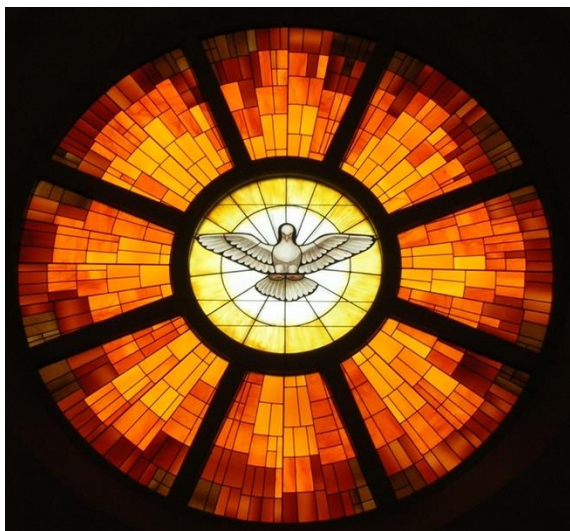


Day of Pentecost

May 28, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship



All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

--Acts 2:4

First Presbyterian Church

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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, June 25th.

Morning Worship†

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

Listening in Tongues

At Pentecost we're pretty sure
we did the miraculous talking,
"speaking in tongues."
But what if in fact the miracle was that
those people from every nation
heard in tongues?

What if they had the God-given gift
to listen deeply enough to know
the work of God when they heard it,
even in a foreign language?

We think we have so much to say.
Maybe we have something to hear.
Maybe the true Pentecostal gift
isn't speaking at all, but listening:
listening in tongues,
letting the Spirit listen through us,
listening in new ways
for what we haven't heard,
listening deeply enough to hear God,
even in the life of someone not like us.

What miracles emerge, when we listen deeply!

Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*

GATHERING MUSIC *Largo from Xerxes* G. F. Handel 1685-1757
Today we will stand for the procession.

WELCOME

PRELUDE *A Pentecost Prelude* C. Callahan
(based on 'Veni Creator Spiritus')
Susan Addington — Flute
Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

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

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

INTROIT *From the Rising of the Sun*¹ *Eric H. Thiman*
From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, the Lord's name
be praised. The Lord's name be praised.

***CALL to WORSHIP**

God of wind and fire
Blow into our lives

✘ **Move us to action,**
Break down the walls that separate us.
Where our language divides

✘ **Offer us translation.**
Where our fear overcomes
✘ **Fill us with the fire of courage.**

Where our lives are becalmed
✘ **Fill our sails with wind,**
Moving us forward into the unknown future.

God of Pentecost
✘ **Fill us with your hope and promise. Amen.**

***HYMN 280** *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us* EBENEZER

***PRAYER of CONFESSION²**

✘ **God of wind and of fire,**
We are predictable, set in our ways.
We are reluctant and we are afraid.
We grow discouraged and feel powerless.
We long for so much more.
(Take a moment to silently name your longing.)
God of fire, burn brightly in your Church.
Kindle in our hearts the fire of your love. Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
✘ **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole.**

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² Thom M. Shuman, *Fire and Bread*

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

Musical notation for Alleluia, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes: Em, B, Em, D, G, D, Em, B, Em, Bm, Em. The lyrics are: 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!

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship.

There are activity bags and books in the narthex.

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

ANTHEM

Fill-a-me Up³

Pepper Choplin

Fill-a-me up, come-a Holy Spirit. Fill-a-me up to the top-a my soul. Fill-a-me up, come-a Holy Spirit. Fill-a-me up now and take control. Fill-a-me up, come-a Spirit come. Fill-a-me up, Holy Spirit, O come. So many things try to fill me up. So many things try to weigh me down. Fill-a my heart now until you stay-and Chase the other things away. Fill-a-me up, come-a Holy Spirit. . . Now my heart is an open door. Here your Spirit is welcome Lord. Fill-a my heart now and let it grow and change my life so all will know. Fill-a-me up, come-a Holy Spirit. . .

SCRIPTURE Acts 2:1-21

New Testament, p. 119

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

Dr. Sandy Tice

HYMN 340

This Is My Song

FINLANDIA

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(We offer our tithes and gifts to be part of God's purposes in the world, and we invite you to take part. You may bring forward your gifts and place them in the plate. You may always send gifts 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, 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.

***RECESSIONAL**

Holy, Holy, Holy

NICAEA

We sing as we walk outside.

Once on the lawn, we'll release doves, a sign of the Spirit's freedom & flight.

Please use all the doors to exit.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Pray for Our Military Members

Sgt. Jacob Allen

US Marines, MFR Band, New Orleans, Louisiana

LCpl Jeremy Allen

US Marines, Okinawa, Japan

PFC Ethan Gano

US Marines, Pensacola, Florida

Seaman Mark Munz

US Navy, San Diego, California

Seaman Robert Sandoval

US Navy, Virginia

Petty Officer Noah L. Wierenga

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River

CW3 James Bentley Wilson

US Army, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington

Cadet Grace Wilson

Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado

THE WHITE WING CEREMONY COMPANY (862.8807) is participating in our service again this year. The beautiful snow-white rock doves are raised and trained in Highland and perform all over Southern California. They represent friendship, love, unity, compassion, charity, and faith. Their release and flight will remind all of us that the Holy Spirit sends us out into the world to share our faith. (Since the birds fly at about 60 mph, they'll be home about 6-7 minutes after they leave – in time for lunch!)

