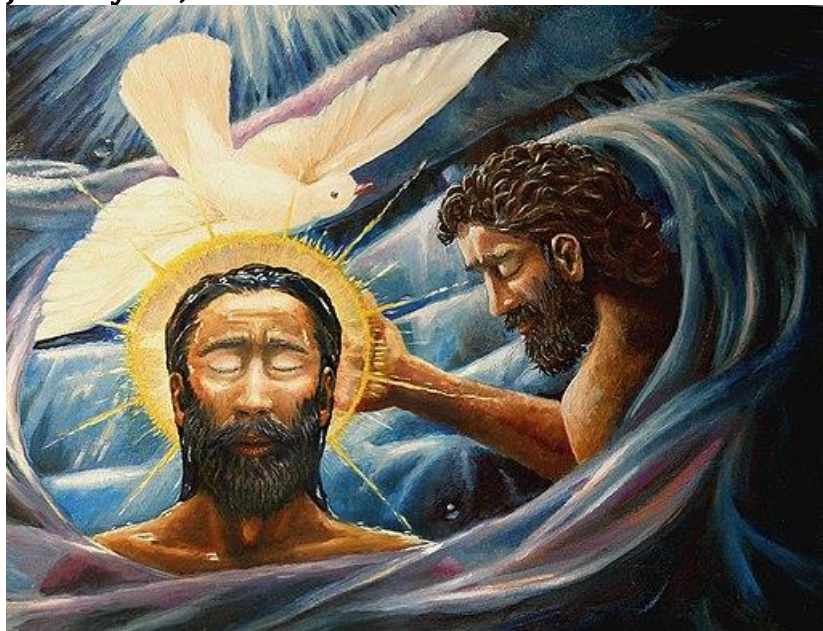


Baptism of the Lord
Ordination and Installation of Officers
January 12, 2025 **10:30 a.m. Worship**



*Baptism of Christ by David Zelenka.***

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.

--Luke 3:21

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: Mary Bolaños

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

epiphany

noun

epiph·a·ny i-'pi-fə-nē

plural epiphanies

1 capitalized: January 6 observed as a church festival in commemoration of the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles or in the Eastern Church in commemoration of the baptism of Christ

2: an appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being

3 a

(1): a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something

(2): an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking

(3): an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure

3 b: a revealing scene or moment

--Merriam-Webster Dictionary

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Passing the Flame

William Zeitler

INTROIT

*Spirit of the Living God*¹

Daniel Iverson

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

CALL to WORSHIP

(from Isaiah 43:1-7)

God says: "Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.

✘ **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.**

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

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

¹ ©1963 Jubilate Music. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

For I am your God, the Holy One, your Savior.
You are precious in my sight and I love you.

- ✘ I created you for my glory.
I made each one of you. You are mine.”
Thanks be to God! Let us worship.

***HYMN 611** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

PRAYER of CONFESSION

- ✘ Creator of the universe,
we stand amazed at your power and glory.
We are eager to worship you and offer our praise,
but we are often reluctant to answer
when we hear you calling our name.
(Moment for silent reflection and confession)
- ✘ Forgive us when we forget your promise
to be with us always, O God.
Renew us with the power of your ever-present love,
and strengthen us to proclaim your justice
throughout the world.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, this is God’s word to us:

- ✘ You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

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!
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! al - le - lu - ia!

TIME with the CHILDREN

[After Time with the Children, our children pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade are encouraged to go to Room 12 for KidSpace. Parents, please pick up your children from Room 12 immediately following worship. Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]

GIVING THANKS for FAITHFUL SERVICE

Mary Bolaños, Dan Direen, Brooke Dvorak, Robin Edwards, Martha Pinckney, Katie Smith

ANTHEM *Of the Father's Love Begotten*² arr. Paul Christiansen

Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he, Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see, Evermore and evermore. Oh, that birth forever blessed, When the virgin, full of grace, By the Holy Spirit conceiving, Bore the savior of our race. And the babe, the world's redeemer, First revealed his sacred face, Evermore and evermore. Let the heights of heav'n adore him; Angel hosts, his praises sing; Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him And extol our God and King; Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring Evermore and evermore.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

New Testament, pg. 60

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Epiphanies

Pastor Wendy Lamb

HYMN 156

Sing of God Made Manifest

SALZBURG

Verses 1 & 2

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY

(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.)

