

**Cover Art: *Soul Card* made by *Christa Wallis*.**

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship



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**Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.**

*--Luke 12:7*

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### **First Presbyterian Church**

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

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[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: Pat Morris

## REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

The commonness of sparrows is part of their glory, their ordinariness one piece of what makes them special. Sparrows are everywhere, but even within their vast populations, a single bird is unique, with a slightly different marking pattern, personality, history, nesting spot. Even with 1.6 billion House Sparrows and 319 individual species of New World Sparrow, every one is individually crafted, much like the normal, humble days that each come to us but once.

Sparrows are also a reminder that God's care is not dependent on our own transcendence or charisma or beauty. Everyone notices a peacock, but sparrows can blend in until we stop seeing them at all.

God never does.

Courtney Ellis, *Looking Up*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Sanctuary of Faith*

*William Zeitler*

*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!

This is the Good News – Our doubts and our fears

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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.

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are no barrier to Christ, let us worship God!

✘ Alleluia! Amen!

**\*HYMN 267**

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

MADRID

**\*PRAYER of ADORATION<sup>2</sup>**

*(We remain standing in body or spirit for the Prayer of Adoration.  
You may always be seated as you wish.)*

✘ On this day of rest and gladness,  
we praise you, God of creation,  
for the dignity of work and the joy of play,  
for the challenge of witness  
and the invitation to delight at your table. Renew our hearts  
through your Sabbath rest, that we might be refreshed  
to continue in your work  
of restoring the world to wholeness. 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! Al - le al - le - lu - ia!

Chords: Em, B, Em, D, G, D, Em, B, Em, Bm, Em

**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.]*

**ANTHEM**

*Thanks Be to Thee*

*George F. Handel*

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 84:1-4  
Luke 12:6-7

*Old Testament, p. 543  
New Testament, p. 74*

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Sparrows*

*Pastor Wendy Lamb*

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

**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 HUNDRETH

✘ 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 39***Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

**\*MOMENT for REFLECTION****\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION****CONGREGATIONAL MEETING****\*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:** Gill & Jane Snyder

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

Rick Rodriguez, 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**

Deanna Long, Dwight Murray, Charlene Peterson

*Elders:* Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough

*Deacons:* Steve Smith, Dan Direen, Robin Edwards

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

*Apr 28* Jim Cimino

Jim Coyne

Mark Freeman

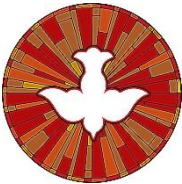
*Apr 29* Jim & Helen Babcock

*May 1* Lily Bolaños

Aidan Morris

*May 4* Erika Mantei

**A Congregational Meeting** will be held immediately following worship **TODAY**, for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee. Please plan to attend.



**“I am coming to you.”**

—JOHN 14:18b

**God continually comes to us** and that we will never be forgotten by the God whom we know is here with us in the person of Jesus Christ. In a world that so desperately needs to hear that God is right here with us, coming to us, and calling us to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God, it is our call as a congregation and as believers to share this Good News with the world. **The Pentecost Offering helps us live this call.** Through our giving we are able to tell the story of God, who is always there for us, coming to us. The Offering supports children at risk through the *Educate a Child, Transform the World* initiative and high schoolers attending the *Presbyterian Youth Triennium*, which shows them the inescapable loving presence of God. It also enables young adults to share Christ's light while living in



solidarity with those on the margins of society and preparing themselves for a life of service through the *Young Adult Volunteers program*. **40% of the Pentecost Offering remains in our community, and this year will be donated to the Salvation Army's Transitional Living Center** in San Bernardino, a shelter for homeless families, and for mothers with children.

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*

Two of the titans in 20th century physics would be Wheeler and Feynmann. John Archibald Wheeler (1911-2008) was a theoretical physicist who worked on the hydrogen bomb at Los Alamos and later taught at Princeton. He is largely known for reviving interest in general relativity in the 1940s and 1950s. Richard Feynman (1918-1988) was a Nobel Prize-winning theoretical physicist renowned for his work in quantum mechanics, quantum electrodynamics, and the development of Feynman diagrams, as well as for his extraordinary skills in storytelling and teaching.

Wheeler was Feynmann's Ph.D. advisor. In his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize, Feynmann told the story...

I received a telephone call one day at the graduate college at Princeton from Professor Wheeler, in which he said, "Feynman, I know why all electrons have the same charge and the same mass." "Why?" "Because, they are all the same electron!" (A rather technical conversation ensues...)

In other words, according to this 'thought experiment', there's only one electron in the entire Cosmos – it's just really busy!

The idea didn't hold up to experimental evidence, but it did open the aperture of Feynmann's imagination, leading to the theory for which he ultimately received a Nobel Prize.

So, in that spirit, I propose an analogous thought experiment: There's only One Consciousness in the Cosmos – it's just really busy! In God and each one of us.

After all, it's not that big a stretch from "We are one in the Spirit." Maybe it's like we are droplets of 'individual' consciousness in the vast Ocean that is God. No wonder Jesus teaches: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" – because, in this sense, you and I are indeed droplets of the same Consciousness. In this imagination, when I "do unto you" I'm doing unto myself as well!

Or, consider these teachings of Jesus: In John 10:34 he quotes the Old Testament: "Is it not written in your law, "I said, you are gods?" After all, in John 14:12 He says "Truly, truly I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do, and greater works than these will he do..." Two verses which when I really try to think about them, my brain blows up!

I'm certainly not proposing the "Only one consciousness in the cosmos" idea as some new doctrine or dogma. It's a 'thought experiment.'

Wheeler and Feynmann contemplating the "One Electron Cosmos" idea, even though they ultimately discarded it, still functioned as a kind of 'yeast for the imagination' – fermenting into ideas that earned Feynmann a Nobel Prize. I personally have found contemplating the "One Consciousness in the Cosmos" idea to have definitely opened the aperture of MY imagination in helpful ways. Perhaps you'll find it thought and deed provoking too.

*-- 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, Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Rick Rodriguez, Katie Smith, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas, Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda

In this time of change for our congregation, a Mission Assessment 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 electing our Pastor Nominating Committee today.*