

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship



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Lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace.

*--Ephesians 6:15*

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### First Presbyterian Church

Mailing address: P.O. 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, June 8<sup>th</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Irene Sandoval-Suverkrup

## REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

The heart of Christianity is the radical, counterintuitive suggestion that the most powerful force in the world is vulnerable, sacrificial love — love that looks weak and helpless but which, finally, as Paul promised in 1 Corinthians 13, “still stands when all else has fallen.” God’s love is expressed most eloquently in vulnerability and weakness — the cross of Jesus Christ. From that love, Paul wrote, nothing in all of creation can separate us, not even death.

*Pastor Keith Cardwell, Swift Presbyterian Church*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*The Order of Chivalry:  
"Justice and the Knight's Sword"*

*W. Zeitler*

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

## CONGREGATIONAL

### INTROIT 79

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*<sup>1</sup>

TEMPLE OF PEACE

*v. 1*

*(Everyone sings the introit this morning.)*

**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.**

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

**\* Stand if you are able**

**✱ The congregation will read.**

<sup>1</sup> Text: Mary Louise Bringle. ©2001 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: William P. Rowan. ©2000 William P. Rowan (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

*(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!

**\*HYMN 65**

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CWM RHONDDA

**\*PRAYER of ADORATION (Psalm 67)<sup>2</sup>**

*(We remain standing in body or spirit for the Prayer of Adoration.  
You may always be seated as you wish.)*

✠ O God, be merciful to us and bless us,  
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.  
Let your ways be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
The earth has brought forth its increase;  
may you, O God our God, bless us.  
May you bless us,  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of you.

**\*REFRAIN**

*Laudate Dominum<sup>3</sup>*

*Berthier*

Laudate Dominum, laudate Dominum,  
omnes gentes, alleluia!

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<sup>2</sup> A LITURGICAL PSALTER GENERAL SYNOD 2016 EDITION The Psalter of The Book of Alternative Services Emended for Contemporary Liturgical Use.

<sup>3</sup> Jacques Berthier and the Taizé Community. ©1978, 1980, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.

**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.]*

**SOLO**

***Be Still My Soul<sup>4</sup>***

FINLANDIA

*Curtiss Allen, Jr., soloist*

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; Leave to thy God to order and provide; In ev'ry change He faithful will remain. Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heav'nly Friend Thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end. Be still, my soul: Thy God doth undertake To guide the future as He has the past. Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake; All now mysterious shall be bright at last... Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below. Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on When we shall be forever with the Lord, When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past, All safe and blessed we shall meet at last. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE**

**Ephesians 6:10-20**

*New Testament, p. 195*

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

**✠ Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

***A Tale of Two Hymns***

*Pastor Wendy Lamb*

**HYMN 307**

***God of Grace and God of Glory***

CWM RHONDDA

*(Note instructions for singing.)*

*All:*

**God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.**

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<sup>4</sup> Text: Katharine von Schlegel, 1752; trans. Jane L. Borthwick, 1855, alt. Music: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. The Hymnal, 1933, alt. Music Arrangement ©1933, ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press). Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

*Lectern Side:*      Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
                             scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
                             free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
                             for the living of these days,  
                             for the living of these days.

*Pulpit Side:*      Cure thy children's warring madness;  
                             bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
                             rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
                             lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
                             lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

*All:*                      Save us from weak resignation  
                             to the evils we deplore.  
Let the gift of thy salvation  
                             be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
                             serving thee whom we adore,  
                             serving thee whom we adore.

## 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 340

*This Is My Song*

FINLANDIA

\*MOMENT for REFLECTION

\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL

RESPONSE 79

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*<sup>1</sup>

TEMPLE OF PEACE

v. 3

*(Everyone sings the response this morning.)*

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*

GREETER: Lynda Savage

USHERS: Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Mark Adelson, Chris Thomas, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Marianna Fowles, Sandy Garza, Debora Holk

*Elders:* Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough

*Deacons:* Steve Smith, Rebecca Allen, Brad Smith

*Pastor Nominating Committee:*

Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris

### This Weeks' Celebrations

**May 27** Jenna Garza Schneider

**May 28** Mark Adelson

Jon Preciado

Maria Saenz

Al & Mindy Rueda

*Thank you for your generous support of our food participants.* We continue to accept donations of any shelf-stable foods. A suggestion list is at reception and on our website. If you want to shop with a focus, bargain cereal is always needed, and rice or pasta or help stretch limited food into more meals.

