



First Sunday  
of Advent  
Communion  
December 3, 2023  
10:30 a.m. Worship

*This stained glass window of the annunciation of {John's} conception to his father Zechariah is from the church of the Holy Trinity in Stratford-upon-Avon. Photo of the window by Thomas OP, licensed by creative common license 2.0*

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When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. --Luke 1:12-13a

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## First Presbyterian Church

Mailing address: P.O. Box 2729; San Bernardino, California 92406  
909.882.3308  
[www.fpcsb.net](http://www.fpcsb.net)

**COMMISSIONED 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, January 7<sup>th</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Laurie Stafford

## REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

Every year at Advent, I remember a loved one who has passed away. And it makes me sad, my heart is broken, and sorrow lingers. But I am Hopeful. Because even when the pain of grieving overtakes us, we can honor and glorify God and still be faithful to the memory of loved one we miss so much. Those no longer with us, have blessed us with a legacy of love and remain inside our hearts. Individually we hold their love, their joy, their stories, their struggles, and their spirit in us. They dwell in us, along with God's love, and we will carry them in our hearts throughout Advent and beyond it.

– Mario Bolaños

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

*An Advent Prelude*  
*Susan Addington, Flute*

*Charles Callahan*

#### INTROIT

*Take, O Take Me As I Am*<sup>1</sup>

*John L. Bell*

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

## LIGHTING of the ADVENT WREATH

*(We will remain seated until the opening hymn.)*

The day of the Lord is surely coming;

✘ **The promise of God will be fulfilled.**

#### HYMN 85

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*<sup>2</sup>

TIF IN VELDELE

**Light one candle to watch for Messiah:**

**let the light banish darkness.**

**He shall bring salvation to Israel,**

**God fulfills the promise.**

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

**\* Stand if you are able**

**✘ The congregation will read.**

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<sup>2</sup> Text: Wayne L. Wold. Music: Yiddish folk song; arr. Wayne L. Wold. ©1984 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks;

✘ **nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.**

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

✘ **Amen.**

**\*HYMN 88**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
*Verses 1-2, 6-7*

VENI EMMANUEL

### **PRAYER of CONFESSION**

Surely God is our salvation. Have faith, and do not be afraid.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess together:

✘ **God of the future,**

**you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.**

**We confess that we have not always expected your kingdom.**

**We live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.**

**We long for things but feel unable to bring them about.**

**We doubt your word, and are surprised by your grace**

*(Moment for silent reflection and confession)*

**In your mercy, forgive us.**

**Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,**

**and to seek things that will endure**

**when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS**

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom.

The people of God will return with joy and singing.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

**\*GLORIA (113)**

GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

### **TIME with the CHILDREN**

*[Children are always welcome in worship. After the time with Children, our children are encouraged to remain with us in worship. There are children's bulletins and activity bags available.*

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

**ANTHEM**

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus*

*Henry G. Ley*

**SCRIPTURE**

**Isaiah 6:2-7**

*Old Testament, page 635*

**Luke 1:5-25**

*New Testament, page 56*

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Fear Not, Zechariah—Hope* Pastor Wendy Lamb

**HYMN 119**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*Mendelssohn*

**THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS**

*(We invite you to respond to God's Word. We offer our gifts to be part of God's purposes in the world. You are invited to bring your offering up to the basket during the offertory. You may also place it in a basket on your way out or send gifts through the mail or online. If you would prefer, an usher will bring a basket to you.)*

**OFFERTORY**

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

**SACRAMENT of the LORD'S SUPPER**

**INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE**

**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

Spirit of the living God, present with us now,

breathe in us and on these gifts of bread and cup,

Fill them, and us with your presence

so that sharing your blessing and your broken life,

we may be one Body and remain in your love.

## WORDS of INSTITUTION

### WE SHARE GOD'S GIFTS

*(Communion will be served by intinction at two stations. As you feel ready, please come up the center aisle to a station, receive a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat it, and return to your seat by the side aisle. The cup is non-alcoholic. Gluten-free bread can be found at the station by the pulpit. There will be rovers to bring the elements to you if you do not wish to come forward.)*

## SUNG PRAYERS

*As we go forward to partake in the bread and cup, and as we wait and pray before and after, we sing our prayers together. These refrains will be sung over and over as we make them our own prayers.*

**SUNG REFRAIN 95** *Prepare the Way of the Lord*<sup>3</sup> Jacques Berthier

✘ **Prepare the way of the Lord.**

Prepare the way of the Lord,

and all people will see

the salvation of our God.

**SUNG REFRAIN 90** *Wait for the Lord*<sup>3</sup> Jacques Berthier

✘ **Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.**

Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart!

