

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 28, 2024 10:30 a.m. Worship



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They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one  
having authority, and not as the scribes. *Mark 1:21*

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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 LOCAL PASTOR:** DR. WENDY L. LAMB

**MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT:** REV. DR. STEPHEN W. 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](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, February 4<sup>th</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Sue Alexander

## REFLECTION before the SERVICE

There Jesus is, in the synagogue, and in that space of the synagogue he deploys a new power. He takes advantage of the Sabbath, the day the faithful ones meet, to teach them, as a trustworthy Jew who has a word for the people. Jesus' communications skill creates vitality: "He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

--Ofelia Ortega, *Feasting on the Word*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*Adagio*

*A. Vivaldi (1678-1741)*

#### INTROIT

*From the Rising of the Sun*<sup>1</sup>

*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<sup>2</sup>

Almighty God, Light from Light,  
who commands the universe and all that is made,  
your Word is the power that makes whole what is broken,  
the force of good, and the food of peace.

✠ **Teach us now as you taught in the synagogue.**

**Heal us now so that in all that we say and do,  
the freedom we have in you may be for others, too;  
Amen.**

#### \*HYMN 15

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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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> ©1962 The H. W. Gray Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

<sup>2</sup> *Glory to God* online hymnal

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

- ✘ Holy and all-powerful God,  
who commands all spirits,  
comforts those in distress,  
and casts out destructive forces,  
We confess that we are unable to do your will.  
We protect what is familiar  
and reject what is unknown.  
We admire those with courage  
but excuse ourselves when we falter from the truth.  
We forget that you are always with us,  
and that with you all things are possible.

*(Moment for silent reflection and confession)*

- ✘ Forgive us, lead us, make us new.  
Remove our desire to heed false prophets,  
and show us your way;  
in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
one God, Mother of us all. Amen.

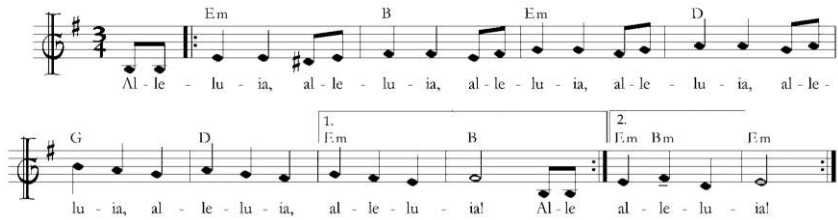
### ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

### \*ALLELUIA

*William Zeitler*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le 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.]*

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*

## ANTHEM

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*<sup>4</sup> Harold W. Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; For when humbly, in thy name, Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them: Alleluya! Alleluya! Touch we now thy garment's hem. As the brethren used to gather In the name of Christ to sup, Then with thanks to God the Father Break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluya! Alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up. All our meals and all our living Make as sacraments of thee, That by caring, helping, giving, We may true disciples be. Alleluya! Alleluya! We will serve thee faithfully.

## SCRIPTURE

Psalm 111

*Old Testament, pg. 562*

Mark 1:21-28

*New Testament, pg. 35*

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*Teaches About God*

*Rev Dr. Stephen W. Smith*

## 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.**

## PRAYERS of the PEOPLE<sup>5</sup>, OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray for the needs of the world:

For the healing of Earth and all its creatures;

for congregations that are in turmoil,

for the healing of divisions between the followers of Christ Jesus;

Hear us, O God,

✘ **your mercy is great.**

for leaders of nations,

for those who have great wealth,

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<sup>4</sup> Text. B.R. Music: Harold W. Friedell. ©1957 The H.W. Gray Co, Inc.. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

<sup>5</sup> Adapted from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*

for those who have too much power,  
for those who have weapons, and  
for those who have none of these things.

Hear us, O God,

✘ **your mercy is great.**

For all those who are in pain and in need of care.

Hear us, O God,

✘ **your mercy is great.**

Into your hands we commend all those for whom we pray and those  
it would be easy to forget. We ask your blessing on all your people  
that we may come at last to the truth around your banquet table that  
has no end. ✘ **Amen.**

And now as Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

✘ **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 450

*Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

\*MOMENT for REFLECTION

\*CHARGE and BENEDECTION

\*SUNG RESPONSE

*Sevenfold Amen*

*John Stainer*

\*POSTLUDE

*Improvisation*

**GREETERS:** Gill & Jane Snyder

**USHERS:** Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Al Rueda, 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**  
**Noe Falconi, Marianna Fowles, Sandy Garza**  
*Elders: Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough, Sue Alexander*  
*Deacons: Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda, Steve Smith*

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

*Jan 28*    Linda McCarl  
*Jan 29*    Brenda Frederick  
*Feb 2*     Brian & Amy Gano

***Annual Meeting.*** The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship **next Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will review the Annual Report for 2023, and elect the Nominating Committee for 2024. Please plan to attend.

***Get Your Copy of the Annual Report*** You should already have received a copy in your email, but there are a limited number of copies available in the Narthex, Read your copy before the Annual Meeting next Sunday.

***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*

I read an article this week by Ethan Siegel Ph.D., astrophysicist, writing about photons. He notes that in our expanding Universe, for billion upon billions of years, the photon seems to be one of the very few particle types that has an apparently infinite lifetime. Photons are the quanta that make up light, and in the absence of any other interactions that force them to change their properties, they are eternally stable, with no hint that they would transmute into any other particle.

In other words, light is eternal. Unlike most everything else in the cosmos.

There's a lovely phrase in the ancient Requiem Mass (a mass for the deceased): "May light eternal shine upon them, O Lord." "Light eternal" — well, there you are, light IS eternal!

And what's God's first act of creation in Genesis 1? "Let there be light."

Then there's 1 John 1:5 "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." Of course John is speaking metaphorically here — God isn't LITERALLY 'light'. But the eternal character of light makes John's metaphor more apt than he likely could have imagined.

With that in mind, consider this from Siegel's article:

"...black holes will begin decaying via Hawking radiation faster than they grow, and that means the production of even greater numbers of photons than went into the black hole in the first place. Over the next  $\sim 10^{100}$  [that's 1 followed by 100 zeros] years or so, every black hole in the Universe will eventually decay away completely, with the overwhelming majority of the decay products being photons."

In other words, in time, black holes — the darkest entities in the cosmos — will fade away and transform into eruptions of Light. Seems like there's a sermon there...

*--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:

Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak, Pat Morris, Martha Pinckney, Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough, Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis,  
and Clerk of Session Amy Smith

and supported by our Board of Deacons:

Rebecca Allen, Robin Edwards, Rick Rodriguez, Katie Smith, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda

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