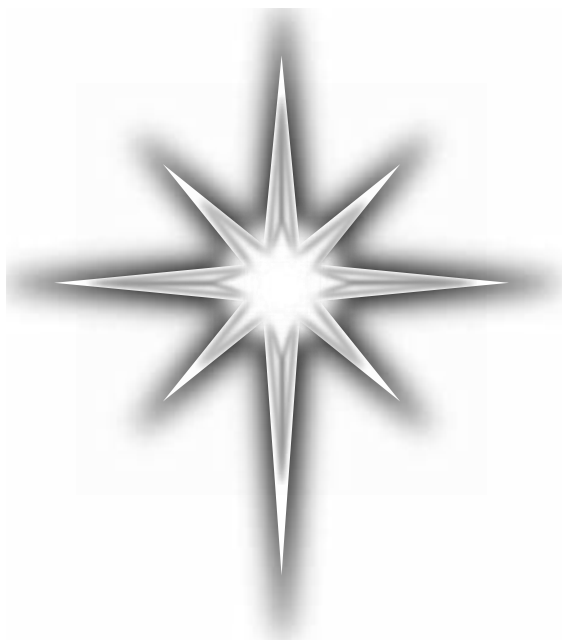


**Epiphany Sunday
Communion Sunday**

January 5, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship



When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. *Matthew 2:9*

First Presbyterian Church

Mailing address: PO 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 with those who rejoice, weep with 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.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, February 2nd.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Nancy Horstmann

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

Holy Innocents' Day is a stumbling block for me. This is a festival? This remembering the slaughter of all those babies under two years of age whose only wrong was to have been born at a time when three Wise Men came out of the East to worship a great King; and Herod, in panic lest his Earthly power be taken away from him by this unknown infant potentate, ordered the execution of all the children who might grow up to dethrone him.

Jesus grew up to heal and preach at the expense of all those little ones, and I have sometimes wondered if his loving gentleness with small children may not have had something to do with this incredible price. And it causes me to ask painful questions about the love of God. Saint Catherine of Siena said, "Nails were not enough to hold God-and-man nailed and fastened on the cross, had not love kept him there." What kind of love was that?

--Madeleine L'Engle,
from *The Irrational Season*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Dreaming* R. Schumann (1810-1856)

INTROIT

*SUNG CALL to WORSHIP 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, you were born for our salvation.

Forgive us when we forget to live your way:

Lord, have mercy.

✘ **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you came as Savior to bring wholeness and peace:

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

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

forgive us when we are angry or hold grudges:
Christ, have mercy.

✘ **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you come to bring light into the darkness of our lives:
forgive us when we forget the dark and pretend all is light:

Lord, have mercy.

✘ **Lord, have mercy.**

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

✘ **Help us, your servants, according to the promises you have made.**

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

KYRIE¹

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.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, the God who loved the whole world enough sent Jesus to be our savior. Believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*GLORIA 113²

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are welcome in worship. There are activity bags on the Narthex. Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]

¹ Traditional Liturgical text. Music: Dinah Reindorf, 1987. ©1987 Dinah Reindorf. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

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

ANTHEM

*There Shall a Star from Jacob*³ Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a sceptre from Israel rise up. And dash in pieces princes and nations, There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and dash in pieces princes and nations. A star shall from Jacob come forth. As bright as the star of morning gleams, So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams Of light and consolation. Thy Word, O Lord, Radiance darting Truth imparting Gives salvation; Thine be praise and adoration.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-23

New Testament, pg. 2

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

The Whole Story

Pastor Wendy Lamb

HYMN 152

What Star Is This

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

DEACONS' MINUTE for MISSION

Rick Rodriguez

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.**

SACRAMENT of the LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE

SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

✘ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

✘ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

³ Edited by Olaf C. Christiansen. © 1937, ren. 1966 Neil A. Kjos Music Company.. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

GREAT PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

Please respond. . .

God, in your mercy

✘ **Hear our prayer.**

With angels and saints and the company of heaven, we sing your praise:

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, OUR LORD'S PRAYER

God, in your mercy

✘ **Hear our prayer.**

And now we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

✘ **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

THE WORDS of INSTITUTION

WE SHARE GOD'S GIFTS

(Communion will be served by intinction at two stations. As you feel ready, please come up the center aisle to a station, receive a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat it, and return to your seat by the side aisle. The cup is non-alcoholic. Gluten-free bread can be found at the station by the pulpit. There will be rovers to bring the elements to you if you do not wish to come forward. We sing as we commune.)

HYMN 88

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here***

VENI EMMANUEL

until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, 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.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples 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.

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
 but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
 I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
 and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
 close by me forever and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
 and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

PRAYER after COMMUNION

✠ Here we have tasted your goodness and grace,
 felt the nearness of your Spirit and the power of Community.
 Help us to follow wherever you lead
 And share the gifts we've been given. Amen.

