

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 14, 2024 10:30 a.m. Worship



Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:10

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, November 3rd.

Morning Worship†

Members of the Stewardship Committee lead us today:
Brooke Dvorak, Margaret Doane, Phyllis Hough, Brent Nord

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

The story goes that Erasmus, a Renaissance scholar, was watching with the pope as wagonloads of wealth were brought through the gates of the Vatican. Turning to Erasmus, the pope observed. "No longer can the church say with Peter, 'Silver or gold have I none.'" Erasmus replied, "True. And neither can the church say to the lame man, 'Take up your bed and walk.'"

Maintaining spiritual vigor in the midst of great wealth was a challenge for the church of past centuries-and still is for the church today. We have been entrusted with incredible resources. How do we prevent that wealth from sapping our spiritual strength and making us simply a congregation of consumers? By seeing ourselves as stewards of the Lord's riches.

- Robert Heerspink, *Reformed Worship*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Everywhere I Search for You* *William Zeitler*

INTROIT *There Is a Balm in Gilead*¹ *arr. Melva W. Costen*

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul. Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

***CALL to WORSHIP** (*From Psalm 24*)

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;

✠ **for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.**

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

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

¹ Text & Music: African American spiritual. Music Arr. ©1990 Melva Wilson Costen. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

✘ **that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is this King of glory?

✘ **The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.**

***HYMN 37**

Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

TIME with the CHILDREN

*[Children are always welcome in worship. After the Time with the Children
you may go to KidSpace in Room 11.*

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

To Affirm our Stewardship of Trees

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:28

Psalms 8

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

✘ **You have set your glory above the heavens.**

**Out of the mouths of babes and infants you
have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

✘ **Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.**

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

✘ **you have put all things under their feet,**
all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

✘ **O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

MEDITATION

CONFESSION²

✘ **As God's creatures, we are made in God's image**

² Our World Belongs to God, stanza 10

to represent God on earth,
and to live in loving communion together.
By sovereign appointment we are
earthkeepers and caretakers:
loving our neighbor,
tending the creation,
and meeting our needs.
God uses our skills
in the unfolding and well-being of the world

HYMN 36 v.1

For the Fruit of All Creation³

AR HYD Y NOS

For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

To Affirm our Stewardship of Time

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

MEDITATION

CONFESSION⁴

✘ God directs and bends to God's will
all that happens in the world.
As history unfolds in ways we only know in part,
all things—
from crops to grades,
from jobs to laws—
are under God's control.
God is present in our world
by Word and Spirit.
The faithfulness of our great Provider
gives sense to our days

³ Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1970, alt. ©1970 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

⁴ Our World Belongs to God, stanza 13

and hope to our years.
The future is secure,
for our world belongs to God.

HYMN 36 v.2

*For the Fruit of All Creation*³

AR HYD Y NOS

In the just reward of labor,
God's will be done.

In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will be done.

In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.

To Affirm our Stewardship of Talents

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 4:7-11

MEDITATION

CONFESSION⁵

✠ The Spirit's gifts are here to stay
in rich variety—
fitting responses to timely needs.
We thankfully see each other
as gifted members of the fellowship
which delights in the creative Spirit's work.
God gives more than enough to each believer
for God's praise and our neighbor's welfare.

HYMN 36 v.3

*For the Fruit of All Creation*³

AR HYD Y NOS

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

⁵ Our World Belongs to God, stanza 33

To Affirm our Stewardship of Treasures

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 8:10-18

MEDITATION

CONFESSION⁶

✘ Our world belongs to God—
not to us or earthly powers,
not to demons, fate, or chance.
The earth is the Lord's!

In our work, even in dull routine,
we hear the call to serve our Lord.
We must work for more than wages,
and manage for more than profit,
so that mutual respect
and the just use of goods and skills
may shape the work place,
and so that, while we earn or profit,
useful products or services may result.

ANTHEM

*Hallelujah, Amen*⁷ George Frideric Handel

Hallelujah, Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen: O Judah, rejoice, rejoice! Rejoice, O Judah, in songs divine, With cherubim and seraphim harmonious join, With cherubim and seraphim harmonious join.

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(We offer our gifts as a response to God's Word, to be part of God's purposes in the world. You may come forward and place gifts in the plate or an usher will come to you. You may always give 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.

⁶ Our World Belongs to God, stanzas 7, 51

⁷ Text & Music: George Frideric Handel; edited by Archibald T. Davison. ©1925, ren. 1952 E.C. Schirmer Music Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

MORNING PRAYER 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 275 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN FESTE BURG

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *There Is a Balm in Gilead*¹ arr. Melva W. Costen
There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul. Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
and if you lack for knowledge, he'll not refuse to lend.

*POSTLUDE *Improvisation*

The liturgy and meditations this morning come from "The Joy of
Generosity," a three-week Stewardship series from *Reformed Worship*.

GREETERS: Shelby Obershaw, Robin Edwards

USHERS: Chris Thomas, *Lead Usher*

John-Paul Fletcher, Rick Rodriguez, *Security*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Sandy Garza, Debora Holk, James Huffstutler

Elders: Amy Smith, Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak

Deacons: Dave Thomas, Chris Thomas, Kristine French

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Shelby Obershaw, Christa Wallis, Neal Williams

This Weeks' Celebrations

Oct 17 Jacob Babcock
 Bobbi Cummings

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. **A deacon will be in Fellowship Hall this Sunday after the service to answer questions and sign you up.**

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 there lived a man named Rafiq, who was renowned for his immense wealth. He owned vast lands, countless treasures, and had a grand palace that sparkled with gold. People marveled at his riches and envied his luxurious life.

One day, Rafiq heard of a wise elder who lived in the mountains, known for helping people find true happiness. Wanting even more than all his wealth, Rafiq set off to meet the elder, bringing with him gifts of gold, rare spices, and fine silks.

When Rafiq arrived at the elder's humble hut, he was surprised by the simplicity around him. There were no fine furnishings, only the bare essentials. Rafiq offered his gifts, but the elder declined with a gentle smile.

"Thank you, but I have no need for these things," the elder said. "But tell me, why have you come?"

Rafiq hesitated before speaking. "I have everything I could ever want — wealth, power, and luxury. Yet, I feel as though I still want yet more. Where is the end to it?"

The elder nodded thoughtfully and said, "Come, walk with me."

They walked to a large birdcage where a beautiful bird lived. The bird had brilliant feathers and a majestic song, but it seemed restless, fluttering its wings against the bars of the cage.

"Why does it not sing freely?" Rafiq asked.

"Because it is bound by the golden cage," the elder replied. "Though the cage is beautiful and costly, it is still a cage. The bird longs to soar, to taste the freedom of the skies. Its beauty and spirit cannot flourish here, despite the gold."

Rafiq looked closely at the bird, and a pang of realization struck him. "But it has everything it needs — food, water, and even a golden perch. Isn't that enough?"

"For some, perhaps," said the elder. "But for a soul that longs to be free, even gold becomes a burden. True freedom is not found in possessing the finest things, but in releasing one's grip on them. Only by letting go of what binds us can we truly soar."

Rafiq stood silent, watching the bird. He thought of his own life, his grand palace, and his treasures. He suddenly understood that he, too, was living in a cage, though its bars were made of gold.

The elder spoke again, "If you wish to be free, you must loosen your grip on what you cling to most. Only then will you find lasting fulfillment."

Rafiq left that day with a new understanding. Over time, he began to give away his wealth, piece by piece, until he felt as light as the bird that once longed to fly. And with each treasure he released, he found that his spirit lifted a little more, until he, too, felt free enough to soar.

-- 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