

Reformation Sunday
Consecration Sunday

October 29, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship



Photo by Luca from Pixabay

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”
Matthew 22:37-39

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.

MORNING WORSHIP†

Lector: Jonathan Horstmann

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

Throughout the year we preach about many things in church. About how we live our daily lives, the choices we make, the habits of our faith. On Reformation Sunday we are brought back to the most important thing – the thing that compelled Luther and others to risk their lives. On Reformation Sunday, we return to the core of our faith: *God loved us first, and God continues to shower us with grace and mercy.*

--The Rev. Bruce Reyes Chow

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Symphonic Meditation on 'Ein' Feste Burg'* W. Zeitler

*CALL to WORSHIP

God, you are our refuge and strength,

✘ a very present help in trouble.

You are with us!

✘ You are our fortress!

*PIPING of BANNERS; PRESENTATION of the BIBLE

*HYMN 366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* HYFRYDOL

PRAYER of CONFESSION

John Calvin himself said, "...in the course of this present life it never goes so well with us that we are wholly cured of the disease of unbelief." Let us, even if we are doubtful, approach God with confidence:

✘ Gracious God, you know there have been moments when unbelief has weighed us down, when we have not lived as your beloved children.

(We pause in silence and reflect)

Forgive us our sin and heal our brokenness. Transform us, Reform us, and make us Your Own, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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

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

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news:

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

***RESPONSE HYMN 649**

Amazing Grace
Verses 1 and 2

AMAZING GRACE

TIME with the CHILDREN

[After Time with the Children, our children are encouraged to worship with us. There are activity bags and books in the Narthex. Children Pre-K and younger may go to the nursery at any time.]

ANTHEM

O Love, How Deep

Everett Titcomb

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 43:19

Old Testament, pg. 672

Matthew 22:34-46

New Testament, pg. 25

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Reimagine Again and Again

Dr. Wendy Lamb

WE RESPOND to GOD'S LOVE with COMMITMENT Jon Horstmann

Pledge cards are in the pew racks. As the gift of music is offered, you are invited to write your pledge on your card and when you feel ready, to bring it forward and place it on the communion table. You may wish to pray for others as you see them go forward. If you would prefer not to leave your seat, an usher will come to you.

The OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

We offer our gifts to further God's work in the world through the life of this congregation.

OFFERTORY

Highland Cathedral

Michael Korb/Ulrich Roever

***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!

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.**

***HYMN 275**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Brass: Curtiss Allen, Norm Wallis

EIN' FESTE BURG

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*We invite you to the Fellowship Hall for shortbread, and to hear
more from the Kevin R. Blandford Memorial Pipe Band.*

*We are delighted to have the Kevin R. Blandford Memorial Pipe Band
with us again to play for our Reformation Sunday celebration.*

*Kevin Blandford and Jeffrey Rickard
wrote arrangements for bagpipes with organ.*

*Mary Newman, Susi (Huffstutler) Jacobsen, Marsha Gallup, and
Merry Beth Grindahl made banners and pennants.*

GREETERS: Doris Nord, Donna Feit

USHERS: Chris Thomas, *Lead Usher*

Rick Rodriguez, Brad Smith, Security Ushers

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Debora Holk, Charlene Peterson, Beverly Snell

Elders: **Pat Morris, Martha Pinckney, Lily Bolaños**

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

This Weeks' Celebrations

Oct 29 **Deanna Long**

Oct 30 **Mario & Mary**

Bolaños

Rebecca Allen

Oct 31 **Brooke Dvorak**

Nov 2 **Terri & Jorge Carlos
Noah Wierenga**

Nov 3 **Curtiss Allen
Wendi Bielinski
Steve Nolin**

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.

Symphonie Jeunesse invites you to their Semi-Haunted Symphony this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. in our own Fellowship Hall. Admission is free, and all attendees are welcome to bring a child.

