

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 20, 2024 10:30 a.m. Worship



Mediterranean Breakfast. CC non-attribution license.

But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the royal rations of food and wine; so he asked the palace master to allow him not to defile himself. Now God allowed Daniel to receive favor and compassion from the palace master.

-- Daniel 1:8-9

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†

Lectors: Kristine French
Kiera French

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

“True, the image can sometimes be difficult to recognize. When we look at each other, or in the mirror, we tend to see the inscriptions that our business with the world has left on us: you are what you look like, what you have, what you wear, what you do, the company you keep. Nevertheless, underneath all those inscriptions is a much deeper mark: the kiss of light in the eyes, the watery sign of a cross made once upon a time on the forehead, the image of all those children in the arms of their mothers, and the little ember of resolve to remember them. All those faces are a part of your face, when you begin to see the image that God sees, the image engraved in the palm of the hand of the God who, in Jesus, stands behind us with full faith and credit.”

-Richard E. Spalding, *Feasting on the Word*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Andante

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

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

INTROIT

Lead On, O King Eternal

Henry Thomas Smart

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease, and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace; for not with swords' loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums; with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

*CALL to WORSHIP¹ (From Psalm 95)

Come, let us make a joyful sound to the rock of our salvation!

✘ **For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all the earth.**

Let us worship and bow down before the Lord, our Maker!

✘ **For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture.**

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

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

¹ The Joy of Generosity, Reformed Worship

PRAYER of CONFESSION²

The world says, "Buy and accumulate things."

✘ **God's Word says, "Life is not made up of how much a person has."**

The world says, "Wealth is our security."

✘ **God's Word says, "I will say about the Lord, 'He is my place of safety.'"**

The world says, "We deserve the best."

✘ **God's Word says, "The Lord blesses us with favor and honor. He doesn't hold back anything good from those whose lives are without blame."**

The world says, "Give so that you may obtain favors and praise from others."

✘ **God's Word says, "Lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then you will receive a lot in return."**

The world says, "Gratify your self in every way."

✘ **God's Word says, "Let Christ's word live in you like a rich treasure. ... Do everything you say or do in the name of the Lord Jesus. Always give thanks to God the Father through Christ."**

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

KYRIE³

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.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

² Adapted from "Preparation for Giving" by Bryan Jeffery Leech, The Worshiping Church, © 1990 by Bryan Jeffery Leech, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Used by permission.

³ Traditional Liturgical text. Music: Dinah Reindorf, 1987. ©1987 Dinah Reindorf. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news:

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

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

*ALLELUIA

William Zeitler

Musical notation for Alleluia, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes: Em, B, Em, D, G, D, Fm, B, Fm, Bm, Fm. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le al - le - lu - ia!

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship. After the time with Children, we invite our children ages 4 to 11 to go to KidSpace in Room 11.

Parents, please pick your children up immediately following worship.

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

ANTHEM

10,000 Reasons

arr. Lloyd Larson

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

✘ Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may hear your Word with joy. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Daniel 1

Old Testament p. 819

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dainties and Discipleship

Pastor Wendy Lamb

HYMN 712

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

FOREST GREEN

MOMENT for STEWARDSHIP

Martha Pinckney

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 basket in front or give it to the usher. 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 12** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

RESPONSE *Lead On, O King Eternal* *Henry Thomas Smart*
Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears, for gladness breaks like morning where'er your face appears; your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light. The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!

POSTLUDE *Hymn*

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Ron & Ruby Kraft, Charlene Peterson, Bob Saenz

Elders: Pat Morris, Martha Pinckney, Lily Bolaños

Deacons: Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher

GREETERS: Jeoff Molcan, Jeanne Clark

USHERS: Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Lynn Usher, Tim Usher, Security Ushers

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

This Weeks' Celebrations

- Oct 20* Robin Edwards
Oct 21 Marilyn Kraft
Oct 22 Adam Nord
Neal Williams
Oct 23 Thomas Patrick Dunn
Adelaide Shenton
Oct 24 Geri Atkins

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.**

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!

