

Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship



*Gaudeamus Omnis
Gregorian chant*

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Hallelujah!

--Psalm 150:6

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, May 4th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Helen Babcock

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

[David] Gambrell said that in Christian worship, congregational singing has a similar function to those special prayers for the Holy Spirit. When members of the church come together for worship, the assembly is called the body of Christ, in which Jesus the risen Lord is alive and present to us.

“How do we really become the body of Christ?” he asked. “First, we stand together, in body or spirit, as witnesses to the resurrection, to the uprising of Jesus Christ on the first day of the week. And then we breathe together, and then we sing.”

Paul Seebeck, Reporter, Presbyterian News Service

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

This Too Shall Pass

W. Zeitler

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

INTROIT

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing, declare ye this and let it be heard: Alleluia.

(Throughout Eastertide, we stand for the Easter Acclamation, Opening Hymn, Prayer of Adoration, and Response. You are invited to be seated at any time if that is more comfortable for you.)

*EASTER ACCLAMATION

This is the good news—

The grave is empty, Christ is risen.

✘ Alleluia! Amen!

This is the Good News- the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.

✘ Alleluia! Amen!

This is the Good News – Our doubts and our fears
are no barrier to Christ, let us worship God!

✘ Alleluia! Amen!

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

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

***HYMN 245 words (232 tune)**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

EASTER HYMN

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!

All creation, join to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!

Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!

Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!

Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

***PRAYER of ADORATION (*Psalm 150*)¹**

(We remain standing in body or spirit for the Prayer of Adoration.

You may always be seated as you wish.)

- ✘ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord in the holy temple;
praise God in the firmament of divine power.
Praise the Lord for mighty acts;
praise God for excellent greatness.
Praise the Lord with the blast of the ram's-horn;
praise God with lyre and harp.
Praise the Lord with timbrel and dance;
praise God with strings and pipe.
Praise the Lord with resounding cymbals;
praise God with loud-clanging cymbals.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Hallelujah!

¹ A LITURGICAL PSALTER GENERAL SYNOD 2016 EDITION The Psalter of The Book of Alternative Services Emended for Contemporary Liturgical Use

***REFRAIN**

(We stand and sing)

Laudate Dominum²

Berthier

**Laudate Dominum, laudate Dominum,
omnes gentes, alleluia!
Laudate Dominum, laudate Dominum
omnes gentes, alleluia!**

TIME with the CHILDREN

[After Time with the Children, our children pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade are encouraged to go to Room 10 for KidSpace. Parents, please pick up your children from Room 10 immediately following worship.

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

ANTHEM

Hallelujah, Amen³ *George Frideric Handel*

Hallelujah, Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen. O Judah, rejoice, rejoice! Rejoice, O Judah, in songs divine, With cherubim and seraphim harmonious join, Hallelujah, Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen, and in songs divine harmonious join Hallelujah, Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31

New Testament, p. 115

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Laudate

Pastor Wendy Lamb

HYMN 641

When in our Music God Is Glorified⁴

ENGLEBERG

(The choir sings the first two stanzas. The congregation joins in for 3-5.)

When in our music God is glorified,/and adoration leaves no room
for pride,/it is as though the whole creation cried:/Alleluia!/How
often, making music, we have found/a new dimension in the
world of sound,/as worship moved us to a more
profound/Alleluia!

**So has the church, in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in every tongue:
Alleluia!**

² Jacques Berthier and the Taizé Community. ©1978, 1980, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.

³ Text & Music: George Frideric Handel; edited by Archibald T. Davison. ©1925, ren. 1952 E.C. Schirmer Music Company.

⁴ Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1972, alt. Music: Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904, alt. ©1972 Hope Publishing Company.

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And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
when utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always:
Alleluia!

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 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.

*HYMN 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOB DEN HERREN

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE *God Be with You till We Meet Again* William G. Tomer

POSTLUDE

Hymn

GREETER: Linda McCarl

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Mark Adelson, Jim Siegmund, *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: Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough, Sue Alexander

Deacons: Rebecca Allen, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher

This Weeks' Celebrations

Apr 27 Jonah Roy Morales

Apr 28 Jim Cimino

Mark Freeman

Apr 29 Jim & Helen Babcock

May 1 Lily Bolaños

Aidan Morris

Symphonie Jeunesse Youth Orchestra presents a concert on **Sunday, May 11th at 3:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Come listen to these talented young musicians. You will be delighted.

