

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Communion Sunday**

**December 8, 2024**

**10:30 a.m. Worship**



*Beaver Dam – County Road 14, Larry Lamsa, ©2016 CC 2.0*

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**Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.**

*--John 6:35*

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**First Presbyterian Church**

Mailing address: PO Box #2729; San Bernardino, California 92406

**909.882.3308**

[www.fpcsb.net](http://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](http://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, January 5<sup>th</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Laurie Stafford  
Candle Lighter: Adam Nord

## REFLECTION before the SERVICE

Advent is a time to step into a world of imagination and wonder. It's easy to be cynical about the holidays, but if we can allow ourselves to feel some deep delight or let our imaginations run wild in the wonder or even the silliness of the season, we might be surprised into seeing both ourselves and God's world differently.

--Heidi Haverkamp, *Advent in Narnia*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Advent Carols*

*William Zeitler*

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

### INTROIT

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily: to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## INVITATION to ADVENT

### CHOIR 89 v. 4

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;

Truly my hope is in you.

O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage;

we ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain;

open to us the pathway of your peace.

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;

Truly my hope is in you.

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

*(Child lights first candle.)*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

✘ **On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned**

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

\* **Stand if you are able**

✘ **The congregation will read.**

*(Child lights second candle.)*

I will lead the blind by a road they do not know,  
by the paths they have not known I will guide them.

- ✘ I will turn the darkness before them into light,  
The rough places into level ground.  
These are the things I will do and I will not forsake them.

**\*HYMN 89<sup>1</sup> v. 1**

- ✘ O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,  
your radiance shines in all who look to you;  
come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.  
For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;  
truly my hope is in you.

The Christ of Love be with you

- ✘ and also with you!

**\*HYMN 97**

*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*  
*Verses 1-2*

ABERYSTWYTH

## **PRAYER of CONFESSION**

We confess the foolish things we have done and the wise things we have left undone.

*[Moment for silent meditation and confession]*

- ✘ O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

## **ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS**

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel of Christ:

- ✘ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.  
*(We stand and sing Gloria)*

**\*GLORIA 113<sup>2</sup>**

GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

## **TIME with the CHILDREN**

*[Children are always welcome in worship.]*

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<sup>2</sup> Music: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937 ©1996 H. W. Gray Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254

## ANTHEM

*Choose Something Like a Star*<sup>3</sup> Randall Thompson

O Star (the fairest one in sight),  
We grant your loftiness the right  
To some obscurity of cloud –  
It will not do to say of night,  
Since dark is what brings out your light.  
Some mystery becomes the proud.  
But to be wholly taciturn  
In your reserve is not allowed.  
Say something to us we can learn  
By heart and when alone repeat.  
Say something! And it says, “I burn.”  
But say with what degree of heat.  
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.  
Use language we can comprehend.  
Tell us what elements you blend.  
It gives us strangely little aid,  
But it does tell something in the end.  
And steadfast as Keats’ Eremite,  
Not even stooping from its sphere,  
It asks a little of us here.  
It asks of us a certain height,  
So when at times the mob is swayed  
To carry praise or blame too far,  
We may choose something like a star  
To stay our minds on and be staid.

– Robert Frost

## A READING

**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 55:1-6

*Old Testament, pg. 685*

**SCRIPTURE** John 6:32-35

*New Testament, pg. 2*

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✦ **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Feast*

*Pastor Wendy Lamb*

**HYMN 130** *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* ERMUNTRE DICH

## 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.)*

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<sup>3</sup> Text: Robert Frost. Music: Randall Thompson. ©1959 & 1960 ECS Music Publishing. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

## OFFERTORY

### CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE

#### SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

✘ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

✘ **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

✘ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### GREAT PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

#### SANCTUS

*James C. Huffstutler*

✘ **Holy, holy, Lord Almighty, God of power and might.**

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Glory in the highest!

Blessed! Blessed! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

#### 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.

#### PRAYER of CONSECRATION

#### WORDS of INSTITUTION

#### SHARING of the BREAD and CUP

*(The cup is non-alcoholic. There is gluten free bread available  
Communion will be served by intinction at two stations. As you feel ready,  
please come up by the inside aisle to a station, receive bread, dip it in the  
cup, eat it, and return to your seat by an outside aisle.*

*If you would rather remain seated, rovers will bring the elements to you.*

*During this time, we invite you to sing these prayers.)*

**SUNG PRAYER**

**Refrain 90**

*Wait for the Lord*<sup>4</sup>

*Jacques Berthier*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

**Refrain 95**

*Prepare the Way of the Lord*<sup>4</sup>

*Jacques Berthier*

Prepare the way of the Lord.  
Prepare the way of the Lord.  
And all people will see the salvation of our God.

