



Wedding Feast, John August Swanson

**Second Sunday
after Epiphany
January 19, 2025
10:30 a.m. Worship**

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

--John 2:11

First Presbyterian Church

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www.fpcsb.net

COMMISSIONED LOCAL PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN 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.fpccb.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, February 2nd.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Shelby Obershaw

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

As in this story, we may find that the flashy miraculous is underplayed and hidden. Yet the glory of Christ is revealed in love, in service, in community, in grace. There is no transfiguration story in John. Instead, Jesus' glory is seen all through his ministry and is especially revealed as he is glorified in his death and resurrection. There the wine overflows for us too
--*Brian Peterson, Working Preacher*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Canzona

D. Buxtehude (1637-1707)

INTROIT

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*¹

Runyan

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee. Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

*CALL to WORSHIP

Among the poor, among the proud,

✘ **Christ walks with us.**

In celebration, in consolation,

✘ **Christ comes where we are.**

in this place, in every place, for this time, for all time,

✘ **Christ is coming to make all things new.**

*HYMN 339

Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. Rosamond Johnson

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

* **Stand if you are able**

✘ **The congregation will read.**

¹ Text: Thomas O. Chisholm. Music: William Marion Runyan. ©1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-706254. All rights reserved.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

In humility and faith, let us ask for what we need:

Lord, we need a miracle today.

Like Jesus changing water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana,

✘ **we need a miracle today.**

We are tired, Lord, of the hurts of this world. We are discouraged in the face of grief, injustice, poverty, indifference.

✘ **We need a miracle today, Lord.**

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

Show us your glory, that in you we may be moved to acts of kindness, love, justice, and mercy.

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

KYRIE²

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, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*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!

² Traditional Liturgical text. Music: Dinah Reindorf, 1987. ©1987 Dinah Reindorf. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-706254. All rights reserved.

TIME with the CHILDREN

[After Time with the Children, our children pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade are encouraged to go to Room 11 for KidSpace. Parents, please pick up your children from Room 11 immediately following worship. Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]

ANTHEM

*It Is Well with My Soul*³ arr. John Ness Beck

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll
– Whatever my lot, thou has taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul. My sin – O the joy of
this glorious thought – My sin, not in part, but the whole Is nailed to the cross,
and I bear it no more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *It is well . .*
. . And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled
back as a scroll: The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend, “Even
so” it is well with my soul! *It is well . . .*

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 62:1-5

Old Testament, pg. 692

John 2: 1-11

New Testament, pg. 91

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Wendy Lamb

HYMN 156

*Sing of God Made Manifest*⁴

SALZBURG

Verse 3

**Sing of God made manifest
when Christ came as wedding guest
and at Cana gave a sign,
turning water into wine;
further still was love revealed
as he taught, forgave, and healed,
bringing light and life to all
who would listen to God’s call.**

³ Text: Horatio G. Spofford. Music: Based on *Ville du Havre* by Philip P. Bliss; setting by John Ness Beck. ©1981 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-706254. All rights reserved.

⁴ Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1990. ©1990 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-7062545. All rights reserved. Music: Jakob Hintze, 1678; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach.

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 place gifts in the plate during the offertory, or on your way out – or 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 300

We Are One in the Spirit

Scholtes

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*¹

Runyon

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow; blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

*POSTLUDE

Hymn

Cover Art: Swanson, John August. Wedding Feast, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58581> [retrieved January 14, 2025]. Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.

GREETERS: Jeoff Molcan, Shelby Obershaw

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Sandy Garza, Debora Holk, Jim Huffstutler

Elders: **Neal Williams, Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane**

Deacons: **Rebecca Allen, Kristine French, Joyce Lyons**

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris

This Weeks' Celebrations

Jan 20 Beverly Kristoffersen

Jan 23 Dan & Cheryl Direen

Jan 25 First Presbyterian Church

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!

Have you turned in your Annual Report? If not, it is OVERDUE. Committee chairs, program officers, we need your reports! (*Many thanks to those who have already submitted them!*) **Send your reports to Amy Smith amymys952@aol.com and/or Mimi Lange pres.first@gmail.com right away, so they can be included in the Annual Report to the Congregation.** If you have any questions or need help, contact Amy or Mimi.

