



## I AM the Light of the World

*John 8:12: Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

I see your world in light that shines behind me,  
Lit by a sun whose rays I cannot see,  
The smallest gleam of light still seems to find me,  
Or find the child who's hiding deep inside me.  
I see your light reflected in the water,  
Or kindled suddenly in someone's eyes,  
It shimmers through translucent leaves in summer,  
Or spills from silver veins in leaden skies,  
It gathers in the candles at our vespers,  
It concentrates in tiny drops of dew,  
At times it sings for joy, at times it whispers,  
But all the time it calls me back to you.  
I follow you upstream through this dark night  
My saviour, source, and spring, my life and light.

Malcolm Guite, *Parable and Paradox*

*Cover photo by Dale Showman*



*I am the Light of the World*

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**March 9, 2025**  
**10:30 a.m. Worship**

---

---

**Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”**  
*John 8:12*

---

---

## **First Presbyterian Church**

Mailing address: PO Box #2729; San Bernardino, California 92406  
**909.882.3308**  
[www.fpcsb.net](http://www.fpcsb.net)

**COMMISSIONED 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 w/those who rejoice, weep w/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, April 6<sup>th</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Neal Williams

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

**PRELUDE**                    *Prelude in Cm (BWV 546)*      J.S. Bach (1685-1750)  
*Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.*

### INVITATION to LENT

**INTROIT**                    *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*                    ST. MARGARET  
O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

### I AM READING

**\*HYMN 182**                    *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*                    KINGSFOLD  
*Verse 3*  
**Solo:** I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“I am this dark world’s light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright.”  
**All:** I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I’ll walk  
till traveling days are done.

### \*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 157**                    *Lord of the Dance*                    *Shaker Melody*

---

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

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

## PRAYER of CONFESSION

Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
You are the Bread of Life

✘ **Yet sometimes we hunger for things of this world.**

You are the Light of the World

✘ **But sometimes we let the darkness overtake us.**

You are the Good Shepherd

✘ **Yet sometimes we allow your sheep to go astray.**

You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life

✘ **Yet sometimes we get lost, believe lies, and don't fully live.**

You are the True Vine

✘ **But sometimes we forget our branches are part of your vine.**

**Help us to learn how to live out our identity in you.**

*(Moment for silent reflection and confession)*

✘ **You tell us you long to gather us like a Mother Hen.**

**May we find cover and courage under your wings. Amen.**

*(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, Jesus says, I am the Resurrection and the Life. Believe the good news of the gospel:

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

<sup>1</sup> Traditional Liturgical text. Music: Dinah Reindorf, 1987. ©1987 Dinah Reindorf. Reprinted under permission of OneLicense #A706254. All rights reserved.

*(We stand and sing)*

**\*TE DEUM**

***You Are God<sup>2</sup>***

*Marty Haugen*

You are God: we praise you. You are Lord: we ac-claim you. You are  
Fa - ther e - ter - nal: all cre - a - tion wor-ships you.

## **TIME with the CHILDREN**

*[Children are always welcome in worship. After the Time with Children, we invite our children to go to KidSpace in Room 10. Parents, please pick your children up immediately following worship.*

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

## **ANTHEM**

***O Love, How Deep<sup>3</sup>***

*Everett Titcomb*

O love, how deep, how broad, how high, How passing thought and fantasy,  
That God, the Son of God should take Our mortal form for mortal's sake. For  
us he prayed, for us he taught, For us his daily works he wrought By words  
and signs and actions, thus Still seeking not himself but us. All glory to our  
Lord and God For love so deep, so high, so broad; The Trinity whom we adore  
Forever and forever more. Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE John 8:12-20**

*New Testament, pg. 56*

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

***I Am the Light of the World***

*Pastor Wendy Lamb*

## **HYMN 314**

***Christ, Be Our Light<sup>4</sup>***

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.**

**Longing for truth, we turn to you.**

**Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.**

**Christ, be our light!**

**Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light!**

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

<sup>2</sup> © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under permission of OneLicense #A706254. All rights reserved.

<sup>3</sup> Text: Latin 15<sup>th</sup> cent; trans Benjamin Webb. Music: Everett Titcomb. ©1952 Jubilate Music. Reprinted by permission under OneLicense #A706254. All rights reserved.

<sup>4</sup> Text & Music: Bernadette Farrell. ©1993 Bernadette Farrell (admin Oregon Catholic Press). Reprinted under permission of OneLicense #A706254. All rights reserved.

## 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.

#### \*HYMN 450

*Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

#### \*MOMENT for REFLECTION

#### \*BLESSING

Marked by a cross, cherished and forgiven

- ✘ **We are traveling home**  
Called to be holy, called to be happy
- ✘ **We are traveling home**  
Across deserts, over mountains
- ✘ **We are traveling home**  
God in our hearts, God in our lives
- ✘ **We are traveling home**  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- ✘ **Thanks be to God.**

#### \*RESPONSE

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

ST. MARGARET

O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee; my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.



