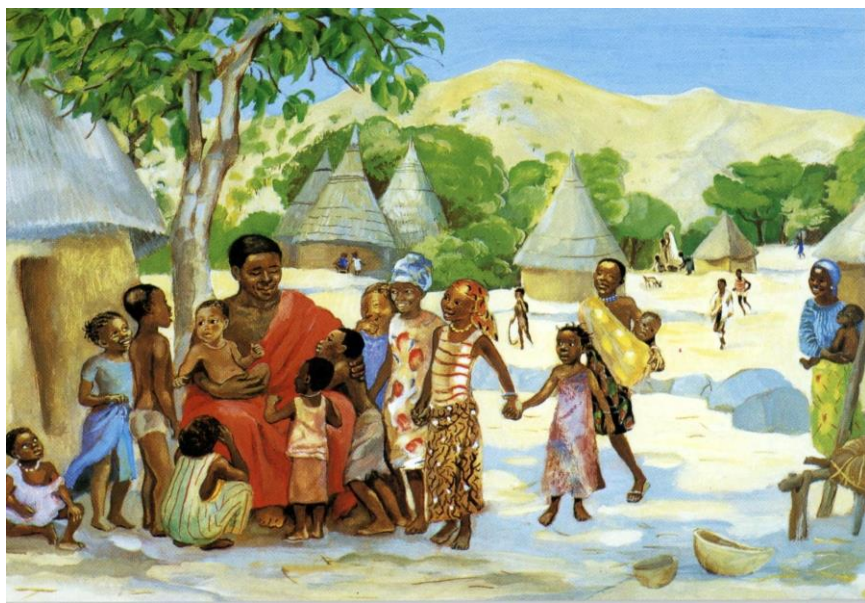


Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 22, 2024 10:30 a.m. Worship



Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."
--Mark 9:36-37

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, October 6th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Margaret Doane

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

What could children teach me about God, about faith, about the spiritual journey that, somewhere along the path of growing up, I had momentarily lost? In what ways did I need to open my ears and my heart to the still small voice of God talking to me through the unaccountably beautiful not so still small voice of the child in my arms?

If we are all children of God, if God dwells within each one of us, for all time, then in what ways could I retune my active mind to the wisdom of the children within and in my life?

--Ruth Harvey

Ready or Not: Children, spirituality and journeying together

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Yearning for the Promised Land* W. Zeitler
Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

INTROIT *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* *Unknown*
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea, daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be. I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

*CALL to WORSHIP (*from Psalm 1*)

Happy are the people

✘ **whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,

✘ **which yield their fruit in its season.**

The Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

✘ **Let us worship the Lord together.**

***HYMN 267** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* MADRID

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

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

PRAYER of CONFESSION¹

- ✘ Lord, you are a God who keeps promises.
In our prayers and songs we say
that we want to be Christians,
but then we forget our promises.
Our actions do not match up with our words.
We say mean things to other people,
we hurt their feelings,
we think of ourselves first,
and, worst of all, we ignore you.

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

- ✘ Lord, forgive us and hear our prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

(We remain seated for the kyrie, an ancient song of the church. We will sing it through in Greek first and then in English.)

577 Lord, Have Mercy

Musical notation for the first system of 'Lord, Have Mercy'. It features a treble clef and a bass clef, both in 4/4 time. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Note: Lower voices may hum.

Musical notation for the second system of 'Lord, Have Mercy'. It features a treble clef and a bass clef, both in 4/4 time. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. There is a triplet of eighth notes in the final measure of the melody.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Dinah Reindorf, 1987; arr. *Sing! A New Creation*, 2001
Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf
Music Arr. © 2001 Faith Alive Christian Resources

KYRIE ELEISON (Reindorf)

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ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

- ✘ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

Musical score for Alleluia in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and G4. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia' are written below the notes. Chords Em, B, Em, and D are indicated above the staff. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and G4, followed by a quarter rest. The lyrics 'lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le al - le - lu - ia!' are written below. Chords G, D, F#m, B, F#m, Bm, and F#m are indicated above the staff. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship. There are activity bags and books in the back of the room.]

After the Time with the Children, children may go to KidSpace.

Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]

ANTHEM

***Blessed Assurance*²**

Knapp/Raney

One thing I'm sure of, one thing I know, God walks beside me wherever I go. God never leaves me, God's there to stay. God holds my hand, God lights my way. *God's love is perfect, God's arms are strong. God's right here with me, I'm not alone. When my heart's broken, God's there to mend. God is my Savior, God is my friend.* Blessed assurance Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Watching and waiting looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. *God's love is perfect. . . .*

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

✘ **Your Word is our wisdom;**
it gives us insight, strength, and courage.
Open our hearts and our minds on this day,
that we might receive what you want to give.
Speak, Lord! Your people listen! Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 9:30-37

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them,

² Words by Fanny J. Crosby. Additional words by Joel Raney. Music by Phoebe P. Knapp. Setting by Joel Raney. ©2002 and 2010 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 727

*The Servant Song*³

Gillard

**Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.**

REFLECTIONS⁴

Three People who Encountered Jesus in Their Childhoods

John 6:3,5,8,9

Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?”

A Man

HYMN 727

*The Servant Song*³

Gillard

**We are pilgrims on a journey;
we’re together on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the nighttime of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

³ Text & Music: Richard Gillard. ©2015 Jubilate Music. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

⁴ “Reflections from Three Young People” are from *He Was in the World: Meditations for Public Worship* by John L. Bell .

Matthew 9:18, 23-25

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

A Woman

HYMN 727

The Servant Song³

Gillard

**I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

Matthew 19:13-15

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

A Person

HYMN 727

The Servant Song³

Gillard

**Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.**

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 place your offering in the plates as they are passed. 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, 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 326**

For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

RESPONSE

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Unknown

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea, daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be. When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more; guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear lord, to thy shore.

POSTLUDE

Hymn

Cover art: JESUS MAFA. Jesus welcomes the children, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48395> [retrieved September 18, 2024]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

GREETERS: Donna Feit, Doris Nord

USHERS: Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

John-Paul Fletcher, *Security Usher*

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, Beverly Snell

Elders: Martha Pinckney, Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane

Deacons: Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda, Steve Smith

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Shelby Obershaw, Christa Wallis, Neal Williams

This Weeks' Celebrations

Sep 22 Al Rueda

Sep 23 Michael Cummings

Sep 24 Kyle Smith

Sep 26 Jim Siegmund

Kelli Vasquez

Sep 27 Eli Morales

We will receive the Peace and Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday, October 6th. 25% of the Offering will be used in our local community. This year the money will be donated to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), an organization that advocates for children who become involved with the justice system. You can learn more about them at <https://www.casaofsb.org/>

Deacons' Blood Drive! The Blood Drive will be held on **Sunday, November 3rd**. Sign up for a time slot between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. **Brad Smith will be in Fellowship Hall this Sunday after the service to answer questions and sign you up.**

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 a prosperous kingdom, there lived two brothers: Lucian and Aelric, sons of a wealthy merchant. Lucian was ambitious, always seeking power and prestige, while Aelric was content to serve quietly as a humble gardener in the royal palace. Aelric spent his days tending the king's garden, planting seeds, and nurturing the plants with care. Lucian often mocked him, saying, "You waste your time in the dirt while I rise in influence. You'll never amount to anything."

One day, the king called for a grand banquet, inviting nobles and dignitaries from across the kingdom. Lucian, eager to impress, dressed in his finest clothes and placed himself at the head of the table, hoping to catch the king's favor and rise in rank.

Meanwhile, Aelric continued his work in the garden, unnoticed by the guests. He carefully prepared the palace grounds, ensuring the flowers and trees were in full bloom for the banquet. As the evening progressed, a sudden storm swept through the kingdom, and the roof of the banquet hall began to leak, threatening to ruin the grand feast. Chaos erupted as the guests rushed to protect the food and themselves from the rain.

Lucian, seeing an opportunity to showcase his importance, rushed to the king's side, offering grand but impractical solutions to save the feast. But his words carried no weight, and he was unable to do anything to stop the disaster unfolding before them.

Just then, Aelric appeared with a quiet, steady demeanor. He suggested using the large tents from the garden to cover the tables and shelter the guests from the rain. So Aelric quickly organized the palace servants, leading them to protect the banquet from further damage. The guests were safe and dry, and the feast continued under the cover of the garden tents.

When the storm passed, the king stood before the gathered nobles and said, "Tonight, many have sought to show their greatness through status and appearance, but true greatness lies in service. Aelric, my humble gardener, through his care and wisdom, saved this banquet and served us all. It is he who has shown the path to true greatness."

Lucian, realizing his pride had led him astray, watched as his brother was honored not for seeking power, but for serving with humility. And while Lucian nevertheless continued to chase titles and influence, he never found the satisfaction or esteem in the king's eyes that Aelric's quiet service brought him.

"Whoever will be great among you, shall be your servant. And whoever of you will be the foremost, shall be servant of all." (Mark 10:43-44)

-- 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