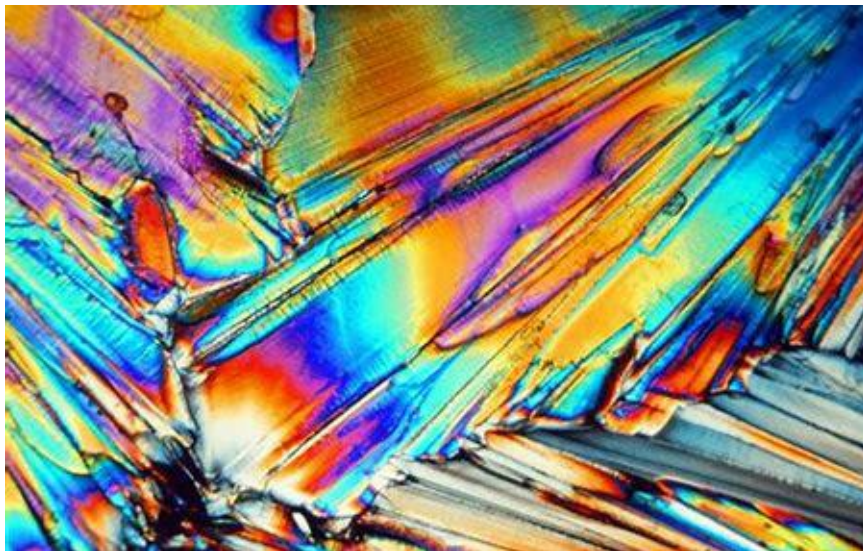


Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 29, 2024 10:30 a.m. Worship



Salt Crystals

**Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it?
Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”**

--Mark 9:50

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: Amy Smith

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

As we gather in worship today, let us leave behind all that distracts us. Let us give ourselves fully and without hesitation to the worship of the One who strengthens, comforts, and gives us peace. May we reflect on the unity in Spirit we have with one another in Christ.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

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

INTROIT *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* Albert Peace
O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

*CALL to WORSHIP¹

We gather to pray

✘ **We gather to praise.**

May our prayers extend beyond ourselves

✘ **May our praise rise to the heavens.**

May our lives be salty with love.

✘ **May our prayers be reflections of peace.**

***HYMN 667** *When Morning Gilds the Skies* LAUDES DOMINI

PRAYER of CONFESSION

✘ **O God, you are our help and our hope. In times of trial, keep us from falling into temptation. In times of need, help us reach out for aid and lean on prayer. Show us that others need our help, our hope, and our prayers. Strengthen our resolve to offer those gifts where they are most needed.**

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

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

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

¹ Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*

- ✘ **Renew us, we pray, according to your steadfast love. Remind us of your covenant faithfulness and have mercy on us in the name of Jesus Christ. 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 and bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The melody is 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 and bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The melody is 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 treble staff.

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 notation for the Alleluia. It features a treble and bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. 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! There are two endings: 1. Fm B and 2. Fm Bm Fm.

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

*Simple Praise*²

Craig Courtney

For a canvas of colors, for a concert of sound; for the unfolding seasons, the earth spinning round. For the birth of each sunrise, for the sky set ablaze; for these simple gifts, we give simple praise. Simple praise for the Giver, and thanks to the One who has given us breath and given His Son. To the Giver of blessings for all of our days, for these simple gifts, we give simple praise. For the love of a mother, for the touch of a hand; for the deeper emotions we can't understand. For the lessons we learn from the trials we face; for these simple gifts, we give simple praise. The heart of the Giver, the hand of the One from whom ev'ry blessing of living has come, for measureless mercy and limitless grace, for these simple gifts we give simple praise.

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

✘ **Lord God, by the power of your Spirit, enlighten our eyes, instruct our minds, rejoice our hearts, and revive our souls so that our lips and our lives may bear witness to your Word. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

² Text: Pamela Martin. Music Craig Courtney. ©2005 Lorenz Publishing Corporation. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Stay Salty

The Rev. Claire Schlegel

HYMN 753

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

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 745**

Now Go in Joy

JUNKANOO

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

RESPONSE

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

Albert Peace

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

POSTLUDE

Hymn

The Rev. Claire Schlegel retired in May of 2023, after serving for nearly 12 years at Magnolia Presbyterian Church, the last 6 years as Co-Pastor. Since then, she has spent time taking short trips to the Central Coast and a 2-week trip to Scotland. Claire is available for retreats or 1-day workshops as well as one on one Spiritual Direction. She is a Certified Spiritual Director and sees clients at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Riverside as well as on Zoom. She has 2 grown daughters and 2 cats and 2 dogs. She is going on a river cruise on the Danube in November and also sings with Mountainside MasterChorale.

