

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 15, 2023 10:30 a.m. Worship



Zephaniah 3:14-17, creative commons license, Gwen Meharg, drawneartogod.com

From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise.

Philippians 4:8

First Presbyterian Church

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

909.882.3308

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, November 5th.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

✘ Lord, you tell us to be anxious for nothing, yet we worry about everything. You ask us to bring our cares to you, and even when we do, we tend to take them back again. You offer us peace, and we spend our time conflicted. You invite us to think about what is pure and lovely and holy, and we think about what is painful and difficult.

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

✘ Let us bring our cares to you and to practice what we have learned from you so that we may know your peace.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

***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 - lu - ia!

1. F.m B Bm F.m

2. F.m Bm F.m

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship. After the Time with the Children those 4-11 may go to KidSpace in Room 11.

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

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 4:1-9

New Testament, pg. 198

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

This Is My Word²

Pepper Choplin

As the snow falls from heaven as it comes in swirling showers from the sky, so is my Word. As the rains bring the water to the earth that is thirsty and dry, so is my Word. And the Word of my mouth it shall not return empty, it will bless the earth wherever it is heard. As the rains bring renewal and the tender buds begin to come alive, so is

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my Word. Giving seed to the sower and the bread to the hungry til they thrive, so is my Word. And the word of my mouth it shall not return empty, it will bless the earth wherever it is heard, this is my Word. O Lord when I am weary, when I feel the days I'm living are in vain, my God, help me be faithful to the Word you have given to proclaim. Proclaim the Word and you will go out in joy and be led forth in peace and the hills will break before you into song. So be faithful, brave, and true, for I will go before you. And when your earthly journey here is done, I'll say "Well done!", I'll say "well done", I'll say "well done, well done!" As the snow falls from heaven and the rain comes in showers from the sky, this is my Word.

SERMON

Dr. Wendy Lamb

HYMN 712

As Those of Old

FOREST GREEN

Their Firstfruits Brought³

**A world in need now summons us
to labor, love, and give,
to make our life an offering
that all may truly live.**

**The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love,
all life in Christ made new.**

MINUTE for MISSION

Neal Williams

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 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.**

MORNING PRAYER 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;**

³ Text: Frank von Christierson, 1960, alt. Music: English folk melody; arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906. Text ©1961, ren.1989 They Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company). All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

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 821

My Life Flows On

Robert Lowry

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

Now Go Forth

Unknown

Now go forth with peace and understanding; now go forth with joy and fellowship; now go forth and show God's love; Go and serve.

*POSTLUDE

Improvisation

GREETERS: Jeoff Molcan, Jeannie Clark

USHERS: Dave Thomas, *Lead Usher*

Mark Adelson, Jim Siegmund, *Security*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Ruth Alexander, Doris Schiavone, Judy Steppins

Elders: Jeanne Clark, Susan Skoglund, Alex Smith

Deacons: Chris Thomas, Dan Direen, Robin Edwards

This Weeks' Celebrations

Oct 17 Jacob Babcock

Bobbi Cummings

Oct 20 Robin Edwards

Oct 21 Marilyn Kraft

What is God calling us to be and do at this time in this place? That's the work of Mission Assessment. Learn more, or find a survey you missed, at <https://fpcsb.net/mission-assessment>, or click **Mission Assessment** from the church home page. Surveys or other feedback

to the MAT can be sent to the office, to any member of the team, or left in the box at the table in reception.

Reformation Sunday, which we traditionally celebrate with bagpipes and dancers and shortbread cookies, will soon be here! We will have the Kevin R. Blandford Memorial Pipe Band and highland dancers. If you would like to help pay this cost, perhaps as a memorial to a loved one or friend, please get your offering, and the name of the person(s) you wish to honor, to the church office by **Tuesday, October 24th**.

And what is Reformation Sunday without shortbread cookies?

(Well, it's still Reformation Sunday, but we *really like* the cookies!) If you are able to bring shortbread for our celebration (you can make it or buy it), **please let the church office know by October 20th**, and then bring it to the kitchen before church on or before Sunday, October 29th. The church will purchase some gluten-free shortbread, so that everyone may celebrate!

Looking for an opportunity to support our local missions? For the past 10 years, our Presbyterian Women have supported the Life Skillz Circle mission by providing breakfast each Monday morning for our students. It has been a gift both to the students and leaders and to the members who have provided the food and often stayed for the morning and have had the opportunity to meet these amazing young people. While PW continues to support this program, we would welcome help from other members of the congregation. We serve approximately 30 students and leaders each week and they love muffins, bagels, coffee cake or breakfast burritos or other breakfast casseroles. Food can be delivered Monday mornings at 8:30 at San Bernardino High School or dropped off at the church kitchen on Sunday mornings. If you are interested or want more information, call or text Bobbi Cummings at 951-538-6946.

We will host the Presbytery of Riverside's quarterly Assembly meeting here on our campus on **Saturday, November 4th**. We will need lots of help with serving lunch, guiding people to where they need to go, and keeping everything running smoothly. If you can help, please contact the church office at 909-882-3308, or email churchoffice@fpcsb.net.

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

Once upon a time, a beautiful princess sat at the edge of a clear, ornate pool in her castle grounds. She often liked to gaze at her reflection in the pool, admiring both her own beauty and her magnificent crown.

(Selah.)

One afternoon as she leaned over to gaze at her reflection, she leaned too far and her priceless crown fell from her head into the water with a loud splash. At the sound of her screams, royal attendants rushed to her from all sides. Frantically, they jumped one after the other into the pool, thrashing about in search of her crown.

Of course, all this thrashing did nothing but churn the water and stir up a lot of mud and debris from the bottom of the pool. The water grew murky. The crown disappeared from view. The princess and her attendants panicked.

(Selah.)

Now, who should come upon this chaotic scene but the palace mage, a bent and bowed old man with twinkling eyes.

With one glance, he took in the chaos. Rather than join the fray, he sat calmly down at the princess's side and launched into a gripping tale of times gone by.

His sonorous voice wove such a fascinating tapestry of love and adventure that the aides climbed out of the pool to sit down nearby and listen raptly. And the princess herself stopped shrieking, forgetting all about her lost crown, absorbed in the story.

(Selah.)

By the time the storyteller came to the end of his elaborate tale, everyone and everything - even the mud in the pool - had settled down.

And so, the mage reached into the pool, once again still and clear, and easily plucked out the now plainly visible crown.

* * *

"Selah" is a Hebrew word that occurs 74 times in the Psalms. We're not entirely sure what it means. One possibility is something along the lines of "Stop and listen." It also may have indicated a musical interlude. I'm thinking — maybe both!

-- William Zeidler



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

In this time of change for our congregation, a Mission Assessment Plan will be completed by our Mission Assessment Team:

Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher, Nancy Horstmann,
Marilyn Kraft, Jim Morris, Brent Nord, Irene Sandoval Suverkrup