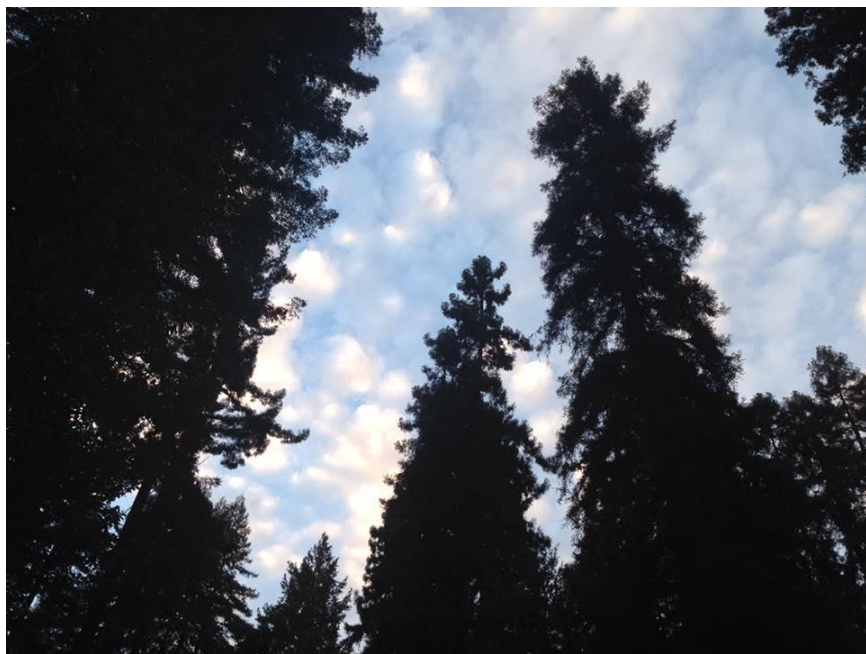


Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship



Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. *Jeremiah 17:7-8a*

First Presbyterian Church

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

909.882.3308

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**, 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 2nd.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Kendra Lamb

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

Plans are made. Plans come apart. New delights or tragedies pop up in their place. And nothing human or divine will map out this life, this life that has been more painful than I could have imagined. More beautiful than I could have imagined.

Kate Bowler, *Everything Happens for a Reason*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Crocus in the Spring

W. Zeitler

INTROIT

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian African-American spiritual

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

*CALL to WORSHIP

In the mountains, on the plains

✘ **Christ speaks to us.**

In the light and in the darkness,

✘ **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 301

All Are Welcome

TWO OAKS

PRAYER of CONFESSION

When we gather to praise God, we remember that we are people who have preferred our wills to God's will. Accepting God's power to become new persons in Christ, let us confess before God and one another.

God blesses those who realize their need for God,
for the kingdom of heaven is given to them.

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

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

✘ But we have been proud in spirit,
inflated with pride in our own self-sufficiency.
We have forgotten how needy we are.

God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

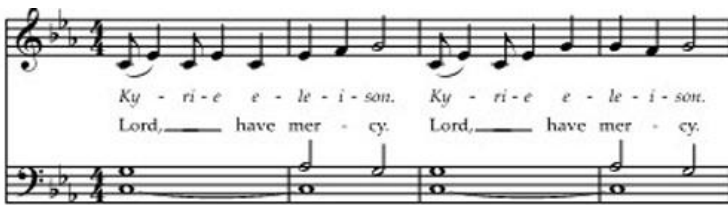
✘ But we have defiled our hearts
with idols of our own choosing,
doubting that God will keep God's Word and promises.
We continually compromise the truth
by trying to find meaning and security
in our jobs, our friends, our pleasures, our projects.

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

Lord, please show us your 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.)

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

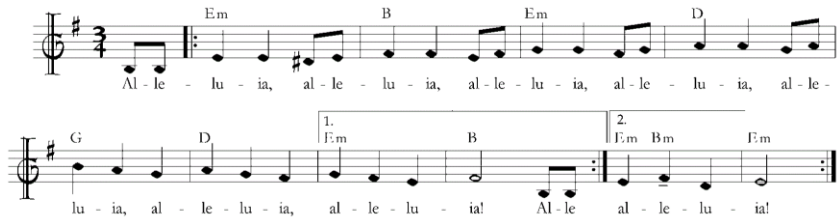
The Psalmist reminds us, "Even the darkness is not dark to God. The night is as bright as day, for darkness is as light to God." Friends, believe this good news:

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

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

*ALLELUIA

William Zeitler



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 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

*In this Very Room*²

Ron & Carol Harris

In this very room there's quite enough love for one like me, and in this very room there's quite enough joy for one like me, *and there's quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom, for Jesus, Lord Jesus is in this very room.* And in this very room there's quite enough love for all of us. And in this very room there's quite enough joy for all of us, *And there's quite enough hope . . .* And in this very room there's quite enough love for all the world. And in this very room there's quite enough joy for all the world. *And there's quite enough hope . . .*

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Old Testament, pg. 719

Luke 6:17-26

New Testament, pg. 64

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Wendy Lamb

HYMN 205

Ubi Caritas

Taizé

**Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas Deus ibi est.**

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.)