***HYMN 151**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***SUNG RESPONSE**

***POSTLUDE**

Improvisation

GREETERS: Phyllis Hough, Meryll Davis

USHERS: Al Rueda, *Lead Usher*

Marilyn Kraft, John-Paul Fletcher, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Beverly Snell, Judy Steppins, Ann Aguilera

Elders: Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis

Deacons: Rick Rodriguez, Katie Smith, Rebecca Allen

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Shelby Obershaw, Christa Wallis, Neal Williams

This Weeks' Celebrations

Jan 5 Sheila Cimino

Jan 11 Jean-Luc Nicks

Jan 6 Rachel Garvin

Dawn Morris

Jan 9 Cole Charles Jones

Jan 10 Dwight Murray

Prayer & Healing Service. We will have a Service of Prayer and Healing **this Thursday, January 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel.**

Come to me, all you who are weary,

and are carrying heavy burdens,

and I will give you rest. -- Matthew 11:28

Incoming, Ongoing, & Outgoing Officers (Session & Deacons). Please save **next Saturday, January 11th, 5:00-8:00 p.m.** for our annual Officer's training retreat. This is always a fruitful time of reflection, transition, learning, and visioning.

New Office Hours. The Church Office is adjusting our hours. The new hours are: **Mondays 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Tuesday thru

Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday CLOSED.

Annual Reports are due soon. The end of the year is near, and that means that committee chairs, program officers, are soon to be writing their (brief!) reports on where they saw God at work in their organization in 2024. **All reports must be submitted to Amy Smith amymys952@aol.com and/or Mimi Lange pres.first@gmail.com NO LATER THAN Tuesday, January 17th,** so they can be included in the ***Annual Report to the Congregation.*** Presbyterian Women must include a financial report. If you have any questions or need help, contact Amy or Mimi.

Companions on the Inner Way, Spring Retreat. First Pres has a long history of supporting and attending ***Companions on the Inner Way*** retreats. This spring (**Sunday, March 23 to Friday, March 28, 2025**), Companions will once again offer a safe, communal place to explore deep longings for the Holy. This year the retreat leader will be **Diana Butler Bass**. Dr. Bass is an award-winning author, popular speaker, inspiring preacher, and one of America's most trusted commentators on religion and contemporary spirituality. The retreat is held at Serra Retreat Center in Malibu. Because of Dr. Bass' popularity, places will be going quickly. **Registration information can be found at www.cotiway.org**. For information about scholarships to help defray the cost of attending, please contact Christa Wallis at chriwallis@aol.com.

Brandon Turner, who is working to achieve his Eagle rank in Scouts (BSA), will be renovating the planter on the north side of the Fellowship Hall, as a service project that benefits his community. He will remove the existing plant material, install a drip irrigation system, and plant new drought-resistant plants. Brandon is currently fundraising and is asking for your help in reaching his goal of \$1000 - \$1300. He hopes to start in late February/early March and be finished within a month, depending on the weather. If you would like to donate to this project, Brandon will be in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour.

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.**

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

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

At the center of the village stood the Great Hourglass, a relic said to measure not just time but the balance of hope and regret in the world. Each New Year's Eve, the Keeper of the Hourglass, an enigmatic figure named Eryndor, would turn the glass, allowing the sands to begin their journey anew.

The villagers believed that as the sands shifted, they carried the weight of their past year—moments of triumph, failures, and choices—down into the base of the glass. The Keeper's turning was not merely an act of marking time but a ritual of renewal, where the past was buried, and the future was given room to breathe.

On this particular New Year's Eve, a young woman named Selene hesitated on the edge of the crowd. She was known as the most talented healer in the village, but the past year had left her heart heavy. She had failed to save her own father during a deadly fever that swept through the valley, and though she continued to heal others, the weight of her grief and self-doubt had become unbearable.

As midnight approached, Eryndor appeared. He was not an imposing figure—draped in a simple cloak, his presence was quiet yet undeniable. Carrying the Key of Renewal, he climbed the stone steps to the Hourglass.

Before he turned the glass, he paused, as was his custom, and called out, "Who among you will step forward with what they wish to leave behind?"

A murmur rippled through the crowd, but no one moved. The Keeper's gaze swept across the gathering, his eyes settling on Selene. She felt his gaze like sunlight piercing a shadow.

Summoning her courage, Selene stepped forward. In her hands, she carried a small pouch filled with ash—the remnants of the herbs she had used to treat her father's fever. She knelt before the Hourglass, pouring her ashes into it, and whispered, "I carry guilt I cannot heal. I fear I've lost the wisdom to serve others."

Eryndor nodded solemnly. "The hourglass turns not just for time, but for renewal. When the sands fall, they bury what you no longer need, but they also reveal what you still carry within."

He turned the Key, and the Hourglass shifted. The ancient sands began their cascade, glowing faintly as they flowed downward. Selene watched, mesmerized, as the ashes she had offered dissolved into the swirling sands. As they disappeared, she felt a

strange lightness in her chest, as though a tightly wound knot had begun to unravel.

But more than that, she saw something she hadn't expected. Within the upper chamber of the glass, the sands shimmered, forming images of the lives she had touched that year—villagers smiling in gratitude, children running freely because of her care. The Keeper's voice echoed softly: "Though we stumble, the gifts we offer the world endure."

When the last grain of sand fell, Eryndor spoke again, this time to the entire gathering. "Each year, the hourglass reminds us that time moves forward, not to forget the past, but to renew it. Carry forward only what strengthens your heart, and leave the rest for the sands to bury."

As the villagers returned to their homes, Selene lingered for a moment, gazing at the Hourglass. For the first time in a year, she felt the courage to heal not just others, but herself.

--William Zeitler