² Text Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; trans. composite. Music: *Divinum mysterium*, 13th cent. plainsong. ©1985 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

The OFFERING of OUR LIVES

ORDAINING and INSTALLING NEW LEADERS

to the **Office of Elder:** Pat Morris, Susan Skoglund, Katie Smith*, Neal Williams

to the **Office of Deacon:** Rick Rodriguez, Kyle Smith*, Jim Siegmund, Christian Usher

OPENING STATEMENT

SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY

QUESTIONS

✦ Of those to be ordained and/or installed

✦ Of the congregation (*and officers: listen as your church family recognizes your gifts and your call*)

Do we, the members of the church, accept ***Pat, Susan, Katie*, and Neal, as ruling elders, and accept Rick, Kyle*, Jim, and Christian*** as deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the church?

✦ **LAYING on of HANDS**

*[The officers to be **ordained shall kneel** for prayer and the laying on of hands by the Session, other Elders, and Ministers of the Word. **Those previously ordained shall stand** for the prayer of ordination and installation. Elders nearer the pulpit, deacons nearer the lectern, all facing the steps to facilitate kneeling.]*

PRAYERS of ORDINATION and INSTALLATION

By the Pastor.

By those to be ordained or installed.

By the congregation:

✘ **God of grace, you call us all to follow you. Help us to put your call at the center of our lives. Give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants lead us; so that our life together will speak of the love of Jesus. Amen.**

DECLARATION, CHARGE, and WELCOME

[As the congregation sings the response, those laying on hands shall welcome the newly ordained and installed elders and deacons into their fellowship in ministry.]

SUNG RESPONSE 698 ³

John Bell

✘ **Take, O Take me as I am, Summon out what I shall be,
set your seal upon my heart, and live in me....** *(Repeat)*

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 726**

The Summons

KELVINGROVE

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

SUNG RESPONSE *The Lord Bless You and Keep You ⁴ *Peter C. Lutkin*

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift his countenance upon you; and give you peace, the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you, be gracious, the Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

****Cover Art: *Baptism of Jesus*** © by I. Davezelenka CC BY-SA 3.0
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³ Text: John L. Bell, 1985. © 1985 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

⁴ Text & Music: Peter C. Lutkin. ©1959 Theodore Presser. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

GREETERS: Jeanne Clark, Robin Edwards

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Mark Adelson, Rick Rodriguez, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Lorraine Bishop, Noé Falconi, Marianna Fowles

Elders: **Pat Morris, Susan Skoglund, Katie Smith**

Deacons: **Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Thomas**

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher

This Weeks' Celebrations

Jan 13 Zane Preciado
Stephani Congdon

Jan 14 Patrick Morris

Jan 16 Esther Olsen
Deon & Patrick Garcia

Jan 17 Lynette DuClos-Adelson
Mark Munz

Annual Reports are due NEXT TUESDAY. 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 2019. **All reports must be submitted to Amy Smith amym952@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.

Super Bowl Bake Sale. Sunday, February 9th in the Fellowship Hall after worship. The amazing bakers of PW will tempt you with amazing treats to enhance your Super Bowl Experience! (Or whatever experience you do instead—we're not judging.) Helen will make her special treat, so get there early!

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

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 chrwallis@aol.com.

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.**

Per Capita Apportionment. The Per Capita Apportionment for 2025 is \$44 per member. The church will be paying this amount to support the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. It would greatly help our budget if you are able to pay this amount in addition to your regular offering.

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

In the village of Amberwell, tucked beside a winding river, there was an ancient custom. Each season, the Keeper of the Lanterns would light the great bronze lanterns that lined the village square. These lanterns burned day and night for a season, and their warm glow reminded the villagers to embrace the time they were in. But when the season ended, the lanterns were extinguished, marking a transition to something new.