GREETERS: Jeanne Clark, Bobbie Terrell

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Mark Adelson, *Security Usher*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Judy Steppins, Ann Aguilera, George Biddlecombe
Elders: Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough, Sue Alexander
Deacons: Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Rick Rodriguez
Pastor Nominating Committee:
Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher

This Weeks' Celebrations

Sep 30 Carmen Paredes
Oct 2 Julie Aguilera
Dave Thomas
Oct 4 Jennifer (Coynne) Scerra
Lisa (Coynne) Star
Oct 5 Caleb Christopher Jones

Prayer & Healing Service. There will be a service of prayers and healing on **Thursday, October 10th at 6:00 p.m.** in the Chapel.

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.**

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/>

Hallowe'en Concert. **Symphonie Jeunesse Youth Orchestra** will present their annual Hallowe'en Concert on **Sunday, October 27th, at 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.** Admission is free. Donations are accepted. For more information, go to symphoniejeunesse.org

Reformation Sunday, which we traditionally celebrate with bagpipes and dancers and shortbread cookies, is only four weeks away! We will have the Kevin R. Blandford Memorial Pipe Band and highland dancers. If you would like to help pay this cost, perhaps as a memorial to a loved one or friend, please get your offering, and the name of the

person(s) you wish to honor, to the church office by **Tuesday, October 22nd**.

And what is Reformation Sunday without shortbread cookies?

(Well, it's still Reformation Sunday, but we *really like* the cookies!) If you are able to bring shortbread for our celebration (you can make it or buy it), **please let the church office know by October 18th**, and then bring it to the kitchen before church on or before Sunday, October 27th. The church will purchase some gluten-free shortbread, so that everyone may celebrate!

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

Once upon a time, in a peaceful valley, there stood an ancient tree, its branches stretching wide, offering shade to all who passed by. The villagers admired the tree, for it had stood for generations, weathering countless storms. It had become a symbol of strength and resilience.

One year, a fierce storm swept through the valley, more violent than any before. Trees were uprooted, homes were damaged, and when the storm had passed, the ancient tree lay fallen, its mighty trunk cracked in two.

The villagers were devastated. How could something so strong and enduring be destroyed? Many came to the fallen tree, shaking their heads and lamenting. "If even this great tree could not survive, what hope do we have?" they wondered.

An old, quiet man named Elias, known for his deep faith and wisdom, came to sit by the tree. He had seen many storms and losses in his life, yet he rarely spoke about them. The villagers gathered around him, hoping for some insight, some reason for the loss.

"Why did God let this happen?" one of them asked. "Surely, this tree was good and strong. What could possibly be gained by its fall?"

Elias looked at the broken tree and then at the anxious faces of the villagers. After a long silence, he said softly, "Not everything that breaks can be explained by strength or weakness. Not everything that falls has a reason we can understand."

The villagers were surprised. They had expected a comforting answer, a lesson about strength and survival. But Elias continued, "Sometimes, things fall not because they were weak, and not because they were meant to teach us something. Sometimes, they fall simply because we live in a world where storms come."

The villagers were quiet, unsure of what to make of this. Elias pointed to the sky, where the storm clouds had finally cleared, revealing a bright sun.

"This tree gave us shade, but it also gave us something else. It gave us a place to gather, a place to rest. Now that it has fallen, we grieve its loss. But perhaps what remains is not the reason for the storm, but what we choose to do in its aftermath. Will we plant a new tree? Will we remember the shelter it gave us? Not all evils make us stronger, but in every loss, we can find the seeds of something new – if we choose."

Elias stood and added, "It is not for us to understand every storm, but it is for us to decide how we live after the storm has passed."

The villagers left, their hearts still heavy, but with a new understanding: that not all losses are meant to strengthen or teach, but that in the wake of suffering, we have the power to choose how to rebuild.

-- 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