

Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 26, 2025 10:30 a.m. Worship



---

---

He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor..." *Luke 4:17-18*

---

---

### First Presbyterian Church

Mailing address: P.O. Box 2729; San Bernardino, California 92406

909.882.3308

[www.fpcsb.net](http://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.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, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

## REFLECTION before the SERVICE

“There are all different kinds of voices calling you to all different kinds of work... and the problem is to find out which is the voice of God.”  
Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*, p.95

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**                                      *Allegro Moderato*                      *J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*  
*Susan Addington, flute*

## INTROIT

### \*CALL to WORSHIP

Among the poor, among the proud,

✘ **Christ walks with us.**

In the temple, on the road,

✘ **Christ finds us where we are.**

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

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

**\*HYMN 159**                                      *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*                                      KINGSFOLD

## PRAYER of CONFESSION

Let us confess together as an offering  
of our trust in God’s love and forgiveness for us.

✘ **Gracious God,**

**whenever we come home to you,  
we realize how far we have strayed  
and how much we have forgotten  
of your law and your love.**

**We have not loved you with our whole hearts  
or loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

*(Moment for silent reflection and confession)*

---

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

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

Forgive us, heal us, and restore us to our relationship with you;  
through Jesus Christ, in whom we trust.

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

**KYRIE<sup>1</sup>**

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!  
Al - le 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 10 for KidSpace. Parents, please pick up your children from Room 10 immediately following worship. Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]*

<sup>1</sup> Traditional Liturgical text. Music: Dinah Reindorf, 1987. ©1987 Dinah Reindorf. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-706254. All rights reserved.

**ANTHEM*****For the Beauty of the Earth*<sup>2</sup>***John Rutter*

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies; *Lord of all, to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise.* For the beauty of each hour Of the day and of the night, Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light; *Lord of all ...* For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child, Friends on earth, and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild, *Lord of all, ...* For each perfect gift of thine To our race so freely given, Graces human and divine, Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n, *Lord of all ...*

**SCRIPTURE****Luke 4:14-21***New Testament, pg. 61*

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON***Pastor Wendy Lamb***HYMN 757*****Today We Are Called to Be Disciples***

KINGSFOLD

**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.**

---

<sup>2</sup> Text. F.S. Pierpoint (1835-1917), Music: John Rutter. ©1980 Oxford University Press. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-706254. All rights reserved.

\*HYMN 727

*The Servant Song*

THE SERVANT SONG

\*MOMENT for REFLECTION

\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

\*SUNG RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*Hymn*

**GREETERS:** Gil & Jane Snyder

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

Jim Siegmund, Chris Thomas, *Security Ushers*

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

**LIVESTREAM ENGINEER:** James Welte

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Ron & Ruby Kraft, Charlene Peterson

*Elders:* Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough, Sue Alexander

*Deacons:* Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda, Rick Rodriguez

*Pastor Nominating Committee:*

Shelby Obershaw, Christa Wallis, Neal Williams

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

*Jan 28* Linda McCarl

*Jan 29* Brenda Frederick

***The Annual Congregational Meeting*** will be held on **Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**, immediately following worship. The Annual Report will be presented, and any other items of business needing review and/or approval.

***Super Bowl Bake Sale.*** **Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:Lksavage3@gmail.com)

***Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*** - A fund has been set up to facilitate contributions toward recovery efforts for this disaster in Los Angeles. If you feel moved to help, please visit the following link:

<https://pcusa.org/donate/dr000165-us-wildfires>

To designate your gift to go towards this wildfire recovery, in the comment box, write "Wildfires DR000165"

If you prefer, you may make your donation to this church, indicating its designation with the same comment on the memo line.

***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](http://www.cotiway.org).** For information about scholarships to help defray the cost of attending, please contact Christa Wallis at [chriwallis@aol.com](mailto: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*

High in the windswept hills of Wrenwood, there stood a lighthouse that was unlike any other. It had no sea to guard, no ships to guide, and yet its light burned every night without fail. It was known simply as The Beacon. Travelers passing by often told of how its steady glow gave them courage to continue.