HELP NEEDED hosting the Presbytery of Riverside's quarterly Assembly meeting here on our campus **next 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.

Want to help support our local missions? Each Monday morning PW provides breakfast for our Life Skillz Circle students. 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.

CCLM DINNER AND "CHRISTMAS WITH THE HOMELESS", Sunday, NOVEMBER 12. The Deacons will provide dinner for approximately 50 guys at CCLM (Central City Lutheran Mission). In addition, we are taking donations for CCLM's "Christmas with the Homeless" party for the residents of the Men's Emergency Shelter. For those who would like to help, we need: **New** Men's Colored T-shirts (S - 4X), **New** Boxer Briefs (L, XL, 1X, 2X); **New or Gently Used** Polo Shirts (M-2XL), Jeans (sizes 32 - 52, especially 36-48), Sweat Pants (sizes M - 4XL) and Jackets (sizes M-4XL). Monetary donations are also gratefully received and used. The Deacons will collect donations on Sundays throughout the month of November. Thanks for your help.

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 Kevin R. Blandford Memorial Pipe Band
was provided this year by

Dave & Chris Thomas

in memory of
Rena Nolin
Christian & Bonnie Hansen

Clara Gresham

in memory of Allen Gresham

Katie & David Smith

in memory of
George & Walda Gorian
George & Patricia Smith

Shelby Obershaw

in memory of Charles Obershaw

Jeanne Clark & Linda McCarl

in memory of Bill McIntosh

Martha Pinckney

in memory of Paul Pinckney

Bobbie Terrell

in memory of Chuck Terrell

Doris Nord & Family

in memory of G. William Nord

Kathy Showman

in memory of Dale Showman

Lillian Franklin & Family

in memory of Roy W. Franklin, Jr.

Norm & Christa Wallis

in memory of

Charles Robert MacPherson Beatrice Young MacPherson
Thomas Turner Snyder Patricia MacPherson Snyder
Sanford Howard Wallis

Music Box

The Black Death — the worst pandemic in recorded history — first struck Europe around 1343. Although spread around Europe by ships carrying plague infested rats, there is evidence that it could also be spread airborne. Whereas COVID had a mortality rate somewhere around 1 in 1000, and Spanish Flu somewhere around 6 in 1000, the Black Death had a mortality rate around 500 in 1000 (and much worse in some places). The Plague took several years to run its course, and it returned to ravage Europe every couple decades or so until the 19th century. The first rampage of the plague was the worst.

In Catholicism when one is dying, one needs the Last Rites administered by a priest to ensure your entry straight into Heaven. The most committed priests of course wouldn't hesitate to administer Last Rites to parishioners dying of Plague, and thus caught it themselves. Thus the Plague had the effect of culling the most committed and honorable priests, tending to spare the slothful. Matters were made worse when the Church — desperate to replenish the ranks of the priests — necessarily had to lower their standards and training to almost nothing. And thus the Church experienced a massive dumbing down and drop in integrity across the board. The corruption in the Church was still thriving when Luther posted his 95 theses in 1517.

Luther's 95 theses mostly addressed the problem of 'indulgences': from the Church you could buy yourself a "get-out-of-sin-free card", without having to trouble yourself with repenting for your sin and reforming your behavior. This amounted to big money: In 1515, Pope Leo X granted a plenary indulgence to finance the construction of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. It applied to almost any sin, and no other indulgences could be offered by priests for the eight years in which it was offered. Political rulers found indulgences problematic because local economies suffered when the money for indulgences left a given territory. Rulers often sought to receive a portion of the proceeds or prohibited indulgences altogether, so indulgences had both theological and economic implications.

When Luther posted his 95 theses, he was only seeking reform WITHIN the Catholic Church. But in 1521 Luther was excommunicated, and the die was cast. What had started out as objecting to the indulgences, blossomed into his ideas around 'salvation by faith alone', and armed with a new cutting edge technology called the printing press, Luther changed history.

-- 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

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