

**Transfiguration Sunday
Communion Sunday**

March 2, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship



About eight days after Jesus said these things, he took Peter, James, and John, and went up on a mountain to pray.

Luke 9:28

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 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. Younger children may go to the Nursery at any time.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Wednesday, March 5th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Kyle Smith

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

At some moments we experience complete unity within us and around us. This may happen when we stand on a mountaintop and are captivated by the view. It may happen when we witness the birth of a child or the death of a friend. It may happen when we have an intimate conversation or a family meal. It may happen in church during a service or in a quiet room during prayer. But whenever and however it happens we say to ourselves: "This is it ... everything fits ... all I ever hoped for is here."
--Henri Nouwen

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *The Dragonfly's First Dawn* W. Zeitler

INTROIT *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* RATISBON
Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ the true, the only light; Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night; Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

*CALL to WORSHIP¹

Listen to the stories of God,
✘ **passed down by the faithful from age to age.**
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 here among us!**

*HYMN 156 *Sing of God Made Manifest* SALZBURG

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

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

¹ *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal Online*

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship. After the time with Children, our children are encouraged to remain with us in worship. There are children's activity bags available in the Narthex.

Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]

ANTHEM *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*² K. Thomerson

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. *Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.* I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. *(Refrain)* I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. *(Refrain)*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 9:28-37

New Testament, pg. 69

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Wendy Lamb

DEACONS' MOMENT for MISSION

Dave Thomas

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

SACRAMENT of the LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE

SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

✠ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

✠ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

✠ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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GREAT PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

James C. Huffstutler

- ✘ Holy, holy, Lord Almighty,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Glory in the highest!
Blessed! Blessed!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.

MORNING PRAYER and 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.

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

THE WORDS of INSTITUTION

WE SHARE GOD'S GIFTS

(Communion will be served by intinction at two stations. As you feel ready, please come up the center aisle to a station, receive a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat it, and return to your seat by the side aisle. The cup is non-alcoholic. Gluten-free bread can be found at the station by the pulpit. There will be rovers to bring the elements to you if you do not wish to come forward. We sing as we commune.)

SUNG PRAYERS

As we go forward, as we wait and pray before & after, we sing our prayers together. The refrains are sung over & over as we make them our own.

SUNG REFRAIN

God Bless to Us Our Bread³

John Bell

God bless to us our bread,
and give food to all who are hungry
and hunger for justice to those who are fed.
God bless to us our bread.

³ Text & Music: John Bell. ©1997, WGRG c/o Iona Community (GIA Publications, Inc. agent). Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

SUNG REFRAIN 842 *The Lord Is My Light*⁴ Jacques Berthier

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:
in God I trust; in God I trust.

SUNG REFRAIN 466 *Come and Fill Our Hearts*⁵ Jacques Berthier

Come and fill our hearts with your peace;
You alone, O God, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace; Alleluia.

PRAYER after COMMUNION

✠ We give you thanks, Lord Jesus Christ,
For the gifts of grace we have received from your hand.
Now send us forth to reflect your light,
Proclaiming your light and life for all. 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!

CHANGING PARAMENTS

The Bells will play as the paraments are changed.

BELL MUSIC *What Wondrous Love Is This* arr. Douglas E. Wagner

As the Bells play, the paraments are changed, the Watch and Pray banner is raised, the worship leaders change their stoles, the Paschal candle is lighted.

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** *Spirit of the Living God* Daniel Iverson

***POSTLUDE** *Hymn*

⁴ Text: Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier. ©1982 Les Ateliers et Presses de Taizé (GIA Publications, Inc. agent). Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

⁵ Text: Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier. ©1991 Les Ateliers et Presses de Taizé (GIA Publications, Inc. agent). Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

GREETERS: Meryll Davis

USHERS: Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Marilyn Kraft, Al Rueda, *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: **Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman**

Deacons: **Rick Rodriguez, Jim Siegmund, Kyle Smith**

Pastor Nominating Committee

Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris

This Weeks' Celebrations

Mar 2 Kristine French

Lynda Savage

Kurt Star

Mar 3 Teofila Rosemarie Fletcher

Asher Gano

Mar 5 Joyce Lyons

Mar 7 Kathy Showman

Ash Wednesday. There are two Services of the Ashes you may choose to attend on Ash Wednesday, March 5. The first service, a quiet service with responsive readings, will be held at **12:30 p.m.** At **5:30 p.m.**, the service will include more music. Communion and the Imposition of Ashes will be included in both services.

Lenten Quiet Nights Are Coming Soon!

Ash Wednesday will soon usher us unto the Lenten Road. We want to intentionally walk toward Jerusalem with Jesus. By giving that journey our prayerful attention, our hope is that we can experience the glory of Easter more fully. **All are invited on the following Thursday evenings** to gather in the Fireside Room at 6:00 PM for a half hour of quiet time interspersed with readings. The dates are **March 13, 20, 27 and April 3 and 10.** A simple soup and bread supper, fellowship and conversation will follow. Please mark your calendar and join us! *If you would like to follow a Lenten fasting discipline, see the article on Page 9.*

If you would like to know more about being Presbyterian and joining in the mission of this congregation, please let us know. We will make that opportunity available. If you are interested, you might say something to a staff member after worship, send an email to **office@fpcsb.net**, or call the office.