The current keepers were Brynn and her aging father, Osric. The lighthouse's great flame had been tended by Osric alone for many years, but now his hands trembled, and his knees ached from the steep climb to the beacon room. Brynn, not yet twenty, had taken on the heavier tasks without complaint—at least outwardly. She knew the fire must not fail, for its light was not merely a guide but a symbol of hope for the weary. And yet, in her heart, she felt trapped.

Brynn had grown up hearing stories of the world beyond Wrenwood—bustling cities, grand markets, and far-off lands. Tending the lighthouse had always been her father's duty, not hers, and she quietly dreamed of a different life. But when Osric fell ill during a particularly harsh winter, Brynn had no choice but to shoulder the responsibility fully.

That winter was especially fierce. The winds howled like hungry wolves, tearing at the shutters of the lighthouse, while icy rain penetrated every crack and crevice. The logs she carried up the stairs grew heavier with each passing day, her muscles aching from exhaustion. The wind's bitter chill snatched the breath from her lungs, but she kept going.

"The fire must burn," she whispered to herself. "Someone may be counting on its light."

But deep inside, another voice questioned her efforts: Why must it always be you? Why not let the flame go out just once? She pushed the thought away, but it lingered, like a shadow over her heart.

The storms battered the village as well, leaving homes in disrepair and food stores dangerously low. The villagers, weary and disheartened, began to wonder if the lighthouse still shone. They gazed toward the lighthouse each night, praying for the light to appear.

And it did.

One particularly stormy night a knock echoed at the lighthouse door. Startled, she opened the door to find a cloaked figure, drenched and shivering.

“Please,” the stranger said, “I’ve lost my way in the storm.”

Brynn helped the stranger inside, offering a blanket and warm broth. The man, who introduced himself as Aldric, explained that he was a traveling mason in search of work.

“I saw the light,” Aldric said, his voice trembling with gratitude. “It was the only thing that kept me moving. Without it, I—” He broke off, unable to finish the thought.

Brynn smiled faintly. “The light is for all who need it. Rest here. Continue your journey when the storm passes.”

Before Aldric fell asleep, he murmured, “You’re keeping more than a flame alive, you know.”

Aldric stayed for two days, helping Brynn with repairs and chores. During their time together, Aldric told of his travels and many small acts of kindness he had seen — like Brynn’s. “You’re lucky,” he said one evening out of the blue. “Most people spend their whole lives searching for purpose. You’ve had yours all along.”

Aldric left, and Brynn continued her vigil. But Aldric’s words stayed with her. Then, after weeks of unrelenting storms, there was finally a crystal clear night. She climbed the stairs to the beacon room and paused to gaze out over the hills. The stars shimmered above, and below she could see the village lights twinkling faintly. She thought of Aldric’s words and of the many tales told of her family’s lighthouse.

And then she saw the lighthouse not as a burden, but as a gift. The flame wasn’t just for others—it was for her, too. It was a steadfast reminder that even in the darkest times, something enduring and true could shine.

When her father noticed the shift in her spirit, he smiled knowingly. “It’s never been about the flame itself,” he said one evening as she brought him tea. “It’s about what the flame represents. You understand that now.”

Brynn nodded, her heart lighter than it had been in months. “Yes, Father,” she said softly. “I do.”

Winter finally waned, and spring arrived. The storms that had ravaged Wrenwood were past, leaving behind a village that had grown stronger in their wake. And the Beacon continued to shine. Even though it wasn't needed every night, it was still loved. It had become a symbol not just of hope, but of endurance, courage, and the quiet strength to keep going when the world seemed darkest.

Brynn never sought recognition for her efforts. To her, the light belonged not just to her, but to everyone within the light's unknown reach. And so she persevered, trusting that her unwavering commitment to the light were encouraging more people than she could ever know.

*--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