

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
July 13, 2025 10:30 a.m. Worship



*Good Samaritan, Vincent van Gogh*

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He responded, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." --*Luke 10:27*

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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, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

# Morning Worship<sup>†</sup>

Lector: Jon Horstmann

## REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

Parables are meant to provoke, to challenge the listener's assumptions through vivid and often unexpected storytelling. But what happens when a story is so familiar that its strangeness is lost? When, in the retelling over centuries, the sharpness of the point is smoothed out?

--Jennifer S. Wyant, *Working Preacher*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Canzona*

*D. Buxtehude (1637-1707)*

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

### \*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT 411<sup>1</sup>

*Raúl Galeano*

God is here today;  
as certain as the air I breathe,  
as certain as the morning sun that rises,  
as certain when I sing you'll hear my song. (*Repeat*)

### \*CALL to WORSHIP<sup>2</sup>

Love the Lord your God,

✠ with all your heart, and with all your soul,  
and with all your strength, and with all your mind!

Love your neighbor as yourself,

✠ with all your heart, and with all your soul,  
and with all your strength, and with all your mind!

Do this and you will live!

✠ Let us worship God!

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<sup>†</sup> The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

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

<sup>1</sup> Text: Raul Galeano, 1976; English trans. C Michael Hawn, 1998. Music: Raul Galeano, 1976; arr. C Michael Hawn and Arturo Gonzalez, 1999. English Trans. and Music Arr. ©2020 Choristers Guild. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A706254. All rights reserved.

<sup>2</sup> *Feasting on the Word Lectionary Liturgies*

PRAYER of CONFESSION<sup>3</sup>

- ✘ Merciful God,  
 we confess that we have sinned against you  
 in thought, word, and deed,  
 by what we have done,  
 and by what we have left undone.  
 We have not loved you  
 with our whole heart and mind and strength.  
 We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
*(Moment for silent reflection and confession)*
- ✘ In your mercy, forgive what we have been,  
 help us amend what we are,  
 and direct what we shall be,  
 that we may delight in your will  
 and walk in your ways  
 to the glory of your holy name.

*(We remain seated for the kyrie, an ancient song of the church. We will sing it through in Greek first and then in English.)*

## 577 Lord, Have Mercy

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.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
 MUSIC: Dinah Reindorf, 1987; arr. *Sing! A New Creation*, 2001  
 Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf  
 Music Arr. © 2001 Faith Alive Christian Resources

KYRIE ELEISON (Reindorf)

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## ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

✱ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.

*(We stand and sing Alleluia)*

### \*ALLELUIA

*William Zeitler*



*[Children are always welcome in worship. There are activity bags and books in the back of the room.*

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

## INSTRUMENTAL DUET

*There's a Wideness*

*Curtiss Allen, Tuba*

## SCRIPTURE

### Colossians 1:1-12 (CEB)

From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, and Timothy our brother. To the holy and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae. Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

We always give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you. We've done this since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all God's people. You have this faith and love because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You previously heard about this hope through the true message, the good news, which has come to you. This message has been bearing fruit and growing among you since the day you heard and truly understood God's grace, in the same way that it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world. You learned it from Epaphras, who is the fellow slave we love and Christ's faithful minister for your sake. He informed us of your love in the Spirit. Because of this, since the day we heard about you, we haven't stopped praying for you and asking for you to be filled with the knowledge of God's will, with all wisdom and spiritual understanding. We're praying this so that you can live lives that are worthy of the Lord and pleasing

to him in every way: by producing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God; by being strengthened through his glorious might so that you endure everything and have patience; and by giving thanks with joy to the Father. He made it so you could take part in the inheritance, in light granted to God's holy people.

### **Luke 10:25-37 (CEB)**

A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to gain eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?" He responded, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live."

But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days' worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, 'Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.' What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?"

Then the legal expert said, "The one who demonstrated mercy toward him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

**✠ Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Learning into Action*

*Pastor Wendy Lamb*

**CONVERSATION around TABLES**

Page | 6

**MOMENT for MISSION (for starting the B&G fund)**

**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 plates as they are passed. You may always send gifts by mail or online.)*

**OFFERTORY**

**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 291      *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*      *James K. Manley*

**\*MOMENT for REFLECTION**

**\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 742**

SIZOHAMBA NAYE

We will walk with God, my brothers;  
we will walk with God.

We will walk with God, my sisters;  
we will walk with God.

We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.  
We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

**POSTLUDE**

*Hymn*

**GREETER:** Robin Edwards

**USHERS:** Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Dave Thomas, *Security Usher*

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

**LIVESTREAM ENGINEER:** James Welte

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

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK**

**Judy Steppins, Lorraine Bishop, Judy Etherton**

*Elders:* Neal Williams, John-Paul Fletcher, Lily Bolanos

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

*Pastor Nominating Committee:*

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

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

***Jul 14*** Margaret Doane

***Jul 19*** Linda Tiger

***Indigenous Revitalization Retreat*** will be led by Nancy Wiens, M. Div, Ph.D., on **Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> in the Sanctuary from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Lunch is included. There is no charge for the event, but please RSVP to the church office ([fpcsnb@gmail.com](mailto:fpcsnb@gmail.com) or 909-882-3308) **by July 16<sup>th</sup>**, so we can plan accordingly.

***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 help stretch limited food into more meals.

***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*

The blacksmith of Ruenna was a man of steady fire —  
and a few quirks no one quite understood.

He spoke little,  
but often muttered to the coals  
as if the forge were an old friend with a temper.  
Sometimes he sang to his hammer —  
always the same five-note tune,  
fragile and a little sad.

He wore one iron boot and one leather one.  
No one knew why.  
When asked, he'd only say,  
“Balance,”  
and go back to work.

Crows followed him through the village.  
He never called them,  
but he left bits of bread on the windowsill  
and smiled when they took it.

He refused to take silver coins.  
Said they made the scales lie.

His name was Arren,  
and he had the kind of presence  
that made children curious  
and adults uncomfortable.

To some, he was a local legend —  
a living charm against misfortune.  
To others, he was the village oddity —  
reliable, yes,  
but not to be invited to dinner.

When asked a question, he answered it.  
When asked for help, he gave it —  
though never gently.  
He wasn't cruel,  
just unsanded.

The weaver said he was touched in the head.  
The merchant said he was touched in the hands.  
The healer said he was touched by something the bones remember.

And yet —  
when the bridge collapsed in spring floods,  
it was Arren who devised a curious brace for the beam  
and fitted it beneath a dozen feet of icy water.

When a child was missing in the mountains,  
he was the one who searched through sleet  
in places no one else thought to look  
until she was found,  
half frost-bitten beneath a pine tree.

And when the village well ran dry,  
he built a strange pulley rig from old iron and driftwood,  
and water flowed again —  
though no one quite understood how.

He never asked for praise.  
He never explained the things he did.  
He never once tried to smooth his edges.

People came and went in the village.  
Some admired him.  
Some avoided him.  
Some—  
a few—  
loved him as he was.

One evening, long after the forge had cooled,  
an old friend sat beside him and asked:

“Doesn’t it bother you?  
That half the town thinks you’re too much,  
and the other half thinks you’re not enough?”

Arren shrugged.

“They’re not wrong,” he said.  
“But they’re not all right, either.”

He fed a scrap of bread to a crow  
that had landed on the edge of the bench.

“I’m not here to please the village.  
I’m here to hold the shape I was given,  
until it’s time to return it.”

The fire cracked.  
The sky grew soft.  
The anvil dreamed in silence.

And in the village,  
a child fell asleep, feeling safe,  
not knowing why.

*-- 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