

## I AM the Good Shepherd

*John 10:11: I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

When so much shepherding has gone so wrong,  
So many pastors hopelessly astray,  
The weak so often preyed on by the strong,  
So many bruised and broken on the way,  
The very name of shepherd seems besmeared,  
The fold and flock themselves are torn in half,  
The lambs we left to face all we have feared  
Are caught between the wasters and the wolf.  
Good Shepherd, now your flock has need of you,  
One finds the fold and ninety-nine are lost  
Out in the darkness and the icy dew,  
And no one knows how long this night will last.  
Restore us; call us back to you by name,  
And by your life laid down, redeem our shame.”

Malcolm Guite, *Parable and Paradox*

*Cover photo by Marilyn Kraft.*



*I am the Good Shepherd*

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship

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**"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."**

*John 10:11*

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## **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 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, April 6<sup>th</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Christian Usher

## GATHERING MUSIC

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

*Lullaby*

*W. Zeitler*

*Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.*

## INVITATION to LENT

## INTROIT

*Shepherd Me, O God*<sup>1</sup>

*Marty Haugen*

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

## I AM READING

*(When the reading concludes, please stand as you are able for the verse, Call to Worship, and first hymn. You may always be seated if that is more comfortable for you.)*

## \*HYMN 182

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

KINGSFOLD

*Verse 1*

**Solo:**

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down  
your head upon my breast.”

**All:**

I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting place,  
and he has made me glad.

## \*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.**

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

✠ **Stand if you are able**

✠ **The congregation will read.**

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**PRAYER of CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>**

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.**

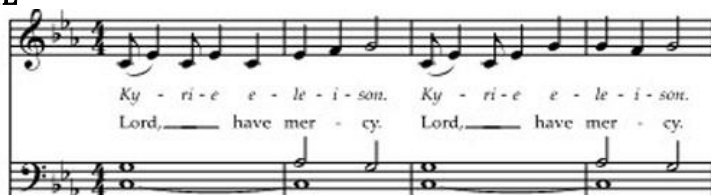
*(Moment for silent reflection and confession)*

✘ **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>3</sup>**



*Note: Lower voices may hum.*



<sup>2</sup> Wendy N. Lamb

<sup>3</sup> Traditional Liturgical text. Music: Dinah Reindorf, 1987. ©1987 Dinah Reindorf. Reprinted under permission of OneLicense #A706254. All rights reserved.

## ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

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

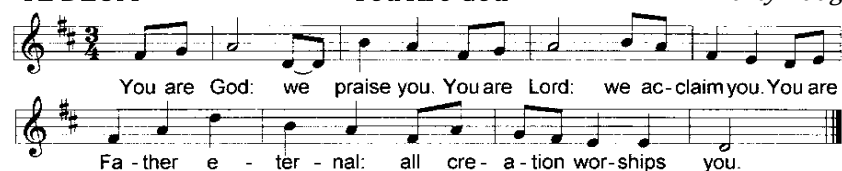
✱ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.

*(We stand and sing)*

**\*TE DEUM**

***You Are God<sup>4</sup>***

*Marty Haugen*



## 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

***Be Thou My Vision<sup>5</sup>***

*Jeffrey H. Rickard*

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that thou art; Thou my best thought by day or by night. Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father; thine own may I be; Thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise; Thou mine inheritance, now and always; Thou and thou only, first in my heart; High King of heaven, my treasure thou art. High King of heaven, my victory won; May I each Heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all!

## SCRIPTURE Psalm 23

*Old Testament, pg. 501*

✱ **The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:**

**he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**He restoreth my soul:**

**he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;**

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<sup>5</sup> Text: Irish poem c. 700 AD, trans. Mary E. Byrne; vers. Eleanor Hull. Music: Irish ballad SLANE; arr. Jeffrey H. Rickard. ©1990 Sacred Music Press, a division of The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services) Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

SCRIPTURE John 10:11-21

*New Testament, pg. 103*

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*I Am the Good Shepherd*

*Pastor Wendy Lamb*

HYMN 314

*Christ, Be Our Light<sup>6</sup>*

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

*Verse Four*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

## 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;

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<sup>6</sup> Text & Music: Bernadette Farrell, 1993. ©1993 Bernadette Farrell (admin. Oregon Catholic Press). Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.