*The Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering and Election and Installation Gathering* will be on **Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fireside Lounge. Our speaker is Sam Roberts, chairman of the Environmental Committee at last summer's General Assembly. We will also hear from our graduating seniors, Kendra Lamb and Breanna Nord. And there will be yummy cupcakes! Donations for the food closet are encouraged. See the list of needs in the weekly email or at the reception desk. **All are invited.**

**Blood Drive.** On **Sunday, June 1** we will host our **FIRST** blood drive of the year. *Sign-ups are in Fellowship Hall* immediately after church. On **Sunday, November 30** we will host a second blood drive. Please share with others.

On **Sunday, June 1st**, we will have our **10th Life Skillz Circle Senior Recognition Service.** Please join us and celebrate our 8 SBHS Class of 2025 Life Skillz students. They will be joined by family members and other Life Skillz students. It's a great opportunity to get to know the amazing young people our congregation has been supporting.

**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*

Previously, in parts I & II:

Renn, a young apprentice obsessed with building the tallest towers, is cast down from his dreams and forced to repair the foundations of a crumbling bathhouse—work deemed beneath him. But as he labors, he discovers a quiet wisdom in the old stones: they lean into each other with irregular grace, built not for glory but for endurance. Beneath one, he finds a spiral sigil—linked, his master once hinted, to the long-lost First Settlement.

Then an old bathkeeper appears, bearing a box of records. Among them, Renn finds a journal entry: “The First Settlement was never lost. It remembers.” The writer calls him “The Second,” and Renn realizes that the real foundation lies not in stone alone, but in honoring—patiently, humbly—something ancient beneath the city.

\* \* \*

Long after Renn was gone, the towers of the city began to fall.

Not from war, but from the slow, inevitable hunger of the ground beneath them.

And through it all, the old bathhouse stood.

Its dome cracked. Its walls settled. Vines crept over its stones.

But it did not fall.

People fled to the low places. They sought shelter where they could, among the ruins of what had been overlooked.

Among them was a young mapmaker named Sira. She had no rank and little reputation. But she carried her tools faithfully and walked the broken streets with quiet intent.

Where others saw rubble, Sira noticed.

Certain buildings had not collapsed. The bathhouse. A few bridges. A scattering of homes along crooked alleys. They had survived—not through strength, but through fitting. Their stones leaned into each other in unexpected ways. Not symmetrical. Not grand.

But enduring.

She charted them.

And one evening, as she traced her finger across a battered, piecemeal map of the surviving structures, she noticed something strange.

A shape. Not overt. Not perfect.

But there, beneath the ruins: a spiral.

Not just in one place. Winding across the city's bones—linking the bathhouse to the bridges to the corners of forgotten courtyards.

A city.

Not new.

Not lost.

Waiting.

She closed her eyes.

She did not know who had built it. She did not know why.

But in that moment, Sira understood:

The First Settlement had never been a place.

It was a way.

A way of leaning stones into each other.

A way of leaning lives into each other.

A way of waiting with the world, not rushing ahead of it.

She thought of the stories told by wanderers—of a mason who once repaired a bathhouse with strange devotion, who carved spirals no one understood. She had dismissed it—until now.

It came to her then, unbidden:

“Whoever finds three such stones...”

The first was carved by a long forgotten hand.

The second was found by Renn.

The third was recognized by her.

And suddenly she knew:

She was the Third.

Not to uncover the past, but to remember it into future shape.

When the new settlers came—eager to rebuild, hungry for safety—they followed Sira's map. Not because they understood the spiral, but because it worked. What she had charted held.

And slowly, unknowingly, they began to stitch their new homes along the hidden weave of spiraled strength—the memory of a people who once knew how to endure.

And now, perhaps, would again.

(The end.)

-- 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