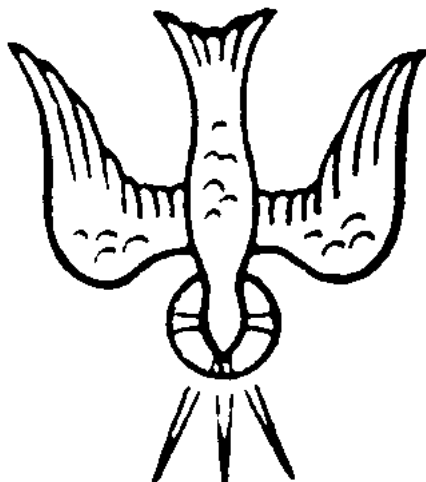


Baptism of the Lord
Ordination and Installation of Officers
January 14, 2024 **10:30 a.m. Worship**



In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Mark 1:9-11

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

MINISTRY OF VISITATION: LAURIE STAFFORD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST;

AMY GANO, BELLS

PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

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, February 4th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Amy Smith,
Clerk of Session

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

If we take our theological foundation as a starting point, where gratitude is the shape of the Christian life in response to a God of grace, then the question is what does gratitude look like in the context of our life together in the political society of the church? In the context of polity, gratitude looks like shared oversight.

Why do we organize ourselves in councils? We recognize that all Christians are claimed by God and are in the process of sanctification, and at the same time are both fallible and sinful. Thus in oversight we want to encourage many voices, that we might hear the wisdom that comes from the Spirit through one another and so that our sinful instincts might be overcome through mutual discernment.

--Charles Wiley, PCUSA

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Immersed in the River of Life

William Zeitler

INTROIT

*From the Rising of the Sun*¹

Eric H. Thiman

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

CALL to WORSHIP

(from Isaiah 43:1-7)

God says: "Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.

✠ **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.**

For I am your God, the Holy One, your Savior.

You are precious in my sight and I love you.

✠ **I created you for my glory.**

I made each one of you. You are mine."

Thanks be to God! Let us worship.

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

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

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PRAYER of CONFESSION²

- ✘ **Creator of the universe,**
we stand amazed at your power and glory.
We are eager to worship you and offer our praise,
but we are often reluctant to answer
when we hear you calling our name.
(Moment for silent reflection and confession)
- ✘ **Forgive us when we forget your promise**
to be with us always, O God.
Renew us with the power of your ever-present love,
and strengthen us to proclaim your justice
throughout the world.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, this is God’s word to us:

- ✘ **You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.**

***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!

TIME with the CHILDREN

[After Time with the Children, our children pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade are encouraged to go to Room 12 for KidSpace. Parents, please pick up your children from Room 12 immediately following worship. Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]

GIVING THANKS for FAITHFUL SERVICE

Sharon Landeros, Susan Skoglund, Alex Smith, Tim Usher

² Adapted from Laura Jaquith Bartlett, Ministry Matters website

ANTHEM

*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*³

Dale Wood

Watchman, tell us of the night, What its signs of promise are. Trav'ler, o'er yon mountain's height, See that glory-beaming star. Watchman, does its beauteous ray Aught of joy or hope foretell? Trav'ler, yes, it brings the day, Promised day of Israel. Watchman, tell us of the night; Higher yet that star ascends. Trav'ler, blessedness and light, Peace and truth its course portends. Watchman, will its beams alone Gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav'ler, ages are its own; See, it bursts o'er all the earth. Watchman, tell us of the night, For the morning seems to dawn. Trav'ler, darkness takes its flight, Doubt and terror are withdrawn. Watchman, let thy wand'rings cease; Hie thee to thy quiet home. Trav'ler, lo! the Prince of Peace, Lo! the Son of God is come!

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:4-11

New Testament, pg. 34

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Wendy Lamb

SUNG RESPONSE 698⁴

John Bell

✠ **Take, O Take me as I am, Summon out what I shall be, set your seal upon my heart, and live in me...**

(Repeat)

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY

(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.)