Big Bear Camp Early Bird Special. Get 50 dollars off normal prices for your campers through May 30th. Incoming 4th - 12th graders are invited to join us at Big Bear Lake Christian Conference Center for a weeklong of summer camp fun! The theme for this year of Summer Camp is 'The Fruits of The Spirit'.

Scholarships available. Scholarships are available from the church and the Presbytery. Grant applications to make it easier for you to apply to Partners in Ministry for Camp Scholarships or Norlund Fund Camp Scholarships or Projects that involve Fourth Graders, Contact Mimi in the church office for brochures and forms to apply.

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.

Music Box

There was once a stonemason who lived at the edge of a wind-swept land where nothing stayed the same for long. The river shifted its course each season. The dunes crawled across the plain like great, lumbering beasts. Even the stars overhead seemed to shimmer with uncertainty.

The people of the land built with haste and little hope — they expected things to fall apart. And of course they did.

But Elyas, the stonemason, carved each stone with the care of one who believed it mattered. He never hurried. His walls held longer than most, but still, in time, even his finest arches cracked, even his best-laid foundations shifted.

And yet he stayed.

He stayed through famine. Through flood. Through the year the sky did not clear and the year the rains did not come. He stayed when neighbors moved on and when wildfires came to kiss the eaves of his workshop. And always he carved, as if stone might remember something the rest of the world had forgotten.

One day, a traveler arrived — barefoot, bright-eyed, and clearly lost. She had the look of someone used to running but uncertain what she was running toward.

“Are you Elyas?” she asked. “The one who builds things that last?”

He looked up from his chisel and nodded.

“I’ve heard you know something the rest of us don’t,” she said. “I’ve tried everything. Joy flees. Grief drowns. Love blazes, then vanishes like smoke. I want to know how to live without being undone.”

Elyas said nothing. He simply motioned for her to sit, and he handed her a small stone, smooth, river-worn, veined with silver like cracks of light in a night sky.

“Hold this,” he said. “Tell me what you feel.”

She turned it in her hands. “It’s cold,” she said. “Hard. Solid.”

“Is it heavy?”

She shrugged. “Not really.”

“Follow me,” he said.

He led her down a narrow path to the river — the same river that had carved new paths through the land for generations. At its banks, he gestured for her to toss the stone in.

She hesitated. “Why?”

“Because I want to show you something.”

She tossed it.

It sank, of course. As stones have been doing since the dawn of time.

They stood in silence for a long while, watching the ripples fade.

“That’s how I feel,” she said at last. “Like that stone. Pulled under.”

Elyas nodded. “The river embraces the fallen too. Not by lifting, but by letting them belong.”

He stepped into the river and scooped up a flat stone from the shallows — this one carved with care. Its surface bore a single phrase in a language older than memory. He handed it to her.

She read it aloud: “This, too, is the Path.”

Not "this too shall pass" — and will soon be behind us. Not "endure" — and get past it. Not "rise above." Rather, "This, too, is the Path" — this moment, this breath, this present Now.

“The sorrow?” she asked.

“Yes.”

“The joy?”

“That too.”

“The empty in-between?”

He nodded.

She clutched the carved stone like it might dissolve if she let it go.

“But what do I do with it?” she asked.

Elyas gestured to the river again. “You carry it as far as you can. Then, when the time comes... you let it go.”

She looked at the water, then back to the stone. She wasn’t ready to release it — not yet. But something in her settled.

She stayed with him. Learned how to carve. How to sit still through a storm. How to breathe without needing answers. How to love a cracked

wall for the way the light came through. How to wait without waiting – the way mountains do, without effort, without end.

Years later, when Elyas died, she buried him by the river. Not with a monument. Just a single carved stone, smooth and silent.

And then she walked away into the dawn – barefoot, bright-eyed, and no longer lost. *-- William Zeidler*



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