



I AM the Resurrection and the Life

John 11:25: I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

How can you be the final resurrection?
That resurrection hasn't happened yet.
Our broken world is still bent on destruction,
No sun can rise before that sun has set.
Our faith looks back to father Abraham
How can you speak as though he knew your name?
How can you say: 'Before he was, I am'?
*Begin in me and I will read your riddle
And teach you truths my Spirit will defend.
I am the end who meets you in the middle,
The new beginning hidden in the End.
I am the victory, the end of strife
I am the resurrection and the life.*

Malcolm Guite, *Parable and Paradox*

Cover photo by Dale Showman.



March 23, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship

3rd Sunday in Lent

I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though
he were dead, yet shall he live. *John 11:25*

First Presbyterian Church

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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, 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 6th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Katie Smith

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Andante

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Susan Addington, Flute

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

INVITATION to LENT

INTROIT

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*¹ *William P. Rowan*

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes. The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing! We shall go out in joy; and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes *shalom*.

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 2

Solo:

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give;
The living water, thirsty one;
Stoop down and drink and live."

All:

**I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.**

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

*** Stand if you are able**

✱ The congregation will read.

¹ Text: Mary Louise Bringle © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: William P. Rowan, 2000.

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***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 247**

Now the Green Blade Rises

NOEL NOUBVELET

PRAYER of CONFESSION²

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.)

KYRIE³

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.

ed

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 God⁴

Marty Haugen

Two staves of musical notation in G major and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody, and the second staff contains the lyrics. The lyrics are: "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

Just As I Am

arr. Arnold B. Sherman

SCRIPTURE

John 11:17-44

New Testament, pg. 103

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

Pastor Wendy Lamb

HYMN 314

Christ, Be Our Light⁵

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

Verse Two

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

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⁵ Text & Music: Bernadette Farrell, 1993. ©1993 Bernadette Farrell (admin. Oregon Catholic Press). Reprinted with permission under 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 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.

*HYMN 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*BLESSING

- ✘ May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever He may send you.
May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.
May He bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders He has shown you.
May He bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.

In the name of the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*RESPONSE

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*¹ William P. Rowan

Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes. The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing! We shall go out in joy; and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes *shalom*.

***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

Amy Gano directs our Choir today while *Curtiss Allen, Jr.* goes to New Orleans to visit his new granddaughter.

GREETERS: Doris Nord, Donna Feit

USHERS: Chris Thomas, *Lead Usher*

Jim Siegmund, 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

Noé Falconi, Marianna Fowles, Sandy Garza

Elders: Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann

Deacons: Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda, Kristine French

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris

This Weeks' Celebrations

Mar 23 Grant Garcia

Mar 24 Randy French

Linda Saenz

Mar 26 Marianna Fowles

Mar 27 Noé Falconi

Mar 29 Reyna Jones

Stephanie Ross

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 3 Thursday evenings (March 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!

One Great Hour of Sharing supports three programs in the Presbyterian Church that serve in different ways to serve people and communities in need. Your offering will support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People, which will enable access to safety, sustenance, and hope for people around the world. We will receive the Offering on Palm Sunday, April 13th.

The 10th Annual National Crime Victims' Rights Week Memorial will be held on **Monday, April 7th 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.

Palm Saturday! On **Saturday, April 12th**, we will gather in Fireside Lounge at **9:00 a.m.** for a morning of fellowship and creation, to make palm crosses for Sunday. Everyone invited! No experience required! (Please bring your own scissors!) **At 10:00 a.m., we will prepare the sanctuary for Palm Sunday.** We invite you to join us!

Maundy Thursday Service, April 17th, 5:30 p.m. Before the joy of Easter, we must accompany Christ through Maundy Thursday. We invite you to come with us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper and welcome the mystery of the cross.

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.

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

Sorin was mending fishing nets when he heard the first shouts of anger. He turned toward the square and saw Marek storming forward, fists clenched. Marek, whose rage had been boiling for weeks after his younger brother was found murdered along the road.

A crime with no culprit. Not even any clues.

And now, a foreigner had arrived.

Sorin's stomach tightened. The village was already a tinderbox. They had no answers, no justice—only a wound that had no place to go.

Marek pushed into the crowd. "What are you doing here?" His voice was like a hammer on stone.

The stranger did not flinch. He was tall, wrapped in a tattered cloak, his face calm but unreadable.

"I am only passing through."

Marek laughed once, sharp and bitter. "Through? No, you came to spy. You came to see if we were weak."

Sorin took a step closer. This was dangerous. He knew Marek well—he'd seen him break a man's ribs in a drunken fight.

The stranger tilted his head. "Do you always greet travelers with such welcome?"

Marek's hand went to his belt.

The blade flashed in the afternoon light.

"Tell me why you're here," Marek growled, "or I'll cut the words out of you."

The moment coiled tight. This is it, Sorin thought. One move, and there will be blood.

And then the stranger did something no one expected.

He knelt.

Before Marek. Before the crowd. Then, slowly, he reached into his pack and pulled out a wooden cup.

And, without a word, he filled it with water.

A flicker of confusion crossed Marek's face. "What the hell are you doing?"

The stranger lifted the cup.

“Do you see the water?” he asked, his voice calm as the wind before dawn. “It is clear now.”

Then, with a sudden movement, he plunged his hand into the cup and stirred wildly.

The water churned, clouded with silt and debris.

“This is your rage,” he said. “This is what you bring with you.”

Marek’s breath was ragged. His fingers flexed on the knife.

The stranger set the cup on the ground.

And waited.

Sorin felt the whole village hold its breath.

For a long moment, no one spoke.

And then—slowly—the water began to settle.

The mud drifted downward. The water became clear again.

The stranger looked up. “If you want to see clearly, you must let the water still.”

Marek’s grip tightened—and for a moment, Sorin thought he would strike anyway.

Then something eased in his face. Slowly he relaxed his grip and put the knife away.

The village exhaled.

Marek turned and walked away, without a word.

One by one, the villagers followed. The fire had not caught. The moment had passed.

Sorin looked at the stranger. “How did you know that would work?”

The stranger picked up the cup, swirled the water once, and smiled.

“I didn’t,” he said.

And he drank.

--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