**\*POSTLUDE**

*Hymn*

Resources for this Series:

"I Am—the Sayings of Jesus: A series for Lent and Holy Week." Gerald L. Zandstra, Reformed Worship.

*Parable and Paradox* Malcolm Guite

**GREETERS:** Jeoff Molcan

**USHERS:** Dave Thomas, *Lead Usher*

Chris Thomas, Mark Adelson, *Security Ushers*

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

**LIVESTREAM ENGINEER:** James Welte

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

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK**

**Bob Saenz, Doris Schiavone, Beverly Snell**

*Elders:* Norm Wallis, Pat Morris, Susan Skoglund

*Deacons:* Christian Usher, Steve Smith, Rebecca Allen

*Pastor Nominating Committee:*

**Shelby Obershaw, Christa Wallis, Neal Williams**

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

***Mar 9*** Sherman Ballard

Brent & Joanna Nord

***Mar 12*** Richard Rodriguez

***Mar 13*** Dotti Garcia

***Mar 14*** Breanna Nord

***Lenten Quiet Nights.*** 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 for the next 5 Thursday evenings (March 13, 20, 27 and April 3 and 10)** to gather in the Fireside Room at 6:00 PM for a half hour of quiet time interspersed with readings.

A simple soup and bread supper, fellowship and conversation will follow. Please mark your calendar and join us!

***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](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).

*The 10th Annual National Crime Victims' Rights Week Memorial* will be held on **Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** at The Lewis Family Playhouse at Victoria Gardens Cultural Center, 12505 Cultural Center Drive in Rancho Cucamonga. There is a QR code on the office bulletin board to scan if you are interested in attending.

*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](mailto:office@fpcsb.net), or call the 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.

### ***The Music Box***

Once upon a time there was a traveler journeying to a far country.

One day he tripped over a green rock. "I must bring this rock with me, to remind me to never trip over another like it." He put it in his knapsack.

The next day he discovered a pair of beautiful sandals by the road. He tried them on, but they didn't fit. "I'll bring these with me — in case I fit them some day." He put them in his knapsack.

The next day he discovered a broken clock by the road. "I might be able to fix this someday, so I'll hang on to it." He put it into his knapsack.

The next day, he came to a fork in the road. He hesitated, unsure which way to go. He chose the left path. Hours later, he came across an old signpost, half-buried in the dust. It read: "To the far country →" — pointing the other way. He sank to his knees.

"I took the wrong path! If only I had chosen differently!" He put the signpost in his backpack. "I will carry this with me, to remind myself to be wiser next time."

Before long, his knapsack was so heavy he could hardly walk. And he was so bent over by the weight of it that all he could see was the dusty road immediately in front of him — he could no longer see the beauty around him or the sky above.

Finally he collapsed from the weight of it. A young woman came by, and stopped to see if the traveler needed help. He explained his plight.

"It seems to me," she said, "that you need to remove everything from your knapsack that you don't really need for your Journey. Most of this isn't serving you — or anyone else. Let it go!"

So together they went through the contents of his knapsack.

"What's this green rock?" she asked. "That's to remind me not to trip over another like it," he replied. "You have that lesson etched in your mind and heart — you don't need to carry the weight of this rock to remember." They set the rock aside.

"What are these sandals?" she asked. "I might fit them someday." "If they don't fit you today, they probably won't fit you tomorrow. Don't expect to be someone you're not someday." They set the sandals aside.

"What is this broken clock?" she asked. "I might be able to fix it someday," he replied. "Are you a clock maker? Do you know anything about clocks?", she asked. "No," he replied. "Then let it go. This is a task for someone else. Stick to your own tasks." They set the clock aside.

"What is this signpost?" she asked. "It's to remind me not to take a wrong turn again," he replied. "But every fork in the road is different," she said. "With practice you'll get better at recognizing the best path. Meanwhile, it's inevitable that you'll take wrong turns from time to time. If you're not taking wrong turns, you're not on a journey." They set the signpost aside.

When they finished, only useful or helpful things were left. And without the accumulated junk, his knapsack felt as light as a feather. For the first time in ages he was able to stand up straight, and look up and see the sky. And so, with a deep sigh of relief, he set out on his Journey once again — his unburdened steps swift and sure.

*--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:

Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak, Pat Morris, Martha Pinckney, Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough, Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis,  
and Clerk of Session Amy Smith

and supported by our Board of Deacons:

Rebecca Allen, Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Rick Rodriguez, Katie Smith, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas, Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda

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