² Text & Music: Ron & Carol Harris, ©1979 Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-706254. All rights reserved.

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 79

Light Dawns on a Weary World

TEMPLE OF PEACE

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian African-American spiritual

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart; Lord I want to be more holy in my heart. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

*POSTLUDE

Hymn

GREETERS: Susan Skoglund, Lynda Savage

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Dave Thomas, Jim Siegmund, *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: Neal Williams, Amy Smith, Lily Bolaños

Deacons: Dave Thomas, Chris Thomas, Joanna Nord

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Shelby Obershaw, Christa Wallis, Neal Williams

This Weeks' Celebrations

Feb 16 Kendra Elizabeth Lamb

Doris Schiavone

Feb 19 Amy Smith

Feb 22 Janet McKinster

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

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.** 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

Orvin sat at the head of the long, polished table, golden candelabras casting light that danced over the spread of meats and wine, sugared fruits, and spiced bread. A hundred guests laughed around him, their plates piled high, goblets brimming with honeyed wine. Outside the great hall, the hounds waited to be loosed, their evening feast composed of whatever the guests could not finish.

And beyond the hounds, in the freezing darkness, stood the beggars.

They gathered outside Orvin's palace each evening, watching as scraps were tossed to the animals, their hands empty, stomachs hollow. Orvin never concerned himself with them. He was a merchant, not a priest. If he was blessed with wealth, what was it to him that others were not?

But this night was different.

A man in tattered robes stood at the banquet hall's threshold, holding nothing but a wooden bowl. His beard was streaked with gray, his eyes dark as ember-coals. He was silent, unmoving, until Orvin finally noticed him and scowled.

"This is a private feast," Orvin said, waving him away. "Be gone."

The stranger did not move. Instead, he lifted his bowl and smiled.

"You have eaten too well, merchant. Your appetite has been taken."

A hush fell over the room. Then laughter—Orvin’s first, then his guests’.

Orvin smirked. “If only all curses were so sweet.”

The man did not reply. He only turned and left.

The feast continued, the guests toasting and gorging themselves past midnight.

But Orvin did not eat. He could not. The scent of roasted lamb turned his stomach. The syrupy wine felt thick as mud. He chewed the finest delicacies, only to spit them out.

By morning, he was ravenous—but he could eat nothing.

Days passed. He summoned the kingdom’s finest physicians. They pried open his mouth, checked his pulse, searched for illness—but found nothing.

“There is no cause for this,” one said, shaking his head.

But Orvin knew otherwise.

He sent men into the city to find the stranger, but none had seen him. Only after weeks of searching did Orvin himself, gaunt and weary, come across a beggar who whispered:

“I saw him. Near the ruins beyond the east gate.”

So Orvin went.

He found the man seated beside a ruined archway, a small fire burning before him.

Orvin staggered forward. “What have you done to me?”

The stranger lifted his head and smiled as if he had expected him.

“You must learn what hunger truly is.”

Orvin’s fists clenched. “Tell me how to break this curse!”

“For one full cycle of the moon, you must live as one who hungers. Not just for bread, but for something deeper.”

Orvin frowned. “What does that mean?”

The stranger’s dark eyes glimmered.

“Choose a beggar. Trade places.”

Orvin recoiled. “That’s absurd! You expect me to give up everything?”

“You have already lost everything,” the man said simply. “You just don’t know it yet.”

Desperate, Orvin agreed.

He called the beggars who had long waited outside his gates. He chose one at random: Elda, a frail woman with sharp, knowing eyes.

They exchanged garments—her rags for his silken robes.

Orvin stepped into the streets with nothing.

Elda entered the palace as its mistress.

At first, Orvin expected misery.

Instead, he found something strange.

The poor shared what little they had. They laughed, even in the cold. He saw a mother giving her child all her bread—none for herself—then she told her child a story to lull her to sleep.

Meanwhile, in the palace, Elda sat at the banquet table, golden candelabras glimmering above her. Servants laid before her the finest delicacies. She took a bite of roasted meat. A sip of honeyed wine.

At first, the taste overwhelmed her—rich, full of spice and sweetness. But as she chewed, she found herself glancing around her. Her companions, who had shared their meager meals with her, were not there. No one laughed with her over a simple crust of bread. No one swapped stories by the firelight.

She swallowed, but it felt hollow.

What was a feast without those who mattered?

The golden plates before her were full, but in another way, she felt emptier than ever.

At the end of the moon’s cycle, Elda met Orvin in the same alley where they had traded places.

She held out his silken robes.

“Well?” she asked.

Orvin hesitated.

Behind him, the city streets pulsed with life. He had spent his nights beneath the glorious stars, his days working as a laborer—something that felt real in his hands.

Ahead, the palace loomed, its golden doors standing open.

His name, his wealth, his power—all was waiting for him.

Orvin looked down at his hands. For the first time in his life, they were empty.

(The story ends here. Or does it?)

--William Zeidler

For more stories like this, check out William's website
www.GrailHeart.com!



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