Deacons' Community Outreach/Thanksgiving Gift Cards

Thanksgiving will be here before we know it and the Deacons are ready to take orders for Stater Bros. gift cards. **The Deacons' plan is for you to deliver these \$50 cards to your needy friends and neighbors.** The sign-up sheet will be in the office beginning November 3rd, and names may be added until Sunday, November 17th. On the sign-up sheet, please list the recipient's name (non-church members only, this is part of the Deacons' Community Outreach ministry) and

your name. **The Deacons will have the gift cards ready for you to pick up and deliver on Sunday, November 24th.** If you cannot pick up your gift card(s) that day, please let us know so we can make other arrangements. **Thank you for helping us help our neighbors!**

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 small, vibrant village, there lived an old craftsman named Tomas. Tomas was known far and wide for his skill in making beautiful, intricately carved wooden cups. These cups were treasured by the villagers, not only for their craftsmanship but because it was said that each cup held a unique blessing. Over the years, Tomas had made cups for every villager, and his hands knew every grain and curve of the wood as though they were part of his very soul.

One day, a young apprentice named Ewan arrived in the village, eager to learn the secrets of Tomas' art. Ewan admired Tomas greatly and yearned to become as skilled as the old man, hoping one day to take over his shop and inherit his fame. "Teach me, sir," Ewan pleaded, "and I will work harder than anyone you've ever known."

Tomas, seeing the spark of ambition in Ewan, agreed to teach him but warned, "The art of crafting these cups is not about skill alone. You must also understand what it means to truly give of yourself."

Ewan nodded eagerly, not fully grasping Tomas' words. Day by day, Tomas showed Ewan how to shape the wood, carve delicate patterns, and polish the cups until they shone. Ewan worked with enthusiasm, and over time, his cups began to look much like Tomas' — beautiful and skillfully made. But somehow, they lacked the same warmth, the sense of something deeper that Tomas' cups possessed.

One evening, after a long day of carving, Tomas sat down with Ewan and handed him a cup. "Tell me, Ewan, are you willing to drink from the cup of sacrifice?" he asked.

Ewan looked puzzled. "What do you mean?" he asked, turning the cup over in his hands.

Tomas explained, "These cups may seem like simple vessels, but they each hold a piece of my heart. For years, I have poured myself into this work — not for wealth, nor for recognition, but for the love of giving. To make a cup like this, one must be willing to give of oneself, even when it costs dearly."

Ewan, eager to prove himself, replied confidently, "I am willing to sacrifice anything to be the best. Show me what I must do."

Tomas gazed at him with a sad smile. "It is not just sacrifice for the sake of skill or reputation, Ewan. It is sacrifice without expectation. These cups carry blessings because they are made with the pure intention to serve others, even when it means losing something of oneself."

Tomas told Ewan of a time when the village was struck by illness. He had stayed up night after night, crafting cups for the sick, using herbs and oils to soothe their pain. He gave away his finest works, knowing they might be broken or lost. It cost him his finest materials, many sleepless nights, and even his health. But he continued, driven by love for his people.

“But what did you gain from it?” Ewan asked, trying to understand. “You gave all that effort and received nothing in return.”

Tomas shook his head. “I received something greater. I saw hope in the eyes of those who held my cups, and I knew I had made a difference. The sacrifice was its own reward.”

Ewan felt a stirring in his heart, a longing to understand this deeper truth. “I want to try,” he said. “Show me how to make a cup that can hold such a blessing.”

The next day, Tomas asked Ewan to carve a cup for an elderly woman who had recently lost her husband. Tomas instructed him to think of her sorrow, her loneliness, and to carve with the intention of easing her heart. As Ewan worked, he began to feel the weight of her loss, and his hands moved slowly, carefully, as if they were not merely shaping wood, but offering comfort.

When he finished, Tomas inspected the cup and smiled. It was not perfect; the edges were imperfect, and the carvings were uneven. But in Ewan’s hands, the cup felt warm, as if it held a spark of something alive. He took the cup to the woman, who accepted it gratefully, her eyes filling with tears as she held it close.

Days turned into weeks, and Ewan continued his work, learning to pour himself into each cup, not for recognition, but for the quiet joy of serving. He began to understand the true cost of his craft, and in doing so, he found a peace that filled the empty places in his heart.

Years later, when Tomas passed away, Ewan took over the shop. He continued making cups for the villagers, and though his fame grew, he never forgot the lesson Tomas had taught him. Each cup he made was a silent testament to the old craftsman’s words – a reminder that true sacrifice is not about what we lose, but about the love we give, expecting nothing in return.

And so, Ewan became known as the humble craftsman, the one whose cups carried blessings, not because of their beauty, but because they were filled with a heart that had learned to give itself away, drop by drop, in the quiet, uncelebrated way of those who truly understand the cup of sacrifice.

– William Zeiter



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