



Second Sunday  
of Advent  
December 10, 2023  
10:30 a.m. Worship

*Elizabeth and Mary* by Rebecca Allen

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She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

--Luke 1:29

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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: Neal Williams

## REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

Today, 60 years later, my faith is stronger. I know nothing is impossible with God. As a member of a congregation in transition, I have no fear. Questions, yes; fear, no. We are servants of the Lord seeking his guidance as we begin our 151st year. What does First Presbyterian San Bernardino look like in 2024 and beyond? What does God want for us and the community we serve? How will this be? Maybe this is the answer, "And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (*Matthew 25:40*) --Brooke Dvorak

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

**PRELUDE**                      *A Prelude on 'Greensleeves'*                      Charles Callahan  
Susan Addington, Flute

**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 two candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
gently lead them homeward.

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

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

<sup>1</sup> ©1995 The Iona Community/WGRG, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE # A706254

<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.**

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

✘ **the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together,  
and a little child shall lead them.**

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

✘ **Amen.**

**\*HYMN 82**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

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

✘ **When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness,  
When we ignore the mighty things you have done,  
When we doubt your mercy,  
When we are proud  
in the thoughts of our hearts,  
When our power rests on the oppression of others,  
When our wealth causes others to go hungry,  
forgive us, O God.**

*(Moment for silent reflection and confession)*

✘ **Help us, your servants, according to the promises you have made.**

### **ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS**

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, they  
may go to Room 11 for KidSpace.*

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

**ANTHEM**

*He, Watching Over Israel*

*F. Mendelssohn*

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<sup>3</sup> Joanna Harader, Spacious Faith, based on the Magnificat  
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**SCRIPTURE**

**Genesis 28:10-17**  
**Luke 1:5-26-38, 46-55**

*Old Testament, page 25*  
*New Testament, page 56*

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**                      *Fear Not, Mary—Peace*      *Pastor Wendy Lamb*

**HYMN 143**                      *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*      REGENT SQUARE

**MOMENT for MISSION**    *Bobbi Cummings*  
*Presbyterian Women's Alternative Christmas Market*

**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**                      *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

**\*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.

**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 100**                      *My Soul Cries out*                      STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN  
*with a Joyful Shout*

**\*MOMENT for REFLECTION**

**\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

**RESPONSE*****In the Lord, I'll Be Ever Thankful*<sup>4</sup>**

Taizé

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God; do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

**POSTLUDE*****Improvisation***

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

**GREETERS:** Meryll Davis, Bobbie Terrell

**USHERS:** Chris Thomas, *Lead Usher*

Mark Adelson, John-Paul Fletcher, *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, Gill Snyder

*Elders:* Phyllis Hough, Amy Smith, Jeanne Clark

*Deacons:* Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Chris Thomas

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

***Dec 11*** Christi Showman Farrar

Deagan Belle

***Dec 16*** Jon Horstmann

***Presbyterian Women is celebrating an Alternative Christmas*** event in Fellowship Hall **TODAY**. 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 TODAY and on Dec. 17 following Worship.

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<sup>4</sup> Text: Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier. © 1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

***Do you need or can you offer a ride?*** Because our only service on December 24th will be at 5:00 p.m., some people will have difficulty attending because they do not drive at night. **If you think you are able to offer a ride to someone else, contact the church office at 909-882-3308.** If you *need* a ride, let us know and we will do our best to see that you are able to attend.

***Christmas Joy Offering.*** Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much. **We will receive the Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday, December 24.**

**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](mailto:pres.first@gmail.com), or to Amy Smith at [amys952@aol.com](mailto:amys952@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 **Saturday, December 9, at 5:00 p.m.**, at the home of Phil and Lynda Savage.

***Reimagine!*** 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. ***Thank You!***

***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***

Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847) was a Swedish poet born in Finland. At thirteen he entered the university of Abo, where he attended the lectures of H. G. Porthan (1739-1804), a pioneer in the study of Finnish history and legend. Franzen graduated age 17, and three years later he embarked on a tour of Denmark, Germany, France and England, returning in 1796 (age 24) to accept the office of university librarian at Abo. In 1801 he became professor of history and ethics, and in 1808 (age 36) was elected a member of the Swedish Academy.

When Finland was ceded by Sweden to Russia in 1809 as a consequence of the Finnish War, Franzen emigrated to Sweden, where he was successively appointed parish priest of Kumla in the diocese of Strengnas (1810), minister of the Clara Church in Stockholm (1824) and bishop of Hernosand (1831). In 1797 he was awarded a prize by the Swedish Academy for his poetry. He died at Sabra parsonage in 1847 (age 75).

Our melody for this hymn comes from the The Swedish Psalm Book (1695), the first official psalm book of the Church of Sweden.

Charles P. Price (1920-1999), who adapted Franzen's poem into English ("Prepare the Way"), was born in Pittsburgh in 1920 and educated at Harvard University, Virginia Theological Seminary, and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He studied piano with Elizabeth and Ferguson Webster and was ordained as a deacon and priest in the Episcopal Church, Diocese of Pittsburgh. He served churches in Pennsylvania and New York City before becoming a professor at Virginia Theological Seminary (1956-1963). From 1963 to 1972 he was preacher to the university and Plummer Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard University before returning to Virginia Seminary as professor of systematic theology (1972-1989).

*--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