

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 9, 2025 10:30 a.m. Worship



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Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

*Luke 5:10b-11*

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## 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, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Amy Smith

## REFLECTION before the SERVICE

Since its inception, the Internship Program has had 25 terms with a total of 134 interns.

God is visible:

- In the smiles of interns who see the satisfying results of their hard work.
- In friendships developing between interns who initially thought they had little in common.
- When a 16-year-old intern takes a child under her wing, teaching her how to greet and direct food during distributions. Hearing Teo Fletcher yell “Two in the back seat!” brings joy and a sense of community to all involved.
- When interns pursue higher education, in part because they can see the possibility in one of their supervisors who is a few years ahead of them. Also because they can leverage their experience to land jobs to help fund college.

The Internship Program extends what we at First Pres can do in our community, but, more importantly, it provides lasting benefits to every intern who participates.

--Rick Rodriguez, *Internship Program, 2024 Annual Report*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*Rhosymedre*

*R. Vaughan Williams*

#### INTROIT

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* Will L. Thompson

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me. See on the portals he’s waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. “Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home.” Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home!”

#### \*CALL to WORSHIP

Listen to the stories of God,

✘ passed down by the faithful from age to age.

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

\* Stand if you are able

✘ The congregation will read.

Listen to the Son of God,

✘ teaching us how to live, love, and serve.

Listen to the voice of God,

✘ Proclaiming the world, “beloved.”

Listen and worship, People of God,

✘ for God is among us!

\*HYMN 305

*Come Sing, O Church, in Joy*

DARWALL'S 148TH

### PRAYER of CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>

✘ God of the Ages, we may believe that you number and name the stars, but we forget that you know OUR names. We may believe you are the Everlasting God, but we forget that you know our exhaustion. You know what has made us weary, and what makes us feel powerless or disregarded.

*(Moment for silent reflection and confession)*

✘ You remind us of who and Whose we are. We call on you, we wait for you- for the renewal and healing and fresh strength you promise.

*(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>2</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.

<sup>1</sup> Joanna Harader, Spacious Faith, based on the Magnificat

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

## ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Our God is gracious!  
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!

### 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.]*

### ANTHEM *I Sing the Almighty Power of God<sup>3</sup>* arr. Stan Pethel

I sing th'Almighty pow'r of God that made the mountains rise, That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies, I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule by day; The moon shines full at His command and all the stars obey. I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food; He formed the creatures with His word and then pronounced them good. Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed where-e'er I turn my eye, If I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the sky. There's not a plant or flow'r below, but makes Thy glories known; And clouds arise and tempests blow by order from Thy throne. While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care, And ev'rywhere that man can be, Lord, Thou art present there. Thou are present there.

### SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 6:1-8 (*Common English Bible*)

*Old Testament, pg. 635*

Luke 5:1-11

*New Testament, pg. 62*

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ Thanks be to God.

### REFLECTION

*Pastor Wendy Lamb*

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<sup>3</sup> Text. Isaac Watts (1674-1748), Music: Hymn Tune: Brother James' Air, James L.M. Bain; arr. Stan Pethel. ©1999 Theodore Presser Co.. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-706254. All rights reserved.

*Verse 1*

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
 I have heard my people cry.  
 All who dwell in dark and sin  
 my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night,  
 I will make their darkness bright.  
 Who will bear my light to them?  
 Whom shall I send?

*Refrain:*

Here I am, Lord.  
 Is it I, Lord?  
 I have heard you calling in the night.  
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
 I will hold your people in my heart.

**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 HUNDREDDTH

- ✘ 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.

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<sup>4</sup> Words & Music: Dan Schutte ©1981 OCP. Reprinted by permission of OneLicense #A706254. All rights reserved.



***Super Bowl Bake Sale.*** TODAY 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.)

***Valentine Brunch!*** Join us for brunch after worship on **Sunday, February 16.** This will be a donation-based fundraiser for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium taking place July 28-31, 2025 in Louisville, Kentucky.

***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***

The river wound like a silver ribbon through the valley, its waters dark and swift. Along its rocky banks, an aging fisherman named Edran sat mending his nets. Once, he had been the finest fisherman in the village. Now, he rarely cast his nets at all.

He told himself it was because the river had changed, that the fish were no longer as plentiful as before. But deep down, he knew the truth. He had lost faith in his own hands.

One evening, as Edran sat by his boat, stitching frayed cords, a stranger approached—a young woman in a simple cloak, carrying a wooden staff.

"Are you the fisherman who once caught a hundred fish in a single cast?" she asked.

Edran chuckled. "Once, perhaps. But not anymore."

"Why not?"

"The river is not what it was," he said. "I cast my nets for years, and now I pull them back empty. I see no reason to try."

The young woman tilted her head. "Perhaps you are looking in the wrong place."

"There is no right place," Edran muttered. "The river gives, then it takes away."

She walked past him and knelt by the water's edge, watching the current. "Then why do the otters still swim?" she asked. "Why do the herons still wade?"

Edran frowned.

"Because they do not decide in advance what the river will give," she continued. "They simply go where the fish are."

She stood and dusted off her cloak. "Let's make a wager, fisherman. I will choose a place to cast the net. If nothing comes of it, I will leave. But if we catch something, you must admit that the river has not abandoned you."

Edran grumbled but agreed.

She led him upstream to a part of the river he had never fished before—where the water was deeper and swifter.

"This is foolish," he said. "Fish do not gather where the current is strong."

"Throw the net," she said.

He hesitated. But something in her gaze—calm, unwavering—made him obey. He cast the net wide, letting it sink into the current.

For a long moment, nothing happened. Then—

The net pulled tight.

Edran's breath caught as he grabbed hold. The weight was immense, the net thrashing with movement. He pulled with all his strength, his arms burning. The young woman stepped forward, gripping the rope beside him.

Together, they dragged the net to shore.

Inside—gleaming in the moonlight—were more fish than Edran had seen in years.

He staggered back, staring in disbelief. "Impossible..."

The young woman smiled. "Not impossible. Just unexpected."

Edran looked from the fish to his hands—hands he had believed useless.

The problem had never been the river.

It had been where he chose to cast his net.

As the night deepened, the young woman sat beside the fire, roasting one of the fish they had caught.

Edran sat across from her, thoughtful.

"I stopped fishing," he admitted, "because I gave advice once that led another man to ruin. I told him to invest in trade, and he lost everything. I told myself after that my judgment could not be trusted."

The young woman pulled a piece of cooked fish from the fire and handed it to him.

"Perhaps you were wrong," she said. "But tell me—before that mistake, how many times was your advice right?"

Edran hesitated. "Many."

"And did the river punish you for the one mistake?" she asked.

He looked at the fish beside him. He had given up on the river, but the river had never given up on him.

"Perhaps," he said slowly, "I was casting in the wrong place in more ways than one."

She smiled.

The next morning, before she left, Edran did something he had not done in years.

He cast his net—again.

And this time, he did not decide in advance what the river would give.

*--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