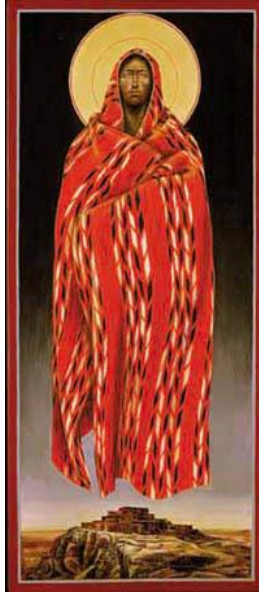


Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time  
August 27, 2023 10:30 a.m. Worship



---

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon  
Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living  
God.” *Matthew 16:16*

---

## First Presbyterian Church

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

909.882.3308

[www.fpcsb.net](http://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](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, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.**  
**Our deacons will set the table so all may be made welcome.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Kendra Lamb

## REFLECTION before the SERVICE

Who do people say that I am?

“John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets.”

And that tells Jesus a lot about the people who are greeting him in cities, gathering to hear him on the hillsides, reaching out to touch him as he passes by. These people who think he is John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets—they are desperate people . . . with a bit of hope.

...These people who say John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets—they are people who know their pop culture, people who know their history and their scriptures, people with a bit of hope.

Who do people say that Jesus is?

It’s an interesting question today as well.

-- *The Rev. Joanna Harader, SpaciousFaith.com*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

*A Leaf in the Wind*

*W. Zeitler*

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

#### INTROIT

*From the Rising of the Sun*<sup>1</sup>

*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<sup>2</sup>

They went to Jesus, and he asked them,

Who do you say I am?

They answered,

You are the eschatological manifestation

Of the ground of our being,

---

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

\* **Stand if you are able**

✠ **The congregation will read.**

<sup>1</sup> Text & Music by Eric H. Thiman. ©1962 The H.W. Gray Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Bott, liturgy.richardbott.com

The kerygma of which we find meaning  
In our interpersonal relationships.  
And Jesus said, What?!  
Faith doesn't have to be that hard.  
Life doesn't have to be that difficult.  
Sometimes, we just have to live God's love.  
Sometimes, we just have to live what we believe.

✘ **And so we are here,**  
**Simply,**  
**To sing,**  
**To celebrate,**  
**To worship God!**

**\*HYMN**

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*  
Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.

DIADEMATA

Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace,  
whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
absorbed in prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end;  
and round his pierced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend  
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time;  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.

### PRAYER of CONFESSION<sup>3</sup>

God you have given each of us many gifts,

✘ **but sometimes we cannot recognize  
what gift we have to share,  
so we hide it under a bushel.**

God you remind us that all gifts are needed,

✘ **but sometimes we let ourselves be convinced  
that some gifts are more special than others.**

God you call us to work, to live, to love together as parts of one body,

✘ **but sometimes we decide that membership in the body  
is limited by our understandings.**

God, for the times we have ignored or mislabeled Your gifts,  
for those times we have cut another off from the body,

✘ **We offer words of repentance,  
we ask for forgiveness and grace.**

*(Moment for silent reflection and confession)*

### ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

God is the giver of MANY gifts.

God is the Creator of the ONE body.

God is slow to anger and quick to forgive.

God helps us to share and honor the gifts of all,

God helps us to heal the wounds and reunite the body.

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

---

<sup>3</sup> Rev Gord worshipofferings.blogspot.ca

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

**\*ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

Musical score for Alleluia in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). Chords above are Em, B, Em, D. The second staff continues the melody: C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half). Chords above are G, D, 1. F#m, B, 2. F#m, Bm, F#m. 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!

**TIME with the CHILDREN**

*[Children are always welcome in worship. There are activity bags, books, and a coloring table available.]*

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

**ANTHEM**

*Blessed Be the Lord*

Timothy Shaw

**SCRIPTURE**

**Romans 12:3-8**

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

**Matthew 16:13-18a**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church..."

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

**✘ Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Dr. Wendy Lamb*

HYMN

*Seek Ye First<sup>4</sup>*

*Karen Lafferty*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and its righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;  
seek, and you shall find;  
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!

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 as they are passed or by  
mail or online.)*

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDDTH

✠ 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

Gracious God, hear our prayer,

✠ and in Your love, answer.

