

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, January 7th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Joyce Lyons

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

It is the Mission of First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to proclaim the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship and celebration, and teaching and learning, so that lives are transformed and members are encouraged to use their special gifts to care for and value, as God's Beloved, each other and the community in which we live.

--FPCSB Mission Statement

WE GATHER on the PLAZA

ALL FESTIVALS PROCESSION

We sing as we process into the sanctuary with symbols from all our festival days.

*Come All You People*¹

**Come all you people,
come and praise your Maker;
come all you people,
come and praise your Maker;
come all you people,
come and praise your Maker;
come now and worship the Lord.**

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Festival Antiphon

William Zeitler

PRAYER of INVOCATION

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

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

¹ Text: Alexander Gondo. Music: Alexander Gondo; arr. John L. Bell. ©1994, Wild Goose Resource Group. Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

INTROIT

*From the Rising of the Sun*²

Eric H. Thiman

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, the Lord's name
be praised.

*CALL to WORSHIP³

Lord, you have been our refuge

✘ **from one generation to another.**

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the sea were born,

✘ **from age to age you are God.**

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning,

✘ **so we shall rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us,

✘ **and prosper the work of our hands.**

*HYMN 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

TIME with the CHILDREN

*[Children are always welcome in worship. There are activity bags in the
Narthex.*

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

ANTHEM

*With a Voice of Singing*⁴

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing, declare ye this and let it be heard, Alleluia! Utter it
even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered the people, Alleluia.
O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honor of our Lord, make
God's name to be glorious. With a voice of singing, declare ye this and let it
be heard, Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Old Testament, pg. 731

Philippians 4:4

New Testament, pg. 198

Luke 24:30-32

New Testament, pg. 90

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

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³Book of Common Worship

⁴ Text: J.W. Harris. Music: Martin Shaw. ©1923 Shawnee Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

Reflections: In the Heart of the City
Robin Edwards & Jeanne Clark
Ryan Nord & Maddie Ramirez
John-Paul Fletcher & Stephanie Fletcher
Christa Wallis

HYMN

O Lord of Life

William Zeitler

O Lord of life, your quickening voice
Awakes my morning song!
In gladsome words I would rejoice
That I to you belong,
That I to you belong.

I see your light, I feel your wind;
The world, it is your word;
Whatever wakes my heart and mind,
Your presence is, my Lord,
Your presence is, my Lord.

Within my heart, speak, Lord, speak on,
My heart alive to keep,
Till comes each night, and, labor done,
In you I fall asleep,
In you I fall asleep.

Therefore I choose my highest part,
And turn my face to thee;
Therefore I stir my inmost heart
To worship fervently,
To worship fervently.

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.

LITANY of THANKSGIVING and MORNING PRAYER⁵

Eternal God,

in whom we live and move and have our being,
hear our prayer.

For the Church universal,
and for this congregation of your people,

✠ **we give you thanks, O God.**

For this place in which we gather
for praise and prayer, witness and service,
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord,

✠ **we give you thanks, O God.**

For your presence among us
whenever your word has been proclaimed,
your sacramental gifts of bread and cup shared,

✠ **we give you thanks, O God.**

For those who have been made your children
by adoption and grace,

who in this place were cleansed of sin,
buried with Christ in the waters of baptism,
and raised to new and eternal life,

✠ **we give you thanks, O God.**

For disciples young and old
who have been nurtured here in faith,

✠ **we give you thanks, O God.**

For all who have come here
asking your blessing in marriage,
seeking to love with your love,

✠ **we give you thanks, O God.**

For deacons, elders, and pastors
who have led and loved us,
and by the offering of their gifts,
equipped us for the work of ministry,

✠ **we give you thanks, O God.**

For faithful stewards among us
who have lived for others,
serving you by loving neighbors,

✠ **we give you thanks, O God.**

For all the saints who have stood among us,
whose memory still enlivens our faith

⁵ *Book of Common Worship*

and emboldens our witness,

✘ **we give you thanks, O God.**

For the ministries of worship and mission,
nurture and fellowship,

and for all whose lives have been touched by them,

✘ **we give you thanks, O God.**

(We continue with the morning 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 136**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

John W. Work

If you wish to sing the Hallelujah Chorus along with the choir, please go up to the choir loft during the hymn. Scores will be available there.

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Hallelujah from Messiah

G. F. Handel

PROCESSION to FELLOWSHIP HALL

***POSTLUDE**

Improvisation

Brass Quintet

Jerry Green - Trumpet

Norm Wallis - Trumpet

Victor Torres - French Horn

James Bauchert - Trombone

Asher Gano - Tuba

*Our celebration today would not have been possible without the months of dreaming, planning and work by the **150th Anniversary Planning Team**. **Ernie Garcia** was instrumental in getting this celebration off the ground, and the initial team consisted of **Ernie and Dotti Garcia, Laurie Stafford, Dawn Morris, and Sandy Tice**. When we lost Ernie and then Sandy retired, the team was further*

*augmented by Wendy Lamb, Dave Thomas, and Martha Pinckney.
Thanks to all of them.*

GREETERS: Donna Feit, Doris Nord

USHERS: Mark Adelson, *Lead Usher*

Jim Siegmund, Marilyn Kraft, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

George Biddlecombe, Noé Falconi, Larry Marona

Elders: Martha Pinckney, Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane

Deacons: Rick Rodriguez, Katie Smith, Brad Smith

This Weeks' Celebrations

Jan 1 George Biddlecombe III

Jeremy Allen

Jan 2 Carol Wright

Jan 3 Alex Smith

Jan 4 Alex Rueda

Jan 5 Sheila Cimino

Jan 6 Rachel Garvin

Annual Reports. The Annual Reports for the year 2023 must be submitted to session by Friday, January 12th. 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.

