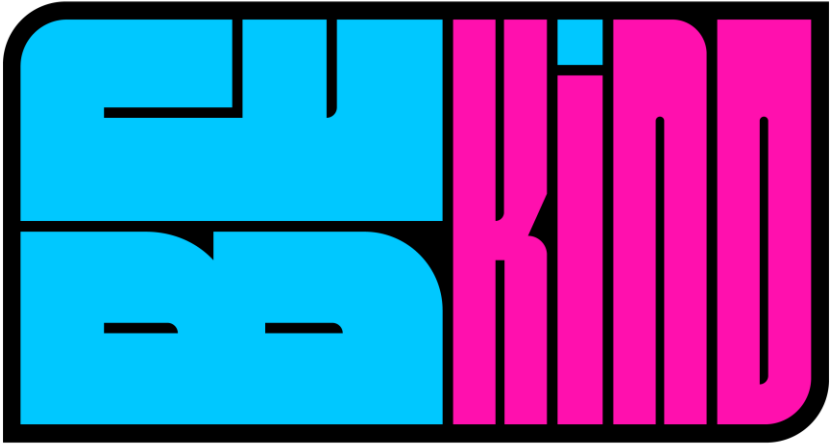


**Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Communion Sunday**

August 3, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship



ILLUSTRATEDMINISTRY.COM

Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.

--Ephesians 4:32

First Presbyterian Church

Mailing address: P.O. Box 2729; San Bernardino, California 92406

909.882.3308

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

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, September 7th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Jim Morris

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

God of compassion and kindness, help me witness the world through your perspective of love; to step back and make space for fresh points of view, to step in with brave words and actions when unkindness creeps in, to show compassion and empathy, even when I'm embarrassed or afraid. Because you have shown kindness to all of creation, I can do this too. Amen.

--Amanda Meisenheimer, *Illustrated Ministry*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Branches Longing for Birds

W. Zeitler

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

INTROIT

Shall We Gather at the River

Robert Lowry

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God? Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

*CALL to WORSHIP¹

With the pressing crowds, searching for healing and hope,

✘ **We wish to see Jesus.**

With the pushed out and cast aside, with the lonely lost, stripped of pride,

✘ **We wish to see Jesus.**

With those who seek mystery and meaning, wisdom and grace,

✘ **We wish to see Jesus.**

*HYMN 157

Lord of the Dance

Sydney Carter

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

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

¹ *Feasting on the Word Lectionary Liturgies*

PRAYER of CONFESSION²

- ✘ Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess that we are not always kind and compassionate. That's it. That's our confession. We find it hard to be kind and compassionate.

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

- ✘ By your loving mercy, help us to live out your love.

(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

Musical score for Alleluia in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single line. Chords are indicated above the staff: Em, B, Em, D. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. The second staff continues the melody with chords G, D, F#m, B, F#m, Bm, F#m. The lyrics are: lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le al - le - lu - ia!

TIME with the CHILDREN

If you are returning to school as a student, you are invited to come forward with your schoolbag if you brought it for the Blessing of the Backpacks.

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

There are backpack tags to color and have laminated.]

BLESSING of the BACKPACKS³

[If you are a teacher, counselor, administrator, staff member, or otherwise connected with the schools, you will be invited to come join the students for your own blessing and as a reminder that people who care are all around in the schools.]

Children of God, born from the breath of God's compassion,
may you be brave enough to share kindness,
even when it's not easy or popular with your friends.

May kindness flow from your actions, your words, your facial
expressions, and your songs.

May the children around you feel safe in your presence.

May you receive kindness from teachers, coaches, co-workers, and
friends.

And when mean-spiritedness seems too great to overcome,
may you find peace in the arms of loving caregivers and friends
who will be brave and kind while you rest. Amen.

REFRAIN 750

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

Tutu/Bell

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:1-6, 29-32 (CEB)

Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that

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ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all... Don't let any foul words come out of your mouth. Only say what is helpful when it is needed for building up the community so that it benefits those who hear what you say. Don't make the Holy Spirit of God unhappy—you were sealed by him for the day of redemption. Put aside all bitterness, losing your temper, anger, shouting, and slander, along with every other evil. Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.

Luke 19:1-10 (CEB)

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. A man there named Zacchaeus, a ruler among tax collectors, was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but, being a short man, he couldn't because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus, who was about to pass that way.

When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay in your home today." So Zacchaeus came down at once, happy to welcome Jesus.

Everyone who saw this grumbled, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I repay them four times as much."

Jesus said to him, "Today, salvation has come to this household because he too is a son of Abraham. The Human One came to seek and save the lost."

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Be Kind

Pastor Wendy Lamb

REFRAIN 750

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

Tutu/Bell

MOMENT for MISSION

Buildings and Grounds

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

**SACRAMENT of the LORD'S SUPPER
BREAKING BREAD around TABLES**

INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE

ANTHEM

A Place at the Table

Murray/True

SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

✘ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

✘ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

✘ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

GREAT PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

James C. Huffstutler

✘ **Holy, holy, Lord Almighty, God of power and might.**

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Glory in the highest.

Blessed, blessed,

blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

THE WORDS of INSTITUTION

SHARING of the BREAD and CUP

The cup is non-alcoholic. Gluten free bread is available.

Communion will be served around the tables. A deacon or elder will begin passing the bread. Saying, "the body of Christ." Once everyone has bread, we will offer the cup saying, "the cup of salvation." Allow the person to dip their

This Weeks' Celebrations

Aug 8 Tim Usher

Aug 9 Jackie McKee

Don't forget—you are invited to our SUMMER SOCIAL today right after worship. Hot Dogs! Games! Puzzles, Waterslide! Don't miss it!

The First Press August/September newsletter will be published mid-August. If you would like to add a sentence or two to a tribute page for Rev. Jim Huffstutler, please email it to newsletter@fpcsb.net or pres.first@gmail.com or write something brief and place it in the offering.

Thank you for your generous support of our food participants. We continue 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, we can use more canned beans and vegetables and pop-top cans of fruit at this time.

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 is a kind of longing that does not chase.
It does not run or reach.
It simply stretches—quietly, openly
—toward the possibility of something unseen.

Like branches.

Branches do not grasp the birds.
They do not summon them.
They do not strategize.

They simply are—unfolded skyward, available, waiting.

And sometimes, when the moment is right,
a bird comes.
Not because the branch deserved it,
but because the world is full of flight
looking for a place to land.

To live this way is not weakness.
It is not resignation.
It is the courage to remain open when the world teaches closure.
The strength to wait without guarantees.
The faith to ache without turning bitter.

This is the kind of longing that shapes a soul.
Not as absence, but as invitation.
Not as hunger, but as readiness.
Not as reaching, but as welcoming.

-- 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