**Refrain 583**

*Gloria, Gloria*<sup>5</sup>

*Jacques Berthier*

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

**PRAYER after COMMUNION**

✠ In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment,  
this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you.  
May we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth  
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

**\*HYMN 129**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN' ROS'

**\*MOMENT for REFLECTION**

**\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, Desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind; bid envy,  
strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice!  
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Advent Carols*

*William Zeitler*

Resources for this Series:

"Advent in Narnia," Cindy de Jong, Reformed Worship 129  
*Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season*, Heidi Haverkamp  
*The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, C.S. Lewis

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<sup>4</sup> Text: Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier. © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

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**GREETERS:** Meryll Davis, Jeoff Molcan

**USHERS:** Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Lynn Usher, Tim Usher, *Security Ushers*

**SOUND ENGINEERS:** Dan Direen, Brent Nord

**VIDEO ENGINEER:** James Welte

**CAMERA OPERATORS:** Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK**

**George Biddlecombe, Lorraine Bishop, Noé Falconi**

*Elders:* Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis, Amy Smith

*Deacons:* Rebecca Allen, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas

*Pastor Nominating Committee:*

**Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris**

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

***Dec 9*** Maddie Ramirez

***Dec 11*** Christi Showman Farrar  
Deagan Belle

***Our Annual PW Alternative Christmas Market starts today! -- December 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>***, in the Fellowship Hall following worship! Visit our market – we're offering unique gifts for those you love! Invest in our **Internship program**, or support our **Food Ministry**, or send funds to our super successful **LifeSkilz program** at SBHS. All of these gifts keep on giving to those who need support and encouragement. Cards representing most of these gifts will be available for you to share with the recipient of your thoughtful gift(s).

***We have been given a small pipe organ, built by Ron Kraft.*** He and Ruby have kindly donated it to our church and it will be installed in Fellowship Hall, enhancing our summer worship, and perhaps leading to some other joyful activities. The cost of installing it has been greatly discounted, but will still require about \$3,500. **If you would like to donate to this, please contact the church office.**



*The Christmas Joy Offering* has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical financial support to church workers and their families, and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color providing education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. **We will receive the offering on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22.**

**Inland Master Chorale** presents *A John Rutter Christmas*, Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the Memorial Chapel of the University of Redlands. Tickets can be purchased at [www.inlandmasterchorale.org](http://www.inlandmasterchorale.org)

***Leonard Scholarship Applications.*** Leonard Scholarship applications for fall 2025 are available in the church office and on the church website. <https://www.fpcsb.net/leonard> All applications must be in the church office no later than Feb. 28, 2025. Any questions can be emailed to Lynda Savage. [Lksavage3@gmail.com](mailto:Lksavage3@gmail.com)

***KING SIZED BED w/ mattress*** (CA King) and 1 set of sheets available in exchange for a donation to the church. Text Kathy Showman at (951)312-8175, if you are interested.

***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.

## ***The Music Box***

In a small, isolated village nestled in the shadow of a great mountain, lived a man named Karun. Karun was the Light Steward, responsible for lighting the village lanterns each night and extinguishing them at dawn. For decades, he performed his task with unwavering diligence, ensuring the village never fell into darkness.

One fateful night, while climbing the mountain for herbs to cure an illness plaguing the village, Karun stumbled upon a cave illuminated by a strange, otherworldly glow. As he stepped inside, he felt an overwhelming presence — a force neither benevolent nor malevolent, but ancient and vast. The light enveloped him, and he felt his inner world shift, as though the universe itself had been planted within his chest.

When he returned to the village, Karun was no longer the same. His eyes gleamed with a luminous light, and he began speaking in riddles and truths that unsettled the villagers. The straightforward, reliable Light Steward they had known was gone, replaced by a man whose heart now burned with cosmic fire.

At first, the villagers tried to understand Karun's transformation, but his words and actions grew increasingly enigmatic. He would forget to light the lanterns, lose himself in meditation by the river, or spend hours tracing the stars with his finger.

The elders called a meeting and decided Karun was no longer fit to be Light Steward. "What use is a man," they said, "who has lost his purpose?"

Karun was cast out, left to wander the world with nothing but his tattered cloak and the fire that burned in his soul.

For months, Karun roamed aimlessly, rejected and alone. Villages he passed shunned him for his luminous eyes and cryptic words. Hunger gnawed at his belly, and the fire within him, once a source of awe, became a burden he could neither extinguish nor understand.

One day, in a barren wasteland where even the wind seemed weary, Karun encountered a crumbling temple. Inside, he found a group of weathered people, their faces lined with hope and despair in equal measure. They called themselves the Seekers of the Secret Fire and had spent generations searching for the prophesied "Light Bearer" — one who carried the eternal flame within.

When Karun shared his story, the Seekers wept with joy. "You are the answer to our prayers," they said. "You are the Light Bearer."

For the first time since his transformation, Karun felt understood. Among the Seekers, his riddles were cherished as revelations. His luminous eyes were seen as a blessing, his meditations as sacred communion. The fire within him, which had isolated him from his old life, now made him indispensable to his new community.

Together, Karun and the Seekers built a new temple, a place where light could shine in the darkness, not just for themselves but for any traveler lost in the wasteland.

Years later, a wanderer from Karun's old village stumbled upon the temple and recognized him. The villager told Karun how his departure had left the village in chaos but had eventually forced them to innovate, creating lanterns that required no steward at all. "Perhaps," the villager said, "your leaving was the spark we needed."

Karun smiled but said nothing. He had learned that every flame has its place, and not every fire can burn where it was first lit.

*--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