

**Sixth Sunday of Easter
Communion Sunday**

May 5, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship



Vulture, photo by Christa Wallis, Companions on the Inner Way 2024

Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

--Matthew 24:28

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 Sunday, June 2nd.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Nancy Horstmann

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

The turkey vulture is also known as the Cathartes aura, which is derived from the Greek katharsis, meaning “to purify”; and the Latin aureus, meaning “golden”: “the golden purifier.” Maybe God is something like that—not so much like an eagle—not a fierce warrior god swooping in for the rescue or the kill, but a God who can take everything in and make it clean—a God who can make even death nontoxic.

Debbie Blue, *Consider the Birds*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Andante

G. F. Handel (1665-1757)

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

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, 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
are no barrier to Christ, let us worship God!

✠ Alleluia! Amen!

*HYMN 18

Hallelujah!

NYANYIKANLAH NYANYIAN BARU

Sing Praise to Your Creator

† 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 ADORATION** *(based on Psalm 36)*²

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

- ☒ **O God, your constant love reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness extends to the skies.**
Your righteousness towers like the mountains, your justice is deeper than the sea.
All find protection under the shadow of your wings. We feast on the abundance you provide.
You are the source of all life,
and in your light, we see light.

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

Musical notation for Alleluia in G major, 3/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: 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! Al - le - lu - ia!

Chords: Em, B, Em, D, G, D, 1. Em, B, 2. Em, Bm, Em.

TIME with the CHILDREN

*[Children are always welcome in worship. There are activity bags and books in the narthex (entryway).
Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]*

ANTHEM

Canon of Praise³

arr. Hal Hopson

All within me bless the Lord, All within me bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, All within me bless his holy name. O hear, you righteous, know that the Lord is good. We remember all his love, he crowns our lives with hope and truth. God the Lord is gracious, his mercy is the same forever. As a father loves his children, so the Lord loves his own. Those who love the Lord shall claim his ever-present help. O Bless the Lord, O all within me bless his holy name. O bless the Lord, my soul, O bless his holy name.

SCRIPTURE **Leviticus 11:13-18**

Old Testament, p. 96

(This is a section from the food laws given to the Israelites.)

Matthew 24:23-33

New Testament, p. 27

² *Worship Sourcebook*

³ Text: adapted from Psalm 103 by Hal H. Hopson. Music from *Canon* by Johann Pachelbel; arr. Hal H. Hopson. ©1984 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Vultures

Pastor Wendy Lamb

HYMN 840

It Is Well with My Soul
v. 1 and 4

VILLE DU HAVRE

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.)

BELL OFFERTORY

Oh, Worship the King

arr. Susan Geschke

SACRAMENT of the LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE

SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

✘ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

✘ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

✘ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

GREAT PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

✘ **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

Jesus, Breathe your Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and cup.
Fill them -and us - with your Presence,
Feed our deepest hunger, and our persistent thirst.

THE WORDS of INSTITUTION

SHARING of the BREAD and CUP

The cup is non-alcoholic. Gluten free bread and pre-packaged elements are available at the station under the pulpit.

Communion will be served by intinction at 2 stations. As you feel ready, please come up the center aisle to a station, receive a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat it, and return to your seat by the side aisle.

As you prepare to go forward and when you have returned, please join us in our sung prayer. These refrains will be sung over and over as we make them our own prayers.

SUNG PRAYERS

***527 Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup*⁴**

**Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Come to me and never be hungry
Eat this bread, drink this cup;
Trust in me and you will not thirst. *Repeat.***

***204 Stay With Me*⁴**

**Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray. Watch and pray...**

***90 Wait for the Lord*⁵**

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near;
Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart...**

***814 In God Alone*⁶**

**In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,
in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest,
find its rest and peace.**

⁴ ©1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. All rights reserved

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PRAYER after COMMUNION

✘ We give you thanks for this feast of abundance
that we shared this morning.

Grant us that we go out and make a place for everyone at the
table as you did because we have shared the bread of new
beginnings and cup of belonging and can't remain the same.
Amen.