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 274**    *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd*

PICARDY

**\*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**

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

CRUSADER'S HYMN

Beautiful savior, Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

**\*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

**GREETER:** Phyllis Hough

**USHERS:** Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

John-Paul Fletcher, Dave Thomas, *Security Ushers*

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

**LIVESTREAM ENGINEER:** James Welte

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

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK**

**Judy Steppins, Lorraine Bishop, the Biddlecombe family**

*Elders: Katie Smith, Neal Williams, Amy Smith*

*Deacons: Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas*

*Pastor Nominating Committee:*

**Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher**

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

**Mar 18**      **Rebecca Nelligan**

**Todd & Elizabeth Wright**

**Mar 22**      **Laura Munz**

***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 4 Thursday evenings (March 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!

***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***

At dusk, as the last rays of sunlight painted the town square in gold and violet, a traveler arrived. He wore a cloak woven from mismatched fabrics, each patch a different color, and his sharp eyes glimmered with something between amusement and knowing. He carried little, save for a tall mirror framed in wood so aged it seemed as if it had always been there.

He set the mirror down in the center of the square and turned to the gathering townspeople.

"For a single coin," the traveler announced, "this mirror will reveal your future—exactly as it will unfold."

A murmur rippled through the crowd. Most scoffed, but two stepped forward.

The first was Edric, a man of boundless confidence, who believed fortune favored the bold, certain that the world was full of limitless opportunity. The second was Mira, cautious and quiet, who lived with the unshakable belief that disaster lurked around every corner.

The traveler beckoned. "Step forward, if you dare."

Edric did not hesitate. He slapped his coin into the traveler's palm and stood before the mirror.

It shimmered. The image that formed was dazzling: he saw himself draped in fine robes, wealth overflowing from his coffers, surrounded by admirers who hung on his every word. He was respected, honored. His future was assured.

Edric grinned. "I knew it!" he declared. "Everything will be as it should be!"

He turned from the mirror with a triumphant laugh, already imagining the riches that awaited him. There was no need to struggle, no need to prepare—his future was set.

Then came Mira.

She hesitated, but stepped forward anyway. She hesitantly placed her coin into the traveler's palm, and stepped before the glass.

The mirror darkened. Shadows coiled within it, and when the image cleared, Mira saw herself destitute, alone, struggling against forces she could not control. Her home was in ruin. Her hands were empty. The world had turned its back on her.

"I knew it," she whispered, voice hollow. "Everything is doomed. No matter what I do, I cannot change it."

The traveler watched as she turned away, her shoulders heavy with defeat. Unlike Edric, who strode from the square full of confidence, Mira withdrew from the world. She avoided risk, certain that to act was to invite catastrophe.

The traveler smiled, though no one noticed.

Seasons passed.

Edric waited for his future to arrive, and in time, it did—but not in the way he had imagined. He came into wealth, just as the mirror had foretold. But with it came endless obligations, false friends, and admirers who whispered behind his back as soon as he turned away.

The riches that had once seemed like a promise of happiness became a burden. He learned that wealth demanded constant tending, that its weight grew heavier with time. He was surrounded, yet lonely. Respected, but not loved.

His future had come true, yet it was not the paradise he had imagined.

Mira, too, had seen her vision unfold. She lost what she had clung to, and hardships came, just as the mirror had shown. But when misfortune arrived, it did not break her as she had feared. She found new paths, unexpected kindness, and strength she had not known she possessed.

She had spent so long fearing ruin that she had never considered what might come after it. She had thought herself fragile, but in the face of hardship, she discovered how strong she truly was. The future had brought trials, but they had not destroyed her -- indeed they had revealed her indomitable spirit.

Eventually both Edric and Mira realized something strange: the mirror had told the truth, and yet it had also deceived them.

One evening, as twilight deepened into night, the traveler returned to the square.

Edric and Mira were waiting.

"You tricked us," Mira said. "The mirror... it showed us things that weren't real."

"Oh?" The traveler tilted his head. "Did they not happen?"

Edric hesitated. "They did," he admitted. "But not how I thought they would."

"Ah," the traveler mused, as if this was no surprise at all. "You saw a glimpse, and mistook it for the whole. Fortune is never as bright as it first appears. And misfortune is never as dark."

He turned the mirror toward them once more.

They hesitated, but when they looked, they saw something different from before. The shimmering glass no longer reflected certainty—it showed possibility.

Edric saw that his riches, though not the key to happiness, could still be used for something meaningful.

Mira saw that hardship had not ruined her, but transformed her into someone stronger than she had once thought possible.

The traveler chuckled. "The mirror only ever showed one version of what could be. But it is your choices, your patience, and your willingness to move with time and circumstances that shape what becomes real."

And then, with a flick of his cloak, he was gone.

*--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:

Rebecca Allen, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas,  
Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda, Rick  
Rodriguez, Jim Siegmund, Kyle Smith, and 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