

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Honoring our Life Skillz Scholars

June 1, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship



Life Skillz Seniors

Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things.

--Psalm 98:1

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, June 8th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Bobbi Cummings

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

I tried to gather into a hymn of praise the many facets of life which emerge in the life of community. So there are the references to building, nature, learning, family, war, festivity. Seasons, emotions, death and resurrection, bread, wine, water, wind, sun, spirit. . . have made great impressions on my imagination. --Herbert Brokering

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Andante, Sonata No. 10* L. Beethoven (1770-1826)
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 Call to Worship and Opening Hymn.
You are invited to be seated at any time if that is more comfortable for you.)*

*CALL to WORSHIP

O give thanks to our God with your whole heart.

✠ **On the day I called, you answered me.**

Your steadfast love endures forever.

✠ **Thanks be to God!**

***HYMN 637** *O Sing to the Lord*¹ CANTAI OA SENHOR

Cantad al Señor un cántico nuevo.

Cantad al Señor un cántico nuevo.

Cantad al Señor un cántico nuevo.

¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!

For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.

For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.

For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.

O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

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

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

1. Translation, and Music Arrangement by Gerhard M. Cartford. ©1995 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship. There are activity bags & books in the Narthex.]

ANTHEM *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven²* Gordon Young

Praise my soul, the King of heaven, at God's feet thy tribute bring; Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore God's praises sing; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Everlasting King. Fatherlike, God tends and spares us; Well our feeble frame is known; God's great hands will gently bear us, Rescue us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet God's mercy flows. Angels in the heights adoring; Ye behold God face to face; Saints below fall down in homage, Gathered in from every place. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 98

Old Testament, p. 551

Sing a new song to the Lord,
who has done marvelous things,
whose mighty hand and holy arm have won the victory.

Lord, you have made known the victory;
you have openly shown your righteousness
in the sight of the nations.

You remember your mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen your victory, O God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.

Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before our sovereign, the Lord.

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
who is coming to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall God judge the world
and the peoples with equity.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ Thanks be to God.

² Text: adapted from Psalm CIII by Henry F. Lyte. Music: Gordon Young. ©1958 Carl Fischer, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

HYMN 26

*Earth and All Stars!*³

Johnson

(The choir sings the first stanza. The congregation joins in for 2-4)

Earth and all stars!/Loud rushing planets!/Sing to the Lord a new
song!/Hail, wind, and rain!/Loud blowing snowstorm!/Sing to
the Lord a new song!/God has done marvelous things./We too
sing praises with a new song!

Trumpet and pipes!
Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre!
Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
We too sing praises with a new song!

Engines and steel!
Loud pounding hammers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams!
Loud building workers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
We too sing praises with a new song!

Knowledge and truth!
Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son!
Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
We too sing praises with a new song!

RECOGNIZING OUR CARDINALS

*Today we recognize graduating seniors from San Bernardino High whom
we consider "our own". Many have been interns.
They participate in our weekly "Life Skillz" breakfast group.*

³ Text: Herbert Frederick Brokering, 1964. Music: David N. Johnson, 1968. ©1968 Augsburg
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Our Graduates

*Maria B. Beltran, Jessica Flores, Yudany Fuentes, Yadielys Lugo,
Yenitza Lugo, Ceclia Marin, Shanon Pampo,
Isabelle Ramos, Jose Tzintzun*

Our Leaders

*Ariana Aceves, Stephani Congdon, Bobbi Cummings, Brooke Dvorak,
Jim Morris, Pat Morris, Marlene Olivas, Rick Rodriguez*

Recipients of the Presbyterian Women Scholarships

Precious Guillen

Mia Zepeda

Receiving the Sally Morris Memorial Scholarship

Elizabeth Dominguez

Recipients of the Cummings Auto Group Life Skillz Scholarship

Maria B. Beltran

Jessica Flores

Yudany Fuentes

Yadielys Lugo

Yenitza Lugo

Cecilia Marin

Shanon Pampo

Isabelle Ramos

Jose Tzintzun

WE HEAR from STUDENTS and ALUMNI

Jessica Flores and Yadielys Lugo, Class of 2025

Marlene Olivas, Class of 2021

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 43

*On Eagle's Wings*⁴

Joncas

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord, "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain: And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under his wings, your refuge,
his faithfulness your shield. (*Refrain*)

You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. (*Refrain*)

For to his angels he's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone. (*Refrain*)

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE

Hymn

⁴ Words & Music: Michael Joncas. ©1979 OCP. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

GREETER: Meryll Davis

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Jim Siegmund, Dave Thomas, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord, Brandon Turner

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Jim Huffstutler, Ron & Ruby Kraft

Elders: Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman

Deacons: Dave Thomas, Chris Thomas, Joanna Nord

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Shelby Obershaw, Christa Wallis, Neal Williams

This Weeks' Celebrations

Jun 1 Jon & Nancy Horstmann

Jun 4 Erynne Arellano

Jun 2 Terri Carlos

Jun 5 Raymond Direen

Amy Elizabeth Rueda

Jun 7 Deb Burgan-Price

Katie Smith

Bob & Maria Saenz

Blood Drive. TODAY we are hosting our FIRST blood drive of the year. Donations are welcome in Fellowship Hall. On **Sunday, November 30** we will host a second blood drive. Please share with others.

The Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering and Election and Installation Gathering will be on **Monday, June 2nd 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.**

Why Support the Pentecost Offering?

Twenty-five percent of the Offering goes to support the **Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program**, a faith-based year of service in service since 1994, where young adults can engage in experiences that will grow them spiritually. These young adults have an opportunity to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation in an intentional community. **Twenty-five percent** supports nurturing the faith of our youth through events like the **Presbyterian Youth Triennium**. **Ten**

percent of your gifts to Pentecost support education for at-risk children through the **Educate a Child, Transform the World** initiative. **Forty percent** of the Pentecost Offering **stays with our congregation** to support **ministries with young people in our community**.

We will receive the Pentecost Offering on June 8, Pentecost Sunday.

Thank you for your generous donations of shelf-stable foods. (Suggestion list at reception and on website). We encourage bargain shopping. The most urgent need for cooking bags is cereal, rice or pasta. For non-cooking bags, it's crackers to hold the peanut butter, and pop-top ready to eat meals. **All donations appreciated!**

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

No one saw the Stranger arrive.

One autumn morning, as mist unspooled from the hills, he was simply there—seated at the dry edge of the old fountain, scribbling in a thick, weather-stained book. His boots were worn, his coat plain. He neither begged nor bargained. He only watched, listened, and wrote.

At first, the villagers kept their distance. But time softened suspicion into curiosity. Some approached. He was polite, if not exactly friendly. When asked who he was, he said,

“One who sees the silence.”

When asked what he wrote:

“The names of those who are ready.”

Ready for what, he would not say.

Still, people came. They told him their regrets, their small dreams. He never interrupted. Only once did he offer something unasked.

That one was Lira.

She came near midnight, cloaked in a shawl too thin for the wind. Her hands trembled, but not from cold.

She had lost much. Her father to a fever that took him in three days. Her brother, sent to a war no one believed in, came home in a box sealed with wax. Her mother followed them to the Far Shore not long after.

Lira did not cry. Her voice was flat, low—like someone who had buried too many things and forgotten where.

“I want power,” she said.

The Stranger looked up but said nothing.

“Not for revenge,” she added. “Not even to gain some advantage. Just... so I never feel helpless again.”

He closed his book.

“That’s a holy thing to want,” he said. “But the sacred never comes cheap.”

“I have nothing left to pay.”

He studied her for a moment. Then reached into his coat and withdrew a small, square object wrapped in faded linen.

“Then give that,” he said.

She frowned. “I don’t understand.”

He unwrapped it. A mirror, no larger than her palm. Its frame was blackened silver, etched with runes too faint to read. The glass shimmered, as if it remembered light even in darkness.

“Look,” he said.

Lira stared into it. What she saw was not her face—not exactly. It was her, but not as she was.

In one image, she stood tall and beautiful, cold-eyed, armored in charm. Surrounded by people who obeyed her but did not love her. Power without intimacy. Prestige without peace.

In another, she was aged and ragged, eyes hollow, muttering curses to ghosts. Her strength had calcified into suspicion; her pain into armor no one dared approach.

In a third, something so luminous it made her wince: a self formed of sorrow transmuted into grace. Eyes like hearthlight. A healer. A guide. A mother to none—and to all.

Other images flickered at the edge. Blurred. Waiting.

She lowered the mirror.

“That one,” she whispered. “That’s the one I want to be.”

The Stranger nodded.

“Then you must make a wager.”

“With whom?”

“Not with me. With the mirror.”

“What’s the price?”

“Everything you still cling to. Every story that begins with ‘I can’t.’ Every statement that begins with ‘I am this or that’ that isn’t true. Every fear that keeps you smaller than the shape your soul wants to take. You’ll have to lose things again—safety, certainty, your name in some circles. But what you’ll gain...”

He paused. “That part is never mine to promise.”

Lira was quiet. The night wind stirred the hem of her shawl.

“If I fail?”

“You will,” he said. “But only sometimes. And only at first. What matters is that you keep walking.”

She looked down at the mirror again. Its surface had stilled, now showing only her own weary face, but softer somehow.

She wrapped it in the linen and tucked it against her chest.

When she looked up, the Stranger was gone.

Lira returned to her cottage. She said nothing of what had passed.

But the next day, she visited the widow who never left her house. The day after that, she stood between two men arguing in the square and said one quiet thing that stopped them both. She began tending the graves no one else would clean. And when asked why, she only said:

“Because someone must.”

Each night, she looked into the mirror. Some nights it was kind. Other nights, it showed her things she did not want to see. But she never turned away.

And when travelers came and asked if the village had a wise woman, they were pointed toward the girl with fire in her bones and a mirror in her pocket—one who, long ago, had made a wager worth everything.

-- 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