GREETERS: Jeanne Clark, Linda McCarl

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Tim Usher, Mark Adelson, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Ann Aguilera, Ruth Alexander, Marianna Fowles

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

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

This Weeks' Birthdays

May 28 Mark Adelson

Jon Preciado

Maria Saenz

Al & Mindy Rueda

Jun 1 Jon & Nancy Horstmann

Jun 2 Terri Carlos

Amy Elizabeth Rueda

Katie Smith

The PENTECOST OFFERING will be received today.



The Pentecost Offering supports young people throughout the world. 40% of your gift will be used in our local community. The remaining 60% will support Youth Ministries, Young Adult Volunteers, and support the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" initiative.

You are invited to join with Presbyterian Women as we dedicate and celebrate the gifts of the annual Birthday offering. We are pleased to announce that Naomi Kuhlman, the Salvation Army Director of the Hospitality House, will be our speaker. We will meet on **Monday, June 5, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. in Fireside Lounge.** If able, please bring a new twin sheet set as a donation to the Hospitality House. Please come to learn more about the Birthday grants, the Hospitality House in San Bernardino and to enjoy refreshments and fellowship.

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.

The Music Box

On Memorial Day we remember those who "gave their last full measure of devotion" (as Lincoln so beautifully put it) — who gave their lives for their comrades in arms, their kin back home, and what their country stood for: namely, the ideals of Democracy and the Rule of Law (as opposed to the whims of tyrants and mobs).

Soldiers have been dying for the ideal of Democracy for a long time — some of them millennia ago. I thought we might consider an especially extraordinary battle in which fledgling Democracy hung in the balance. It took place in Greece in 480 BCE at Thermopylae ("thur-MAH-poh-lee").

At the time there was no 'country' Greece — it was a hodge-podge of independent city states with no over-arching government, bound by a common language and ancestry, and little else. Indeed, they attacked and sacked each other on a regular basis. One of the most powerful was Athens — the birthplace of Democracy. The other city-states were monarchies (ruled by one) or oligarchies (ruled by a few).

Meanwhile, Xerxes, King of the Persian Empire, decided to annex Greece. Xerxes' father Darius had tried to conquer Greece and failed. So Xerxes went all in with a full-scale invasion supported by long-term planning, stockpiling, and conscription. Xerxes directed that the Hellespont — a narrow waterway separating Turkey and Greece (3/4 of a mile wide at its narrowest) — be bridged to allow his army to cross into Europe. He also ordered a canal be dug across the isthmus of Mount Athos — cutting short the route where a Persian fleet had been destroyed in 492 BCE. These were both feats of exceptional ambition beyond any other contemporary state. By early 480 BC, the preparations were complete, and Xerxes' army marched towards Europe, crossing the Hellespont on two pontoon bridges. Scholars estimate the size of his army at around 300,000. That's a lot of logistics and supplies for the technology of the day!

Of course spies alerted the Greeks that Xerxes was on his way, but that still didn't leave much time to prepare.

One of the most powerful Greek city-states was Sparta — more like a military base than a city. All boys at age seven were put into the "Agoge" — a military academy on steroids. Boys weren't punished for stealing — they were punished for getting caught. When boys turned 20 they entered the Spartan army and lived in barracks until 60. You could marry, but you had to sneak out to spend time with your wife (again, just don't get caught!) Girls were also placed in school that heavily emphasized athletics — preparation for bearing lots of soldier children. And yet, women had almost the same rights as the men — far more than any other Greek city-state. They could own

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property, engage in business transactions, and were better educated than women in ancient Greece in general (including Athens). But a Democracy it was not! (Actually, Sparta had TWO kings, and a kind of parliament that could override the kings, and the first written constitution.)

As it so happened, there was a narrow strip of land with ocean on one side and cliffs on the other through which the Persian army would have to pass, called Thermopylae. And so Sparta volunteered to lead a coalition army of about 7000 Greeks to hold the pass and halt Xerxes' army. Leonidas, King of Sparta and commander of the coalition army, soon realized they wouldn't be able to halt Xerxes for long. So he ordered a strategic retreat of most of his forces so they could regroup with other armies being amassed throughout Greece. And Leonidas and 300 Spartans would cover their retreat and hold the Persian army as long as they could.

That turned out to be three days. Imagine — a company of 300 soldiers held hundreds of thousands of Xerxes' troops at bay for three days! And they would have held out longer, except that a local named Ephialtes showed the Persians a secret path around the Spartan position (for 30 pieces of silver?), and the Spartans were finally overwhelmed from all sides.

Historians disagree on how big a difference three extra days for the Greeks actually made. Hard to say — three days notice that the Japanese were coming to Pearl Harbor would have made a big difference! (Probably not a fair comparison.) But at the very least, surely the psychological impact on both armies had to be huge: for the Persians: “What sort of super-soldiers are we up against?!” And for the Greeks, their rallying cry: “Remember Thermopylae!!”

The Greeks set aside their differences, joined together, and ultimately prevailed, of course. Including Athens and her fledgling “Democracy” — instituted only three decades before Thermopylae.

And so, on this Memorial Day, let's remember those who have fallen for the ideals this country stands for, at Normandy, and Gettysburg, and Bunker Hill, and so many other examples of profound heroism. And let's also pause for just a moment to remember the 300 at Thermopylae, without whom the new-born ideal of Democracy would surely have perished.

--William Zeitler