***HYMN 248** *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

HYMN TO JOY

***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: Bonnie Ainsworth, Linda McCarl

USHERS: Mark Adelson, *Lead Usher*

Jim Siegmund, 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

Bob Saenz, Doris Schiavone, Josie Short

Elders: Sue Alexander Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman

Deacons: Rick Rodriguez, Katie Smith, Rebecca Allen

This Weeks' Celebrations

May 6 Kaiyah Dubois
 Katie Willis

May 7 Brian Gano
 Maggie Willis

May 9 Chasen Bricker
 Rosalind Mantei
 Phil Savage III

May 10 Marissa Congdon
 Susan Skoglund

May 11 Tinka Ponder

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation will have their **Spring Gathering** on **Monday, June 3 at 6:00 p.m. in Fireside Lounge.** Jennifer Carter of Oak Tree Learning Centers will be our speaker.



“I am coming to you.”

—JOHN 14:18b

God continually comes to us and 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 support children at risk, high schoolers, and young adults. **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.

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

In 1954-1955, Senator John F. Kennedy (later President) endured a year-long recovery from surgery to correct a back injury he received during World War II. During his enforced confinement, he wrote a book called “Profiles in Courage” in which he tells the stories of various senators of yesteryear who took principled stands that cost them their political careers.

So the idea occurred to me to explore “Profiles in Humanity” – occasions when men and women put the well-being of humanity above their own benefit. Of course, people do this all the time – frequently unnoticed by their fellow humans. (And such people frequently like it that way!). Nevertheless, there are dramatic instances, or instances by famous people, that remind us of the greatness, the nobility, and the compassion of which human beings are capable. I for one could use such an inspiring story from time to time! Here’s one...

Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen (1845-1923) was a German physicist best known for discovering X-rays. This remarkable achievement not only earned him the first Nobel Prize in Physics in 1901 but also revolutionized medicine and science. Born in Lennep, Germany, Röntgen was raised in the Netherlands after his family moved there when he was three. Challenges marked his academic journey; he was expelled from high school for a prank another student committed, and he later entered the University of Utrecht without a high school diploma. Röntgen eventually earned his PhD from the University of Zurich.



Roentgen in 1800. (Wikipedia)



The first X-ray: Roentgen's wife's hand. (Wikipedia)

Röntgen's career included professorships at prestigious German universities, including Strasbourg, Giessen, Würzburg, and Munich. His groundbreaking work occurred on November 8, 1895, when he accidentally discovered a new kind of radiation while experimenting with cathode rays. This radiation, which he called "X-rays" ('X' for the 'unknown') could pass through most objects and leave impressions on photographic plates. Recognizing the potential medical applications of X-rays, he took the first medical X-ray images, including a famous image of his wife's hand. (Note: the X-ray source at Röntgen's disposal was so weak it took 15 minutes to expose the photographic plate.)

Röntgen's discovery not only earned him countless accolades but also had a profound and lasting impact on diagnostic medicine, providing a non-invasive method to observe the internal condition of the body and objects.

For example, it was not always easy for doctors to locate bullets in someone — having to ‘dig around’ until they could find them only made the wound worse. Or being able to see at a glance the configuration of broken bones — X-rays showed the location straight away.

After the end of World War I and the subsequent economic turmoil in Germany, his financial situation deteriorated. He had invested heavily in German war bonds — worthless after the war. As a result, Röntgen spent his final years in a much more modest, financially restrained retirement than one might expect for a scientist of his stature.

I cite Röntgen as a “Profile in Humanity” not for his scientific genius — which was considerable, but because he refused to patent ‘X-rays’, patents that would have been worth a fortune, wanting his discovery disseminated to the medical community as quickly as possible. (By the way, in Europe and elsewhere, ‘X-rays’ are generally known as ‘Röntgen-rays’.)

So, next time you get an X-ray, consider what the alternative would be without them, and whisper a quiet little ‘thank you’ to William Röntgen.

-- 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, 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 Pastor Nominating Committee has been elected by the congregation:

Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher,
Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris,
Shelby Obershaw, Christa Wallis, Neal Williams