



## Imagine

*Luke 6.37: Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.*

*Do not judge, and you will not be judged.*

Imagine if we took these words to heart,  
Unselved ourselves and took another's part,  
Silenced the accuser, dropped the grudge ...

*Do not condemn, you will not be condemned.*

Imagine if we lived our lives from this  
And met each other's outcasts face to face,  
Imagine if the blood-dimmed tide was stemmed.

*Forgive and you yourselves will be forgiven.*

What if we walked together on this path,  
What if the whole world laid aside its wrath,  
And things were done on earth as though in heaven,  
As though the heart's dark knots were all undone,  
As though this dreamer weren't the only one?"

*Parable and Paradox, Malcolm Guite*

*Cover photo by Dale Showman*



*The Return of the Prodigal Son*

by Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, 1606-1669

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

10:30 a.m.  
Worship

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I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am  
leaving the world and am going to the Father.” *John 16:28*

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### First Presbyterian Church

Mailing address: PO Box #2729; San Bernardino, California 92406

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[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: Jim Siegmund

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

**PRELUDE** *Chaconne* D. Buxtehude (1637-1707)  
*Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.*

### INVITATION to LENT

**INTROIT** *To God Be the Glory* W. H. Doane  
To God be the glory; great things he has done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the lifegate that all may go in. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory: great things he has done!

### 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 him in 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.

**PRAYER of CONFESSION<sup>1</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>2</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.

<sup>1</sup> *Wendy N. Lamb*

<sup>2</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>3</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**

***Grace***

*arr. Mark Hayes*

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 15:11-32

*New Testament, pg. 78*

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

***I Am Come from the Father***

*Pastor Wendy Lamb*

**HYMN 314**

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

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

*Verse Five*

**Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.**

**Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.**

**Christ, be our light!**

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

**Christ, be our light!**

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

<sup>3</sup> © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under permission of OneLicense #A706254. All rights reserved.

<sup>4</sup> 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 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 821

*How Can I Keep from Singing?*

*Lowry*

#### \*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

*Sevenfold Amen*

*John Stainer*

#### \*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:** Bobbie Terrell

**USHERS:** Tim Usher, *Lead Usher*

Christian Usher, Lynn Usher, *Security Ushers*

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

**LIVESTREAM ENGINEER:** Kevin Lamb

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

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK**

**Debora Holk, Jim Huffstutler**

*Elders:* Phyllis Hough, Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark

*Deacons:* Joyce Lyons, Rick Rodriguez, Jim Siegmund

*Pastor Nominating Committee:*

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

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

***Apr 1*** Ray & Becky Nelligan  
Irene Sandoval-Suverkrup

***Apr 3*** John-Paul Fletcher

***Apr 4*** Howard Le Roy

***Apr 5*** Laura Olsen Dunn  
Jacob Allen

***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 2 Thursday evenings (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 13<sup>th</sup>.

***The 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

***Palm Saturday!*** On **Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**, 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

***Butterfly Cookies Needed to celebrate resurrection and new life during Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday. Please call the office to let us know if you can bring cookies,*** then bring yours to the kitchen before Worship on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your help!

***Saturday Morning, April 19<sup>th</sup>***, you're invited to help the Worship Committee prepare our sanctuary for Easter morning. Bring your garden's most beautiful flowers, blooming branches, and greenery. (If you bring them in buckets of water, they will stay fresh until arranged!) Bring pruning shears and garden gloves if you would like to help make arrangements. We will gather at **11:00 a.m.** Come join us, whether you have flowers to bring or not, in our tradition of beauty and creativity, as we prepare for Easter!

***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***

The drought had lasted longer than anyone in the village could remember. Cracked earth stretched as far as the eye could see -- the fields brittle and gray. The stream—once lively and clear—was now a mere trickle, barely enough to fill cupped hands.

Lira stood at the edge of what remained of the stream, staring at the massive stone that blocked its path. It had tumbled down from the cliffs during a storm months ago, landing with a thunderous crack that shook the earth. Since then, the stream had all but disappeared.

The villagers had tried everything. Ropes were tied around the stone, dozens of hands pulling and straining. Levers had been built, wedging great beams beneath it, but nothing moved the boulder. It sat, stubborn and immovable, as if it had always belonged there.

“Useless,” the village elder had declared, wiping sweat from his brow. “The stone won’t budge. We’ll have to dig a new channel.”

But Lira wasn’t convinced. While others returned to the village, resigned to defeat, she remained by the stream. She sat on a patch of grass, legs crossed, staring at the stone. It loomed over her, its surface rough and worn, flecked with moss despite the dry season.

For hours, she watched. The sun dipped lower, casting long shadows, and the trickle of water at the stone’s edge glistened in the fading light. She noticed something then—a faint sound beneath the stillness. A gurgling, subtle and soft, like a whisper beneath the surface.

Curious, Lira moved closer, pressing her ear to the cool earth beside the stone. There it was again—a faint rush of water, not gone, but hidden. She followed the sound, crawling along the dry riverbed, tracing the path of the muffled current.

A few paces downstream, she saw it—tiny streams, no wider than threads, weaving through cracks and roots beneath the earth. The water was finding its own way around the stone, slowly, patiently.

Her heart quickened. Instead of moving the boulder, the stream had started to carve a new path.

Lira sprang to her feet and ran back to the village.

“I found something!” she cried, breathless.

The elder raised an eyebrow. “The stone moved?”

“No, but the water has. It’s still flowing—under the ground. We just need to help it along.”

The villagers gathered skeptically, but Lira led them to the spot where the hidden streams threaded through the soil.

“We can dig here,” she said, pointing. “If we help the water rise to the surface, it can flow to the fields again.”

Though doubtful, they began to dig. It wasn’t easy—the earth was hard and dry—but as they worked, small rivulets broke free, glistening in the dirt. Water trickled up through the new channel, winding around the stone and spilling back into the stream bed.

By sundown, a thin but steady stream flowed once more.

The villagers cheered, filling buckets and splashing water onto the parched ground. The elder approached Lira, his weathered face softening.

“We tried to fight the stone,” he said. “But you listened—to the land, to the water. You found the way.”

Lira smiled, though her hands were blistered and her arms ached. “The stream didn’t stop. It just changed its path. I only helped it find the surface again.”

In the days that followed, the fields began to green once more. Crops grew, fragile at first, then strong. The stone remained where it had fallen, a silent witness to the village’s survival.

But they no longer saw it as an obstacle.

They saw it as part of the stream’s story—a bend, not an end.

Lira became known not as the girl who moved the stone, but as the one who moved with it. She had accepted what could not be changed and had the courage to see another path. It wasn’t strength that had saved the village, but patience—and the wisdom to listen when others had stopped.

And in that, the stream flowed freer than ever.

*--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