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 chriwallis@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.

More 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 was a village, next to an enormous waterfall of breathtaking beauty and power. Its ceaseless roar filled the air, nourishing the forests and painting rainbows across the sky. The villagers believed it was a gift from the Divine, a constant reminder of the Ineffable One's presence.

In the village's early days, the waterfall's sound was revered. Elders called it "the voice of the One," a roaring 'melody' so profound it seemed to carry the wisdom of the heavens. Villagers gathered in the evenings to listen, letting the 'cascading symphony' resonate in their very bones. Even children, too young to understand, were hushed in awe, their games forgotten as the thunderous chorus embraced them.

Over time, however, the villagers grew accustomed to the sound. The waterfall became mere background noise. Children played without hearing its rhythm, workers toiled without noticing its rainbows, and its magnificence faded into the mundane.

One day, a traveler arrived, drawn by tales of the great waterfall. As she approached, she was overwhelmed by its roaring song—a melody as if the Cosmic Chorus were singing. She rushed into the village, exclaiming, "How can you live beside such glory? Do you hear it? It's as if the Divine speaks directly to you!"

The villagers exchanged puzzled looks. "Hear what?" one asked. "The music! The waterfall sings!"

They shrugged. "That old thing? We don't hear it anymore. It's always been there."

The traveler was stunned. "How can you not hear it?" she whispered.

Later, privately, an elderly man explained, "When you live so close to something so vast, it becomes too familiar. The sound fades, though it never stops. It is the paradox of the Ineffable One: the closer we are to Her Radiance, the harder it is to see. We dwell in Her light but cannot look upon it. Instead, we look away."

Determined, the traveler stayed, teaching the villagers to listen anew. Some began to close their eyes and tilt their heads, faintly rediscovering the thunderous song they had forgotten. One evening,

she gathered them by the waterfall. The sunset painted the sky, and the roar of the falls seemed to harmonize with the twilight's stillness.

"The Ineffable One speaks through all things," she said. "Not just this waterfall, but every leaf, stone, and breath of wind. Her song is infinite, but we must learn to listen. If we forget, the Radiance will still blaze, but we will walk in darkness."

A boy asked hesitantly, "But how do we listen? The sound is always there, but I don't know how to hear it anymore."

The traveler smiled. "Close your eyes. Feel the ground beneath your feet, the air on your skin. Listen not just with your ears but with your heart."

The boy obeyed, and after a moment, his eyes flew open. "I hear it!" he cried. "It's like it's inside me, too!"

The villagers, intrigued, followed suit. One by one, their faces softened as they reconnected with the forgotten music. An old woman, tears in her eyes, said, "I remember now. My father brought me here as a child and told me it was the voice of the One. I had forgotten... but now I hear it again."

The traveler placed a hand on her shoulder. "The One's song is always with us," she said. "But we must choose to hear it. It is not the song that changes, but us. The more we open ourselves to wonder, the more we will hear it."

That night, by a fire near the waterfall, the traveler told stories of mountains humming with ancient wisdom and forests whispering secrets in the wind. Each tale reminded the villagers that the Divine's presence was everywhere, not confined to any single place or form.

As the stars appeared, the villagers listened—not just to the traveler but to the waterfall, the wind, and the quiet sounds of the night. For the first time in years, they truly heard.

When the traveler prepared to leave, the villagers thanked her. "You have given us back something precious," the old man said. "You have helped us remember."

"The song was always yours," she replied. "I merely reminded you to listen."

Before departing, she left them with one thought: “The Divine speaks not only through the grand and the powerful but also through the small and the quiet. A single drop of water, a blade of grass, a whispered word—all these carry Her voice. If you can hear the roar of the waterfall, you can also learn to hear the whisper of the breeze. Both are Her song.”

The villagers watched her disappear over the hill. Though many returned to their daily lives, some stood long by the falls, hearing—truly hearing—its endless song once again. From that day forward, they made time to sit by the waterfall, teaching their children to listen. And while the sound of the falls never changed, it became once again the voice of the Ineffable One, calling to them from Eternity.

--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