Reimagine! Thank You! As of December 27, we have received 48 pledges for a total of \$322,044. 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.

Leonard Scholarship applications for Fall 2024 are available in the Church office and on the church website. All applications must be received in the church office no later than Feb. 28, 2024. Any questions can be emailed to Lynda Savage at Lksavage3@gmail.com

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

George MacDonald (1824 - 1905) was a Scottish author, poet and minister. He became a pioneering figure in the field of modern fantasy literature and mentor of fellow writer Lewis Carroll. In addition to his fairy tales, MacDonald wrote several works of Christian theology, including several collections of sermons. His writings have been cited as a major literary influence on many notable authors including Lewis Carroll, Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, L. Frank Baum, Thomas Merton, Simone Weil, George Orwell, Aldous Huxley, Ray Bradbury, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.

I've read his *Phantastes*, and it was a soft, dreamy fantasy unlike anything else I've ever read. C.S. Lewis credited *Phantastes* with launching him on his metamorphosis from atheist to Christian. Lewis wrote that he regarded MacDonald as his "master": "Picking up a copy of *Phantastes* one day at a train-station bookstall, I began to read. A few hours later, I knew that I had crossed a great frontier."

MacDonald was born 1824 in Scotland — his father a farmer. His extended family was unusually literate: one of his maternal uncles was a notable Celtic scholar, editor of the *Gaelic Highland Dictionary* and collector of fairy tales and Celtic oral poetry. His paternal grandfather had supported the publication of an edition of James Macpherson's *Ossian*, the controversial epic poem based on the *Fenian Cycle of Celtic Mythology* and which contributed to the starting of European Romanticism. MacDonald's step-uncle was a Shakespeare scholar, and his paternal cousin another Celtic academic. Both his parents were readers, his father particularly enjoying Isaac Newton, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Charles Darwin, among others. His mother had received a classical education which included multiple languages.

Young George suffered lapses in health in his early years and was subject to problems with his lungs such as asthma, bronchitis, and even a bout of tuberculosis. Tuberculosis was considered a family disease and two of MacDonald's brothers, his mother, and later three of his own children died from it. Even in his adult life, George was constantly traveling in search of purer air for his lungs.

MacDonald graduated from the University of Aberdeen age 21 with degrees in chemistry and physics. He spent the next several years struggling with matters of faith and deciding what to do with his life. His son stated that his father could have pursued a career in the

medical field but he speculated that lack of money put an end to this prospect. It was only in 1848 that MacDonald began theological training at Highbury College for the ministry.

MacDonald was appointed minister of Trinity Congregational Church, Arundel, in 1850 (age 26), after briefly serving as a minister in Ireland. However, his sermons — which preached God's universal love and that everyone was capable of redemption — didn't sit well with the congregation, so they cut his salary in half! After three years, MacDonald tendered his resignation. Later he was engaged in ministerial work in Manchester, leaving that because of poor health. Apparently, Lady Byron convinced MacDonald to travel to Algiers in the hope of turning his health around. When he got back, he settled in London and taught for some time at the University of London. MacDonald was also for a time editor of *Good Words for the Young*. He published his first novel in 1863, age 39.

MacDonald is often regarded as the founding father of modern fantasy writing. His best-known works are *Phantastes*, *The Princess and the Goblin*, *At the Back of the North Wind*, and *Lilith*, all fantasy novels, and fairy tales such as "The Light Princess", "The Golden Key", and "The Wise Woman". MacDonald claimed that "I write, not for children, but for the child-like, whether they be of five, or fifty, or seventy-five." MacDonald also published some volumes of sermons, the pulpit not having worked out very well for him. He also went on lecture tours, including one to the United States where he lectured to audiences of 3000 on topics such as Shakespeare.

MacDonald served as a mentor to Lewis Carroll (author of *Alice in Wonderland*); it was MacDonald's advice, and the enthusiastic reception of *Alice* by MacDonald's many sons and daughters, that convinced Carroll to submit *Alice in Wonderland* for publication.

In 1877 (age 53) MacDonald was given a civil list (monastic poverty/civic duty) pension. From 1879 he and his family lived in Bordighera, in Italy almost on the French border. There was an Anglican church there which he attended. Deeply enamored of the Riviera, he spent 20 years there, writing almost half of his whole literary production, especially the fantasy work. In 1900 he returned to England, and died there five years later, age 81.

--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