



Joe Schumacher, *Burning Bush*

Twenty-Second
Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Communion Sunday
September 3, 2023
10:30 a.m. Worship

[God] said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." *Exodus 3:12*

First Presbyterian Church

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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, October 1st.

MORNING WORSHIP†

Lector: Susan Skoglund

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alfred Hall [...] used to speak of the whole Universe as a Sacrament of God's Presence and Glory. Putting it differently he wrote that the visible world is a garment of an Invisible Reality, reminding us of that beautiful verse in Isaiah 6 which speaks of the whole earth being full of God's glory. In the story from Exodus, standing before that Burning Bush, Moses caught a glimpse of the Presence of God that shines through all creation, just as the disciples caught a glimpse of the Glory of God shining through the human face of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, a reminder that human beings, in other words, you and me, are also meant to be like Burning Bushes, through which the Glory of God's Spirit shines; shining from our faces, and through our eyes.

-- Rev. Brian Moodie

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Fragrance of Twilight

William Zeitler

*CALL to WORSHIP

The Lord our God is with us.

✘ **Stop and listen; turn and see!**

The Lord our God is with us.

✘ **This place is holy ground.**

The Lord our God is with us.

✘ **The God of our ancestors is here;**

Let us worship God.

*HYMN 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,

pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty.

Hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,

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

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

feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.

Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

✘ God, just as You called Moses so long ago,
so You call each one of us
to speak and act on Your behalf in our world today.
Forgive us when we are hesitant to follow:
when we question Your call
or make excuses for our abilities;
when we complain about our lack of time
or hoard our resources.

(Silence is kept.)

Give us courage to step out in faith,
to follow where You lead without hesitation or fear,
trusting that Your presence goes with us,
and that You will provide all that we need. Alleluia. Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Let us believe the good news of the Gospel:

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

*ALLELUIA

William Zeitler

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 al - le - lu - ia!

TIME with the CHILDREN

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

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

SCRIPTURE Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up."

When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

Then [God] said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." [God] said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

[God] said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." [God] said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Dr. Wendy Lamb

ANTHEM

In Remembrance¹ Ragan Courtney/Buryl Red

In remembrance of me, eat this bread. In remembrance of me, drink this wine. In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God's whole will is done. In remembrance of me, heal the sick. In remembrance of me, feed the poor. In remembrance of me, open the door and let your neighbors in, let them in. Take, eat, and be comforted; drink and remember too, that this is my body and precious blood shed for you, shed for you. In remembrance of me, search for truth. In remembrance of me, always love. In remembrance of me, don't look above, but in your heart, look for God. Do this in remembrance of me.

MINUTE for MISSION

Rick Rodriguez

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

Abide with Me

SACRAMENT of the LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE

¹ Text: Ragan Courtney, Music: Buryl Red. Text & Music ©1972 Ven Ness Press, Inc. (admin. Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services). All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

✘ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

✘ **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

GREAT 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 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.

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

WORDS of INSTITUTION

WE SHARE GOD'S GIFTS

The cup is non-alcoholic. Gluten free bread is available.

Communion will be served by intinction at two stations. As you feel ready, please come up by an inside aisle to a station, receive a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat it, and return to your seat by an outside aisle.

If you would rather remain seated, rovers will bring the elements to you.

During this time, we invite you to sing these prayers.

*Eat This Bread*²

Taizé

Eat this bread; drink this cup;
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread; drink this cup;
trust in me and you will not thirst.

*Come and Fill Our Hearts*³

Taizé

Come and fill our hearts with your peace;
You alone, O God, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace; Alleluia.

*Bless the Lord my Soul*⁴

Taizé

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.

PRAYER after COMMUNION

✠ O amazing God, you come into our ordinary lives
and set a holy table among us,
filling our plates with the bread of life
and our cups with salvation.
Send us out, O God, with tenderheartedness
to touch an ordinary everyday world
with the promise of your holiness. Amen.

***HYMN 69**

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*⁵

Schutte

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

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⁵ Words & Music: Daniel Schutte. ©1981 OCP. All rights reserved.

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Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.

They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? (*Refrain*)

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.

My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? (*Refrain*)

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Improvisation*

GREETERS: Tom & Donna Garza

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEERS: Oliver Lamb, Kevin Lamb

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Doris Schiavone, Judy Steppins

Elders: Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann

Deacons: Steve Smith, Rebecca Allen, Sharon Landeros

This Weeks' Celebrations

Sep 4 Ed Congdon

Sep 5 Hilda Nicks

Sep 6 Norm & Christa Wallis
Tom & Donna Garza

Sep 7 Sally Inglis

Sep 8 Deon Garcia

Sep 9 Harry Babcock

Jeanne Clark

Larry & Melodee Kistner

Rosalind & Ken Mantei

Shelby Obershaw

Ramon & Penny Ramirez

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

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), vicar in the fishing village of Lower Brixham, Devonshire, England, ministered faithfully to his sea-faring people for twenty-three years.

Though of modest means, he and his wife Anne lived in an elegant estate called Berry Head — provided by King William IV who had reportedly been impressed by Henry's ministry. Henry laid out walking trails through the estate's forty-one acres and there he wrote most of his sermons, poems and hymns.

But Henry's lung condition brooded over the home like a dark cloud. Brixham suffered damp winters, and in his early fifties Henry's lung disorder deteriorated into tuberculosis. On September 4, 1847, 54 year old Henry entered his pulpit with difficulty and preached what was to be his last sermon. He had planned a therapeutic holiday in Italy. "I must put everything in order before I leave," he said, "because I have no idea how long I will be away."

That afternoon after a walk along the coast in prayer, he emerged from his study an hour later with a written copy of "Abide With Me". Some accounts say he wrote the poem during that hour, others that he discovered in the bottom of his desk as he packed for his trip to Italy. Perhaps both are true — finding an old initial draft he revised and completed it that evening.

Shortly thereafter, Henry embraced his family a final time and departed for Italy. Stopping in Avignon, France, he again revised "Abide With Me" — it was evidently much on his mind — and mailed it to his wife. Arriving on the French Riviera, he checked in a hotel in Nice, and there on November 20, 1847 he succumbed. Another English clergyman, a Rev. Manning of Chichester who happened to be staying in the same hotel, attended him during his final hours. Henry's last words were "Peace! Joy!"

When news of his death reached Brixham, the fishermen of the village asked Henry's son-in-law, also a minister, to hold a memorial service. It was on this occasion that "Abide With Me" was first sung.

--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 Direen, Robin Edwards, Rick Rodriguez,
Katie Smith, Brad Smith, and Dave Thomas