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<sup>3</sup> © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

SUNG REFRAIN 583

*Gloria, Gloria*<sup>4</sup>

*Jacques Berthier*

✘ Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER after COMMUNION

✘ Gracious and abundant God,  
Even as we wait for the fulfillment of your creation,  
You meet us in Christ at this table, in this meal.  
We thank you for feeding us with the bread of life  
and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation.  
Now send us out into the world with the wonder of your Holy  
Spirit  
to share your life and love with all whom we meet. Amen.

\*HYMN 105

*People, Look East*

BESANÇON

\*MOMENT for REFLECTION

\*CHARGE and BENECTION

POSTLUDE

*Improvisation*

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

**GREETERS:** Tom & Donna Garza

**USHERS:** Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Jim Siegmund, Al Rueda, *Security Ushers*

**SOUND ENGINEERS:** Dan Direen, Brent Nord

**LIVESTREAM ENGINEER:** James Welte

**CAMERA OPERATORS:** Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Sandy Garza, Josie Short

*Elders:* Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann

*Deacons:* Steve Smith, Rebecca Allen, Sharon Landeros

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## This Weeks' Celebrations

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <i>Dec 3</i> | Cindi Pringle                             |
| <i>Dec 5</i> | Bobbie Terrell<br>Curtiss & Rebecca Allen |
| <i>Dec 7</i> | Zienna Long                               |
| <i>Dec 9</i> | Maddie Ramirez                            |

***Blood Drive.*** The Deacons are hosting a Blood Drive **TODAY** in Fellowship Hall. See Brad Smith to sign up.

***Our Longest Night Healing Service*** is this **Thursday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m.** The holiday season can be an especially difficult time for many dealing with sadness, grief, memories, and stress. Each year we gather in this service to seek the Light that shines in the darkness. Invite a friend to be comforted as we seek the One in whom our healing and wholeness can be found.

***Presbyterian Women will celebrate an Alternative Christmas*** event in Fellowship Hall on **December 10, 2023** following Worship. This year's Alternative Christmas. "A Season of Hope" highlights three programs here at First Presbyterian San Bernardino: **the LifeSkillz Program, Food Ministry, and the Internship Program.** Please support them with a donation! We will provide thank you cards to share with your friends and family to show your support. We will accept donations on Dec. 10 and Dec. 17 following Worship.

**Annual Reports.** The Annual Reports for the year 2023 must be submitted to session by Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. If you are a committee chair (or co-chair), please send your report to Mimi Lange at pres.first@gmail.com, or to Amy Smith at amyms952@aol.com. Or you can turn them in to the church office.

***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.

***Galleons' Christmas Gathering.*** The Christmas gathering will be held on **Sunday, December 9, at 5:00 p.m.,** at the home of Phil and Lynda Savage.

***Reimagine! Thank You!*** As of November 29, we have received 42 pledges for a total of \$245,144. If you have not yet pledged, you can



mail your pledge in, or drop it in the offering plate, or phone Laurie or Mimi at the church office, and we'll be happy to take your pledge over the phone.

***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.

### ***The Music Box***

A few of the hymns in our hymnal have texts of truly ancient origin, and "Let All Mortal Flesh" is one of them. It is an ancient chant of Eucharistic [Communion] devotion based on words from Habakkuk 2:20, "Let all the earth keep silence before him". The original was composed in Greek as a Cherubic Hymn for the Offertory of the Divine Liturgy of St James; the "Let All Mortal Flesh" text is probably older than the rest of the liturgy and goes back at least to 275 AD, with local churches adopting arrangements in Syriac. The identity of the original author is long lost in the misty shadows of Time.

Hymnologist Dr. Bailey explains the context of the original hymn: "This liturgy leads up to the celebration of the Eucharist, our Communion. Since the Eucharist was an awe-inspiring rite in which, according to universal ancient belief, Christ was actually present under the guise of bread and wine, it should be approached only after due spiritual preparation."

"The celebrant would say the following Preface during the Eucharistic liturgy, setting the context for the hymn: 'We remember the sky, the earth and the sea, the sun and the moon, the stars and all creation both rational and irrational, the angels and archangels, powers, mights, dominations, principalities, thrones, the many-eyed Cherubim who say those words of David: 'Praise the Lord with me.' We remember the Seraphim, whom Isaiah saw in spirit standing around the throne of God, who with two wings cover their faces, with two their feet and with two fly; who say: 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth.' We also say these divine words of the Seraphim, so as to take part in the hymns of the heavenly host.'" The hymn is thus imbued with the mystery of Isaiah 6 and Revelation 4 and invites us to participate in the Mystery of the Incarnation, with a sense of entering the Holy of Holies.

With hymns like this of such ancient origin, I can almost feel the presence of the 'great cloud of witnesses' — generation upon generation of Christians for almost two millennia now singing this hymn (or much like it), in worlds very different from ours, and yet what we celebrate remains unchanged.

*--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