Companions on the Inner Way, Spring Retreat Sunday, March 23 to Friday, March 28, 2025, Companions will once again offer a safe, communal place to explore deep longings for the Holy. The retreat leader will be **Diana Butler Bass**, an award-winning author, popular speaker, inspiring preacher, and trusted commentator on religion and contemporary spirituality. The retreat is held at Serra Retreat Center in Malibu. **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. **We will be moving ahead with this project very soon, so if you would still like to donate to this, please contact the church office right away.**

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.

Why Fast During Lent?

Recently there have been several books and periodicals dealing with the subject of spiritual disciplines, practices or exercises. Each proposes a slightly different list of suggested practices, but fasting is usually included .

In his book, Reformed Spirituality, friend of this congregation, Howard Rice commends fasting because:

- ❖ To fast is to remind ourselves that food (or other comforts) are secondary to our attentiveness to God.
- ❖ Fasting is effective preparation for prayer and meditation. Many people notice that their mental state may be somewhat altered while fasting, changing their priorities and deepening their prayer.
- ❖ Fasting represents a serious effort to avoid being so possessed by our possessions (comforts) that we are controlled by fear of losing them.

Richard Foster, in Celebration of Discipline, says the primary requirement for undertaking any of the spiritual disciplines is "a longing after God." He declares that the purpose of the disciplines is freedom from "stifling slavery to self interest and fear." Joy, not duty, is the keynote of all the disciplines!

During Lent if you would like to fast with a spiritual purpose, you are invited to join others who will follow this plan during the weeks of Lent:

- ❖ Eat supper on Wednesday evening.
- ❖ Eat no food until Thursday evening (but drink plenty of fluids).
- ❖ Come to Lenten Quiet Nights in the Fireside Room on Thursdays at 6 PM for 25 minutes or so of prayer, quietness and reflection.
- ❖ Break the fast with a simple soup and bread supper following the Quiet Night.

PLEASE DO COME FOR THE QUIET NIGHT AND SUPPER WHETHER OR NOT YOU CHOOSE TO FAST!

Music Box

The traveler arrived at the edge of the desert just as the sun dipped below the horizon, painting the dunes in gold and violet. He had followed rumors, whispers of a place where all the world's unwritten stories lay waiting. He had no map—only the belief that he would know it when he saw it.

He did.

At the base of a sandstone cliff, nestled within the rock as if it had grown there, was a doorway with no door. Beyond it stretched a hall lined with endless bookshelves. The traveler hesitated before stepping inside, expecting dust, decay, the musty scent of forgotten things. Instead, the air smelled of ink and paper, as though the books were still being written even as they sat on the shelves.

A man sat at a desk near the entrance, dipping a quill into an inkwell, though he seemed to be writing nothing at all.

"Welcome," the librarian said without looking up. "You've come to find your book."

The traveler's breath caught in his throat. "You know why I'm here?"

"All who find this place are searching," the librarian replied, standing. "Follow me."

They moved deeper into the library, past shelves stretching so high that their tops vanished into darkness. The traveler ran his fingers along the spines, expecting names of great authors, forgotten poets, lost legends. But each book bore only a title—never an author's name.

The librarian led him to a shelf near the heart of the library and stopped. "Here."

The traveler hesitated, his fingers hovering over the books. "How will I know which one is mine?"

"You will know," the librarian said simply, and then he walked away.

The traveler scanned the spines, heart pounding. And then, he saw it. A book with no dust, no sign of age or wear. It looked as if it had been placed there only moments ago, waiting just for him. He pulled it from the shelf and opened it with trembling hands.

The words flowed like a dream, a story he had never read yet somehow recognized. It was not the novel he had always planned to

write, the grand tale of heroes and kingdoms that had lingered half-formed in his mind for years. No, this was something different.

It was a story about a traveler.

A man who had spent his life searching for meaning, chasing destinations only to find them empty, dreaming of a purpose always just beyond his reach. It followed his steps through deserts and forests, through years of longing and loss. Every page felt like a whisper from some unseen hand, revealing not what he had intended to create—but what had already been written in his very bones.

And then, at the final page, he saw something that made his breath catch.

The words were written in his own handwriting. “Now that you have read it, will you finally live it?”

The book slipped from his hands, landing softly on the floor.

His mind reeled. He had expected a legend, a grand revelation, an answer. Instead, he had found himself. Not as he imagined himself to be, but as he was—as he had always been.

He bent to pick up the book, but when he did, he saw something strange.

The book was gone.

In its place, there was a single blank page.

The librarian appeared beside him, as silent as the turning of the stars. “There is only one way to keep your book.”

The traveler swallowed hard. “How?”

The librarian smiled. “Write it.”

The traveler looked back at the empty page, and something inside him shifted. He had spent so many years lost in imagining what he might create, what he might become. But the story had already been waiting for him.

It was time to live it.

Wordlessly, he took the blank page in his hands and stepped out of the library. The desert wind met him like an old friend, and for the first time in his life, he knew exactly where he was going.

--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