

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 23, 2023 10:30 a.m. Worship



“Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task...” *Acts 6:3*

First Presbyterian Church

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www.fpcsb.net

COMMISSIONED LOCAL PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN SMITH

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, August 6th.
Our deacons will set the table so all may be made welcome.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Robin Edwards

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

G-2.02 DEACONS: THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE

G-2.0201 Deacon Defined

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

The Book of Order
The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Part II

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

The Laughing Sage

W. Zeitler

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

*CALL to WORSHIP¹

You show us your steadfast love, O Lord,

✠ and grant us your salvation.

We knock at the door,

✠ and you always open to us.

You speak peace to all people,

✠ and we rejoice in your love.

Let us worship God.

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

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

¹ Adapted from Iona Abbey Worship Book, ©2001 Iona Community/Wild Goose Publications. All rights reserved. Used by Permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain : Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (*Refrain*)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (*Refrain*)

PRAYER of CONFESSION³

How often have we heard the good news of forgiveness and restoration? Yet, we are still reluctant to believe. God offers us new life, yet we are afraid to let go of the old. Let us confess our doubts and fears to the One who waits to make us whole.

✘ **We use a lot of words, Gracious God, but don't always turn them into deeds. Instead of being of one heart and soul, we choose sides and form groups of folks just like us. Blessed with great grace, we have trouble sharing it with those who need it the most.**

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

May we listen together for where your Spirit is leading and answer the call. Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

² Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923. Music: William Marion Runyan, 1923. Text & Music ©1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

³ Thom Shuman, *Lectionary Liturgies*

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship. There are activity bags available. Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]

MUSIC for WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE Acts 6:1-8

(The disciples and the new converts are learning to live in community.)

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word."

What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim.

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Dr. Wendy Lamb

In Christ called to baptize, we witness to grace
and gather a people from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ's death,
then, rising to new life, give thanks with each breath.

In Christ called to banquet, one table we share,
a haven of welcome, a circle of care.
Although we are many, we share in one bread.
One cup of thanksgiving proclaims Christ, our head.

In Christ called to witness, by grace we will preach
the life-giving gospel; God's love we will teach.
By grace may our living give proof to our praise
in costly compassion reflecting Christ's ways.

Unite us, anoint us, O Spirit of love,
for you are within us, around us, above.
Equip us for service with gifts you bestow.
In Christ is our calling. In Christ may we grow.

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 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.

⁴ Text: Ruth Duck. Music: Welsh folk melody; adapt, in *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839. Text ©1995
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***HYMN**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service⁵

BEECHER

Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

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

⁵ Text: Jane Parker Huber, 1981. Music: John Zundel, 1870. Text © 1981 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press). All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #706254.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK
Doris Schiavone, Judy Steppins
Elders: Tim Usher, Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak
Deacons: Rick Rodriguez, Katie Smith

GREETERS: Gill & Jane Snyder

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Tim Usher, Marilyn Kraft, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

This Weeks' Celebrations

Jul 23 Cheryl Direen
Kevin Lamb

Jul 24 Larry Marona
Elizabeth Franklin-Morales
Gary Saenz

Jul 28 Wanda Gernux & Bill McIntosh
Charlene Peterson

Garcia Center for the Arts cordially invites you to our first-ever Annual Benefit Gala! Join us **Friday, July 28th, 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm** at The Sterling Natural Resource Center, 25318 West 5th Street, San Bernardino. Enjoy an evening of live music, delicious food, and an exciting auction! **Please RSVP by TOMORROW, July 24th, 2023.** For more info email garciacentersb@gmail.com Tickets are \$125.00 Single, \$225.00 Couple, and \$909.00 for a table. Tickets are available at the center. Call 909-888-6400 between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

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.

Music Box

"Morning has Broken" is the best known work of Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), children's author and poet.

Eleanor was born in London, the daughter of a popular novelist at the time, Benjamin Farjeon. Known as 'Nellie' to her immediate family, she was a sickly child who suffered from poor eyesight and was educated at home. Her father encouraged her to write from the age of five. She eventually earned a living as a journalist, broadcaster, writing poetry and stories and counted among her friends the celebrated D H Lawrence and Walter de la Mare.

"Morning has Broken" was originally published in the second edition of a songbook for children, *Songs of Praise* [1931]. *Songs of Praise* was widely used in schools and its editor, Percy Dearmer, later wrote how the compilers wanted a hymn to give thanks for each day, so Eleanor Farjeon was "asked to make a poem to fit the lovely Scottish tune". It was later published in her anthology called *Children's Bells* [1957] under its current title "A Morning Song - for the First Day of Spring".

Her poem achieved international fame when it was included in Cat Stevens' 1971 album *Teaser & the Firecat*. Stevens had asked his friend Rick Wakeman to write a piano accompaniment for the track. In 1977, Stevens converted to Islam and the following year he adopted the name Yusuf Islam. In 1979 he auctioned all his guitars for charity and left his music career to devote himself to educational and philanthropic causes in the Muslim community.

-- William Zeitler



The seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a symbolic statement of the church's heritage, identity, and mission in contemporary form. Its power depends on both its simplicity and complexity, as well as its traditional and enduring qualities.

The basic symbols in the seal are the cross, Scripture, the dove, and flames.

As a church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), our congregational life is governed by the Ruling Elders of our current Session:

Jeanne Clark, Susan Skoglund, Alex Smith, Tim Usher, Mary Bolaños,
Brooke Dvorak, Pat Morris, Martha Pinckney, Lily Bolaños,
Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough,
and Clerk of Session Amy Smith

and supported by our Board of Deacons:

Rebecca Allen, Sharon Landeros, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord,
Chris Wright-Thomas, Dan Dieren, Robin Edwards, Rick Rodriguez,
Katie Smith, Brad Smith, and Dave Thomas