For as long as anyone could remember, the Keeper of the Lanterns had been Edric. His hands were calloused from decades of lighting wicks and trimming flames, his face weathered but kind. The villagers trusted him to keep the rhythm of the seasons, but few ever asked him how he felt about his role. For Edric, it had become both a duty and a comfort—a steady, predictable task in a world that often felt uncertain.

One crisp autumn morning, as Edric prepared to light the first lantern of the harvest season, a young woman approached him. Her name was Mairen, and her eyes sparkled with curiosity.

“Keeper Edric,” she said, “how did you become the Keeper of the Lanterns?”

Edric paused, surprised by the question. “It was many years ago,” he said. “The Keeper before me chose to step down, and I was asked to take their place. I was younger than you are now, and I thought it would be a simple thing to tend to the lanterns. But it became much more than that.”

“More how?” Mairen asked, tilting her head.

Edric smiled faintly. “It taught me about letting go. Each time I extinguish a lantern, it feels like a goodbye. But lighting a new one reminds me there is always something waiting to take its place.”

Mairen considered this. “Do you ever wish you could keep one lantern burning forever?”

The old Keeper’s eyes softened. “Sometimes,” he admitted. “But if we held on to one flame too long, we’d miss the beauty of the next.”

As the seasons turned and autumn gave way to winter, Edric noticed his hands trembling more than usual—making it difficult to light the wicks. His strength, once steady, was fading, and even climbing the ladder to reach the lanterns felt heavier than it had before. Still, he persisted, unwilling to let the village down.

One evening, as snow began to fall and the last autumn lantern was extinguished, Mairen appeared again. This time, she carried a bundle of kindling and a small oil flask.

“Keeper Edric,” she said gently, “you’ve tended these flames for longer than I’ve been alive. Perhaps it’s time to let someone else carry the torch.”

Edric looked at her, his heart heavy with the weight of her words. “Do you think the village would trust someone new?”

Mairen nodded. “They trust the lanterns, and they trust the rhythm of the seasons. You’ve taught them that. It’s not about the Keeper; it’s about the light.”

When spring arrived, Edric gathered the villagers in the square. He spoke of his years as Keeper, of the joy he had found in lighting the lanterns and the sorrow in extinguishing them. Then, with wistful solemnity, he passed the long iron lighter to Mairen.

“From this season forward, you will be the Keeper of the Lanterns,” he said. “And when your time comes to step away, you will know when to pass it on.”

Mairen lit the first spring lantern, its flame bright and unwavering. The villagers cheered, but Edric stood quietly, watching the light with a bittersweet smile. It felt strange to let go, but as he stepped back, he felt a lightness he hadn’t known in years.

Over time, the village came to know Mairen as the new Keeper. She brought her own spirit to the role, decorating the lanterns with fresh flowers in spring and woven ribbons in autumn. Edric, now free from his duties, spent his days walking by the river, noticing details he had overlooked before—the way the frost sparkled on bare branches, the sound of birds returning with the thaw.

One day, as he sat by the water, a child from the village approached him. “Keeper Edric,” the child said, “why don’t you light the lanterns anymore?”

Edric smiled. “Because my season for that has passed. But every season has its beauty, and now I get to see the lanterns in a new way—as someone who simply enjoys their light.”

The child frowned thoughtfully but nodded, seeming to understand in her own way.

Years later, when Mairen’s hands began to tremble, she too passed the flame to a new Keeper. And so it went, season after

season, generation after generation. The lanterns burned on, their glow a reminder that every ending carries the seed of a beginning, and every season has its purpose—and its beauty.

And Edric, long gone but never forgotten, became part of the rhythm he had tended so faithfully. His name lived on in the village, because he had been so faithful to his office, and because he knew when to let it go. --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:

Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough, Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis, Pat Morris, Susan Skoglund, Katie Smith, Neal Williams and Clerk of Session Amy Smith

and supported by our Board of Deacons:

Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas, Rebecca Allen, Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda, Rick Rodriguez, Jim Siegmund, Kyle Smith, Christian Usher

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