

## Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship



*Photo by Emilie Chen*

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Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them.

*--Luke 12:24*

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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 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, May 5<sup>th</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Mindy Rueda

## REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

“Cute” and “sweet” don’t describe it well. I got out all my bird books. First I looked at the yellow warbler (cute, sweet); then I considered the raven. I showed the photo of the raven to Miles, my son. “Miles,” I said, “what do you think of the raven?” He said, “Menacing.” People across time and place have believed the raven to be an omen of death... It has represented war and destruction, doom, the void, annihilation, death. The bird, to put it mildly, invokes anxiety. When Jesus says, “Don’t be anxious. Consider the raven,” is he joking? Or is he saying something like “Look straight into the black abyss of death and fear not”? When Jesus says, “Consider the raven,” is he saying something more than “Get out your binoculars and take a stroll”? Perhaps he is saying something more (it wouldn’t be unlike him).

Debbie Blue, *Consider the Birds*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

*Anonymous*

*Susan Addington, Bass Flute*

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

#### 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, the Lord’s name be praised.

#### \*EASTER ACCLAMATION

This is the good news—

The grave is empty, Christ is risen.

✠ Alleluia! Amen!

This is the Good News- the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never put it out.

✠ Alleluia! Amen!

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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 Co., Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

This is the Good News – Our doubts and our fears  
are no barrier to Christ, let us worship God!

✠ Alleluia! Amen!

**\*HYMN 245**

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!*

LLANFAIR

**\*PRAYER of ADORATION** *(based on Psalm 8)<sup>2</sup>*

*(We remain standing in body or spirit for the Prayer of Adoration.*

*You may always be seated as you wish.)*

✠ O Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Everything we see reminds us of your power and glory because  
you made everything out of nothing.

You made the sun and the moon,

you made the land and the sea,

you made the birds and the fish and all the animals,

and you made us to love you and take care of your creation. We  
praise you for all your gifts

and for helping us take care of your world.

Thank you for your creativity and your love.

O Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth! Amen.

*(We stand and sing Alleluia)*

**\*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!

## 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.]*

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<sup>2</sup> *Worship Sourcebook*

## **ANTHEM**                      *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*<sup>3</sup> Gilbert M. Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood. See, from his head, his hands his feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love, so amazing, so divine Demands my soul, my life, my all!

## **SCRIPTURE**

**Genesis 8:6-17**

*Old Testament, p. 6*

**1 Kings 17:1-6**

*Old Testament, p. 323*

**Luke 12:22-26**

*New Testament, p. 74*

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

*Corvids*

*Pastor Wendy Lamb*

## **HYMN 230**

*Joyful Is the Dark*

LINDNER

*(I invite you to consider the words as we sing this—perhaps—new-to-us hymn. You may remain seated as we sing in response to the word.)*

## **THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS**

*(We offer our tithes and gifts to be part of God's purposes in the world, and we invite you to take part. You may bring forward your gifts and place them in the plate. You may always send gifts 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 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;**

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<sup>3</sup> Text: Isaac Watts. Music: Gilbert M. Martin, based on the tune by Lowell Mason. ©1970 Theodore Presser Co. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

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 246**

*Christ Is Alive!*

TRURO

**\*MOMENT for REFLECTION**

**\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE**      *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*      *Peter C. Lutkin*

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift His countenance upon you;  
and give you peace, the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious  
unto you, be gracious, The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

*Improvisation*

**GREETERS:** Lynda Savage, Claudia Oakes

**USHERS:** John-Paul Fletcher, *Lead Usher*

Al Rueda, 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**

Noé Falconi, Marianna Fowles, Sandy Garza

*Elders:* John-Paul Fletcher, Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak

*Deacons:* Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas, Kristine French

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

***Apr 15*** Kelsey Adelson

Jennifer Mantei

***Apr 16*** Marilyn Karnig

Beverly Snell

***Apr 18*** Michelle Lea Babcock

Don Dudley

Oliver Andrew Lamb

***Apr 20*** Cliff Cummings

Joseph Ramirez

**A Congregational Meeting** will be held immediately following worship on **Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**, for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee. Please plan to attend.