✠ 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

*Nearer, My God, to Thee*

BETHANY

Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!  
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,

---

<sup>4</sup> Text: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty; Stanza 2, Anon. Music Karen Lafferty. Text & Music: ©1972 CCCM Music (Admin. Universal Music-Brentwood Benson Publications, Inc.. All rights reserved. Used by permission of CCLI, Licenses 21814829 & 21814812.

still all my song shall be,  
nearer, my God, to thee;  
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,  
darkness be over me, my rest a stone;  
yet in my dreams I'd be  
nearer, my God, to thee;  
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

There let the way appear, steps unto heaven;  
all that thou sendest me, in mercy given;  
angels to beckon me  
nearer, my God, to thee;  
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Then, with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise,  
out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;  
so by my woes to be  
nearer, my God, to thee;  
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky,  
sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,  
still all my song shall be,  
nearer, my God, to thee;  
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

**\*MOMENT for REFLECTION**

**\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

**RESPONSE**      *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*<sup>5</sup>      Peter C. Lutkin

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace, and give you peace, the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you, be gracious, the Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

*Improvisation*

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

---

<sup>5</sup> Text & Music: Peter C. Lutkin. ©1959 Theodore Presser. All rights reserved. Used by permission of One License #A706254.



**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK**  
**George Biddlecombe, Noé Falconi, Larry Marona**  
*Elders: Brooke Dvorak, Pat Morris, Martha Pinckney*  
*Deacons: Katie Smith, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas*

**GREETERS:** Jeanne Clark, Robin Edwards  
**USHERS:** Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*  
Brad Smith, Mark Adelson, *Security Ushers*  
**SOUND ENGINEERS:** Dan Direen, Brent Nord  
**LIVESTREAM ENGINEER:** James Welte  
**CAMERA OPERATORS:** Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

*Aug 27* Jessica Edwards  
*Aug 28* Sarah Alyda Fletcher  
*Aug 29* Jim & Sheila Cimino  
*Aug 30* Wanda Gernux  
Shannon Nolin

***God's presence empowers us to bring peace to all people.***

Through our gifts to the **Peace & Global Witness Offering**, we as a single congregation, participate in this larger work that we would not be able to do on our own. A gift to this Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world, as well as right here at home. We will take up the Offering on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, World Communion Sunday.

***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**

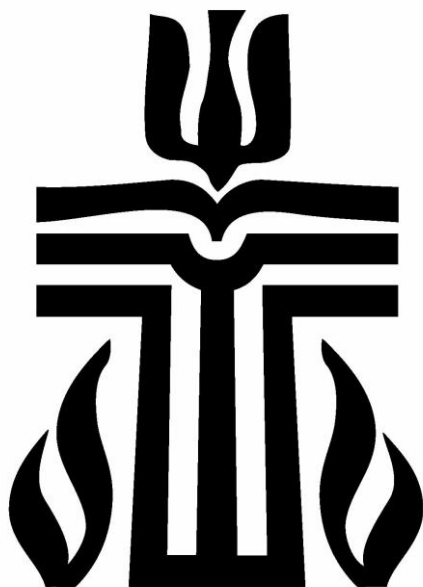
In the last Music Box I discussed the difference between two Greek words for 'knowledge': *EPISTĒMĒ* and *GNŌSIS*. (Greek has many more words for knowledge than just these two.) *EPISTĒMĒ* is knowing all about something, while *GNŌSIS* is direct personal experience. If *EPISTĒMĒ* is about knowing all about the theory and physiology of swimming, and the hydrodynamics of water, etc. etc., then *GNŌSIS* is getting in the pool for yourself. They both have their place.

This has its analog in religion in general, and Christianity in particular. *EPISTĒMĒ* would be theologies, creeds, and such. But *GNŌSIS* is about a personal experience of God. Theologies have their place — they help us not go off the rails. But the goal has to be *GNŌSIS*: theologies aren't much comfort in facing the vicissitudes of life. I liken it to *EPISTĒMĒ*/theology is the bowl, and *GNŌSIS* is the wheat.

So far I've been talking about US understanding GOD. What about the other way around — God knowing US? Of course God knows us intimately. "For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb..." (Ps 139:13ff.) Now, when we talk about God, we have to use human language — the only language we humans have. So, metaphorically speaking, one could say that, yes, God knows us thoroughly, but wouldn't it be from the perspective of His Infinitude? Being all knowing, loving and powerful, isn't there a sense in which His knowledge about us is *EPISTĒMĒ*? Knowing us from the outside, so to speak? That the only way He could REALLY know what it's like to be a finite human is to actually jump into the pool of Humanity by becoming human Himself? Wouldn't that be God going beyond *EPISTĒMĒ* and gaining real *GNŌSIS* of what it's like to be a frail, mortal human being? Isn't that precisely the Christian message?

*-- 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