

the teachings of the Bible are a wee book, set beside the big book that is Creation." The presenters for this week will be Reverend Simon Ruth de Voil and Dr. Jeanette Banashak. More information is available on the website, www.cotiway.org, where you can also register.

Scholarships are available. Please contact Christa Wallis at chriwallis@aol.com if you'd like to receive a scholarship to help defray the cost of attending.

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 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

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024 **10:30 a.m. Worship**



And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

--John 3:14

First Presbyterian Church

Mailing address: P.O. Box 2729; San Bernardino, California 92406

909.882.3308

www.fpcsb.net

COMMISSIONED 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, 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 Thursday, March 28th.

Lenten Quiet Nights will continue each Thursday through March 21st. Come at 5:30 p.m. to the Fireside Lounge for a quiet, contemplative service, followed by a simple supper of soup and bread. The service includes space for silence, and the supper is an opportunity for fellowship. Please join us.

Palm Saturday! On Saturday, March 23rd, we will gather in Fireside Lounge at **9:00 a.m.** for a morning of fellowship and creation, to make palm crosses for Sunday. Everyone invited! No experience required! (Please bring your own scissors!) **At 10:00 a.m., we will prepare the sanctuary for Palm Sunday.** We invite you to join us!

One Great Hour of Sharing. Sometimes it seems like the breaches in our world are only widening. There is so much inequality and injustice — and the situation is being made worse by crises like conflict and climate change. But the great challenge and privilege of our faith is that we are called to be repairers of the breach and to live in solidarity with our siblings in Christ, wherever they might be. When you give to the One Great Hour of Sharing, you help restore hope, provide food to the hungry and accompany the poor and oppressed.

This Lent, you can provide safety, sustenance and hope to our most vulnerable siblings in Christ. Remember, when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday.

Maundy Thursday Service, March 28, 5:30 p.m. Before the joy of Easter, we must accompany Christ through Maundy Thursday. We invite you to come with us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper and welcome the mystery of the cross.

Saturday Morning, March 30th, you're invited help the Worship Committee prepare our sanctuary for Easter morning. Bring your garden's most beautiful flowers, blooming branches, and greenery. (If you bring them in buckets of water, they will stay fresh until arranged!) Bring pruning shears and garden gloves if you would like to help make arrangements. We will gather at **9:00 a.m.** Come join us, whether you have flowers to bring or not, in our tradition of beauty and creativity, as we prepare for Easter!

Companions on the Inner Way Retreat Opportunity, Spring 2024

First Pres San Bernardino has a long history of supporting and attending Companions on the Inner Way Retreats. Companions on the Inner Way offers a safe communal place to explore deep longings for the Holy. Grounded in the Christian tradition, the guided retreats incorporate body, mind, and soul through presentations, dialogue, spiritual practices, art, music, movement, and worship with Eucharist. We strive to create an environment that is theologically curious, radically welcoming, and liturgically vibrant.

This year's retreat will take place from **Sunday, April 14 - Friday, April 19, 2024.** Its theme is 'Canticle of Creation, Mirror of God.' The retreat's brochure states that, "In the legacy of Celtic Christianity, we're reminded that

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION⁵

Just as God's Word was sent into the world
to heal and redeem,
so God sends you into the world this day
to be light and love, healing and hope.
Go now to be light for the world!
And may the grace and peace of God the Creator,
the Redeemer, and the Sustainer
come upon you this day
and remain with you always. Amen.

RESPONSE

Paul Sjolund

Jesus our only Joy be Thou, As Thou our prize wilt be; In Thee be all our glory
now, And through eternity.

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

W. Zeitler

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

GREETERS: Bobbie Terrell, Meryl Davis

USHERS: Chris Thomas, *Lead Usher*

Jim Siegmund, Dave Thomas, *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, Debora Holk, Jim Huffstutler

Elders: Norm Wallis, Amy Smith, Mary Bolaños

Deacons: Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Rick Rodriguez

This Weeks' Celebrations

Mar 12 Richard Rodriguez

Mar 13 Dotti Garcia

Mar 14 Kevin Coyne

Breanna Nord

Morning Worship[†]

Lector: Dotti Garcia

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

Yawe—the animate to be. I am, you are, s/he is. To speak of those possessed with life and spirit we must say yawe. By what linguistic confluence do Yahweh of the Old Testament and yawe of the New World both fall from the mouths of the reverent? Isn't this just what it means, to be, to have the breath of life within, to be the offspring of Creation? The language reminds us, in every sentence, of our kinship with all of the animate world.

Robin Wall Kimmerer,
Braiding Sweetgrass

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Mystery

W. Zeitler

Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

INVITATION to LENT

INTROIT

I bring my heart to Thee¹

David H. Williams

I bring my heart to Thee Thou Lamb of Calvary. Hear Thou my prayer to thee,
O living God. Amen.

BLESSING

*RESPONSE 286

✧ Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

*CALL to WORSHIP

Lent calls us to search our hearts and seek God;

✧ Let us seek God and worship together.

⁵ Taken from "O Merciful God: God of Wisdom: Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in Lent," written by Rev. Kathryn Matthews Huey and the Rev. Susan A. Blain. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website.

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

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

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HYMN 792**There Is a Balm in Gilead***

BALM IN GILEAD

PRAYER of CONFESSION²

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

(Take a moment to silently name your longing.)

Before God, with the people of God, I confess my brokenness: the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

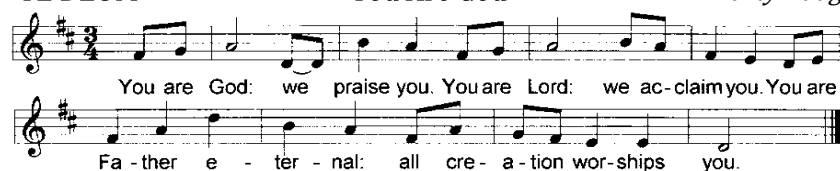
✠ **May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Amen.

✠ **Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness: the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

✠ **Amen.**

TE DEUM**You Are God³****Marty Haugen***TIME with the CHILDREN**

[Children are always welcome in worship. After the Time with Children, we invite our children ages 4 to 11 to go to KidSpace in Room 11. Parents, please pick your children up immediately following worship. Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]

SCRIPTURE

Numbers 21:4-9

Old Testament, pg. 139

John 3:14-17

New Testament, pg. 94

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

² Prayer of Confession © The Iona Community from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*, published by Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Fourth Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauciehall St, Glasgow G2 3DH, UK

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SERMON***Snakes and Staves****Pastor Wendy Lamb***ANTHEM*****Wondrous Love⁴****Paul Christiansen*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul, That caused the Lord of life To bear the heavy cross, What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, What wondrous love is this, O my soul, That Christ should lay aside His crown, That Christ should lay aside His Crown for my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! O my soul, What wondrous love, O what wondrous love. What wondrous love, O my soul!

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 basket or give them to an usher during the offertory, or on your way out – or by mail or online.)

BELL OFFERTORY***Ballade and Toccata****Page C. Long****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 649**Amazing Grace***

AMAZING GRACE

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

⁴ Text: Traditional Southern folk hymn. Music: Traditional; arr. Paul Christiansen. ©1955 Augsburg Publishing. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.
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