The OFFERING of OUR LIVES

ORDAINING and INSTALLING NEW LEADERS

- **to the Office of Elder:** Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman*, Norm Wallis
- **to the Office of Deacon:** Rebecca Allen, Kristine French*, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda

³ Text. John Bowring, 1825. Music: Dale Wood. ©1965 The H.W. Gray Co, Inc.. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

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OPENING STATEMENT

QUESTIONS

✦ Of those to be ordained and/or installed

✦ Of the congregation (*and officers: listen as your church family recognizes your gifts and your call*)

Do we, the members of the church, accept **Sue, Jeanne, Kathy*, and Norm**, as ruling elders, **and accept Rebecca, Kristine*, Joyce, Joanna, Mindy and Chris** as deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the church?

✦ **LAYING on of HANDS**

*[The officers to be **ordained shall kneel** for prayer and the laying on of hands by the Session, other Elders, and Ministers of the Word. **Those previously ordained shall stand** for the prayer of ordination and installation. Elders nearer the pulpit, deacons nearer the lectern, all facing the steps to facilitate kneeling.]*

PRAYERS of ORDINATION and INSTALLATION

By the Pastor.

By those to be ordained or installed:

By the congregation:

✘ **God of grace, you call us all to follow you. Help us to put your call at the center of our lives. Give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants lead us; so that our life together will speak of the love of Jesus. Amen.**

DECLARATION, WORDS of JESUS *(Please stand)*

(Pastor speaks to each officer individually; working down the row.) My peace I give to you. Do not be afraid. You are the salt of the earth. Seek and you shall find. I call you my friend. Abide in my love. Follow me. // You are my witness. I am hungry, give me food. You are in me and I am in you. Love others as I have loved you. Feed my sheep. I am with you always.

CHARGE and WELCOME

[As the congregation sings the response, those laying hands shall welcome the newly ordained and installed elders and deacons into their fellowship in ministry.]

SUNG RESPONSE⁴

John Bell

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

(Repeat)

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE, 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 339**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Johnson/Johnson

*In honor of the Baptism of the Lord and the raising of our new dove
on the chapel, we will all go outside following the final hymn for the
releasing of doves.*

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

GREETERS: Lynda Savage, Claudia Oakes

USHERS: John-Paul Fletcher, *Lead Usher*

Rick Rodriguez, 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

Sandy Garza, Josie Short

Elders: Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak, Pat Morris

Deacons: Rick Rodriguez, Katie Smith, Brad Smith

This Weeks' Celebrations

Jan 14 Patrick Morris

Jan 17 Lynette DuClos-Adelson

Jan 16 Esther Olsen

Mark Munz

Deon & Patrick Garcia

Jan 20 Beverly Kristoffersen

Annual Reports. The **Annual Reports for the year 2023** were due to be submitted on **Friday, January 12th**. If you have not yet submitted yours, ***please*** send your report to Mimi Lange at pres.first@gmail.com, or to Amy Smith at amyms952@aol.com.

Annual Meeting. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship on **Sunday, February 4th**. Please plan to attend.

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

The Texts about Jesus' baptism, follow right on the heels of Jesus' incarnation. With that in mind, there is a sense in which His incarnation itself is a brief plunge into the river of human life. A plunge down, down, down — as St. Paul puts it 'he emptied himself' (Phil. 2). And then He comes back up into the air of Eternity with the Resurrection.

It is easy in the routines and worries of daily life to become blind to the extraordinary that is all around us. As children explore a world that is brand new to them, they teach us yet again the incredible miracle that is a snail. Or a dandelion. Or Christmas tree lights. In those moments we are submerged once again into the River of Life. And then we come back up to pay the bills and take out the trash.

We can also have those liminal, sacred moments in worship, or encountering great art, or Nature. Or even in the loss of a loved one, when we are confronted very forcefully with just how precious to us they really are.

Sigh.

Wait, on the one hand the Incarnation is Jesus' temporary immersion from the Eternal into the Temporal, but on the other, our own moments of sacred encounter are temporary immersions from the Temporal into the Eternal!

The Greek word BAPTIZŌ used in the New Testament means 'to immerse'. I would suggest that the same Dove that descended on Jesus at His baptism descends on ALL our momentary baptisms in life.

--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