

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship



The Aachen cathedral, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany.

By Horst J. Meuter - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=73675215>

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

-- 1 Corinthians 13:7

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†

Lectors: Stephanie Fletcher
Sarah Fletcher

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

To know the surface of something is to barely know it at all, and everything can be seen from different angles: an idea, a tree, a pelican could look different every day. We interpret and we reinterpret constantly. Sometimes an interpretation really settles in—that doesn't mean it couldn't stand to be unsettled.

Debbie Blue, *Consider the Birds*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Prelude in Db

F. Chopin (1810-1849)

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 232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

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

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

¹ ©1962 The H. W; Gray Co., Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

Page | 3

***PRAYER of PRAISE²**

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

Gracious God,
as a mother loves her child, so you love us.

✘ **For that great truth
we praise and thank you.**

We owe our very lives to you.
You have watched over us from our birth,
tenderly nurturing us,
showering us with love.
When we have needed you, you have been there.

✘ **For that great truth
we praise and thank you.**

You have given us strength in times of need,
comfort in times of distress,
encouragement in times of despair,
guidance in times of uncertainty.
Whatever we have faced, you have been with us.

✘ **For that great truth
we praise and thank you.**

Gracious God,
we have not always appreciated your love,
all too often ignoring what you would teach us,
taking you for granted and wandering far from your side.
Yet through it all your love has remained constant.

✘ **For that great truth
we praise and thank you.**

Gracious God,
caring for us more than you care for yourself,
sacrificing your all for our sakes,
loving us with an unquenchable love,
you have called us to be your children.

✘ **For that great truth
we praise and thank you.
In the name of Christ. Amen.**

² written by Nick Fawcett, in *Prayers for All Seasons* (1998), and posted on **Make a Mother's Day**.

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

Alle - 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!

1. Alle al - le - lu - ia!
2. Alle al - le - lu - ia!

Chords: Em, B, Em, D, G, D, Em, B, 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.]*

SCRIPTURE Psalm 102:1-7 (NKJV)

Old Testament, p. 553

ANTHEM

As the Eagle Soars and Circles³

Kathy Powell

As the eagle soars and circles, seeing all beneath the sky, you, O God, unbound, transcendent, watch the earth with loving eye. As the gull with grace and beauty arcs from sky to touch the sea, so Christ swept from cosmic splendor gracing our humanity. As the dove's descent once signaled, "Here is my beloved Son!", now, O Spirit, come among us; name us each and all your own. As the nightingale undaunted sings when starless is the night, may we sing faith's song in darkness, waiting, yearning for the light. As no sparrow falls unnoticed though its space and span are small, so no life is lost, forgotten by the Love, Love that made us all. As no sparrow falls unnoticed though its space and span are small, so no life is lost, forgotten by the Love that made us all.

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 13

New Testament, p. 175

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Pelican

Pastor Wendy Lamb

HYMN 693

Though I May Speak

GIFT OF LOVE

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.)

³ Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr. ©2000 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Kathy Powell. ©2005 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

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;
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 157

Lord of the Dance

Sydney Carter

*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: Mindy Rueda, Amy Rueda

USHERS: Tin Usher, *Lead Usher*

Dave Thomas, Lynn Usher, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Beverly Snell, Judy Steppins, Ann Aguilera

Elders: Norm Wallis, Amy Smith, Mary Bolaños

Deacons: Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Thomas

This Weeks' Celebrations

May 12 Wendy Lamb

May 14 Carol Coyne

May 15 Lynn Usher

May 16 Jim Babcock

May 17 Sharon Louise Landeros

Wanda Skipper

Tim & Lynn Usher

In your bulletin today you will find an ***Emergency Contact card***, which will enable us to contact your friends/relatives should you suffer an emergency here at church. Please fill out the card and place it in the offering basket or return it to the church office. Questions? Contact Laurie in the church office.

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

“Profiles in Humanity” aren’t limited to people in the West. This week’s profile is about a Russian naval officer.

Vasily Arkhipov (1926-1998) was born into a Russian peasant family near Moscow. He saw action during the Soviet-Japanese War in August 1945 aboard a minesweeper. Arkhipov's later served on submarines across the Black Sea, Northern, and Baltic Fleets.

In July 1961, Arkhipov was appointed deputy commander and therefore executive officer of the new Hotel-class ballistic missile submarine K-19. After a few days of conducting exercises off the southeast coast of Greenland, the submarine developed a bad leak in its reactor coolant system. This leak led to a failure of the cooling system. Radio communications were also affected, and the crew was unable to contact Moscow.

With no backup systems, the captain ordered the seven members of the engineer crew to come up with a solution to avoid nuclear meltdown. This required the men to work in high radiation levels for extended periods. They eventually came up with a secondary coolant system and were able to prevent a reactor meltdown.

However, all, including Arkhipov, were badly irradiated. The engineering crew and their divisional officer died within a month due to radiation poisoning. And by two years, 15 more crew were dead.

Next year, in October 1962 during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Arkhipov found himself an executive officer on a B-59 diesel-powered submarine near Cuba. Eleven U.S. Navy destroyers and an aircraft carrier located his sub. Despite being in international waters, the U.S. Navy started dropping signaling depth charges, intending to force the submarine to surface for identification.

By then, there had been no contact from Moscow for days. And although the B-59's crew had been picking up U.S. civilian radio broadcasts earlier, the submarine was too deep to monitor radio traffic, busy as they were trying to hide from the Americans. But, unknown to the US forces, they had a ten-kiloton nuclear torpedo in their arsenal. And the officers had permission to launch it without approval from Moscow.

And the sub’s air system failed. So with oxygen running low and air temperatures, carbon dioxide, fear and tempers rising, two of the vessel’s senior officers - including the captain – wanted to launch their nuke. Apparently, the captain exclaimed: “We’re gonna blast them now! We

will die, but we will sink them all – we will not become the shame of the fleet.”

But there was one little problem: all three senior officers had to agree to launch. Arkhipov refused, and calmed the captain down. The torpedo was never fired.

Arkhipov eventually persuaded the captain to surface and await orders from Moscow. His persuasion likely averted a nuclear war. Without knowing for sure what was going on topside, Arkhipov bet his career and the fate of his submarine and crew that there was no war in progress, despite enormous pressure to launch.

At the time, no one on the U.S. side knew that the Soviet submarines were nuclear-armed. No one knew that conditions in the submarines were so physically difficult and unstable that commanding officers, fearing they were under attack by U.S. forces, might consider arming and launching their nuclear torpedoes.

Ultimately, Kennedy and Khrushchev negotiated an end to the stalemate, with Kennedy agreeing to withdraw US nuclear-armed missiles from Turkey in exchange for the Soviets withdrawing theirs from Cuba. Yet, had Arkhipov not prevented the launching of a nuclear-armed torpedo, there would have been no negotiation – just retaliation.

On their return to Russia, many crew members were faced with disgrace from their superiors. One admiral told them "It would have been better if you'd gone down with your ship". But ultimately Arkhipov was cleared of any wrongdoing, and continued his naval career, eventually promoted to vice admiral. He died age 72 of kidney cancer – as did so many of his irradiated comrades.

McNamara, Secretary of Defense at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis, stated: "We came very, very close [to nuclear war], closer than we knew at the time." Schlesinger, an advisor for the Kennedy administration and a historian, continued, "This was not only the most dangerous moment of the Cold War. It was the most dangerous moment in human history.”

As the world leaders rattled their nuclear swords from the safety of their bunkers, it was a mid-level Soviet officer who showed us real leadership under extreme pressure and averted – single-handedly – thermonuclear war.

-- 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 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