**Several of our congregation** will be travelling this afternoon to Malibu for the **Companions of the Inner Way** retreat. **Among them are Mimi and Laurie, so they will not be in the office next week.**

***A memorial service for Roy Nix*** will be held on **Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at Montecito Memorial Park and Mortuary, 3520 E. Washington Street in Colton.** The funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m. and the graveside service will be held at 2:30 p.m.

***Symphonie Jeunesse Youth Orchestra*** presents ***Music in Myth and Fantasy*** on **Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Come listen to these talented young musicians. You will be delighted.

Our Mission Assessment Team has completed the **Mission Action Plan**, a necessary first step toward calling a new pastor, and the Plan has been approved by the Session and the Presbytery. You can see it on our website: <https://fpcsb.net/mission-assessment>

***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 hymn's lyrics to "What Wondrous Love is This" were first published in Lynchburg, Virginia in the c. 1811 camp meeting songbook *A General Selection of the Newest and Most Admired Hymns and Spiritual Songs Now in Use*. In most early printings, the hymn's text was attributed to an anonymous author, though the 1848 hymnal *The Hesperian Harp* attributes the text to Alexander Means (1801-1883) — a Methodist clergyman, physician, scientist, and teacher. Although Dr. Means certainly sounds capable of authoring the lyrics, he would have been 10 years old when they were first published, making it unlikely he's the author.

Most sources attribute the hymn's melody to the 1701 English song "The Ballad of Captain Kidd", which describes the exploits of pirate William Kidd. The melody itself predates the Kidd usage, however, possibly by more than a century. In addition, at least a dozen popular songs were set to the same melody after 1701. In the early 1800s, when the lyrics to "What Wondrous Love Is This" were first published, hymnals typically lacked any musical notation. (After all, musical notation requires expensive engraving — the words alone only relatively inexpensive movable type.) Camp meeting attendees during the Second Great Awakening would sing the hymns printed in these hymnals to a variety of popular melodies, including "The Ballad of Captain Kidd", which was well known at the time. This is likely how the text and melody came to be paired.

Other hymns exhibit a similar history — where the now familiar melody has a secular origin. Luther is supposed to have used 'drinking songs' as the melody for some of his hymns. (Some say "A Mighty Fortress.") The melody to "Amazing Grace" was originally a song called "New Britain." Frequently these are hard to nail down, as the traces of their original secular usage have often been lost in the mists of time past, overwhelmed by their now sacred usage.

I had a modern-day experience of "baptizing" secular songs. As a young man, there was a period where I made a point of going to as many different styles of worship as I could find. (Still do, to a lesser extent). One of them was a group originating with Watchman Nee (1903-1972) — an evangelistic preacher in Communist China and the founder of the largest indigenous church there, founding over 400 local churches, and writing 60 books. (He spent the last 20 years of his life in prison for his troubles.) I happened upon a group of his followers who met weekly at a school cafeteria. Their idea of Communion was that it's "just" a big communal meal. So they had a big potluck every Thursday night, eating at those long school cafeteria tables and kids running around having too much fun. Then, after the meal, they got out their 'hymnal' — lyrics set to



well-known popular tunes. One was set to the "Budweiser Beer" commercial, another to the "Flintstones," crazy stuff like that. It was way too much fun hearing maybe 100 people sing hymns set to these almost preposterous tunes. And, later, when I heard these secular tunes and words on TV or wherever, I found myself mentally substituting the 'sacred' words I had heard that night. Maybe they were onto something....

-- *William Zeidler*



*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 Action Plan has been completed by our Mission Assessment Team:

Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher, Nancy Horstmann, Marilyn Kraft, Jim Morris, Brent Nord, Irene Sandoval-Suverkrup

*We will be forming our Pastor Nominating Committee in the next few weeks.*