



**Twenty-First Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
August 24, 2025  
10:30 a.m. Worship**

Ernst Barlach, *Old Woman Dancing*

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**But you have drawn near to Mount Zion, the city of the living God,  
heavenly Jerusalem, to countless angels in a festival gathering...**  
*--Hebrews 12:22*

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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

## 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, September 7<sup>th</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Neal Williams

## REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

Bowing, in a posture of subservience, as if unequal, inferior.  
Facing the floor, not the horizon, the dirt, not the future.  
Unable to look eye to eye, intimately, on the level.  
Familiar with pain, her constant companion.  
Unable to stand tall, take a stand, look up, raise a hand.  
Unable to embrace, to dance, to work, to contribute.  
Yet worthy, beloved, gifted, wise and strong.  
Not helpless, but patient, trusting, accepting, and at peace.  
Grace reshaped her spine to match her heart.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

*Adagio Cantabile*

L. Beethoven (1770-1827)

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

#### \*INTROIT

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Clephane/Maker

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land; a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

#### \*CALL to WORSHIP

God is our rock and our refuge,

✠ a strong and mighty fortress.

Beloved people come;

the Lord is our hope,

the light of the city of God.

✠ Let us worship here!

#### \*HYMN 377

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

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

\* Stand if you are able

✠ The congregation will read.

## PRAYER of CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>

- ✘ God of Life, you come to us as a consuming fire,  
and the one who has consecrated us before time.  
You promise us a kingdom that cannot be shaken  
and call us to serve you with praise and thanksgiving.  
But we forget,  
and yield to fear.  
We trust in the tangible rewards of this world,  
and neglect your promises.  
We confess that we are a divided people;  
we foster separations and widen rifts  
in our families, our communities, and in the world.  
*(Moment for silent reflection and confession)*

- ✘ Open us to your healing.  
Free us from all that distances us from your presence.  
Give us your grace  
and inspire us to serve you with courage;  
through Jesus Christ who comes to save. Amen.

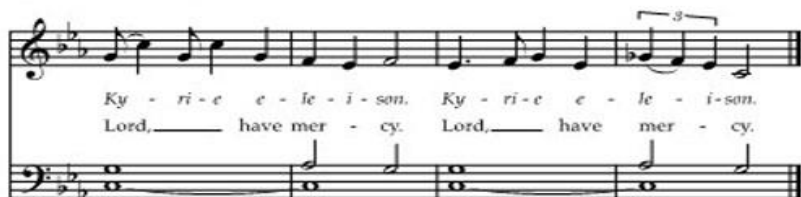
*(We remain seated for the kyrie, an ancient song of the church. We will sing it through in Greek first and then in English.)*

## KYRIE<sup>2</sup>

Dinah Reindorf



*Note: Lower voices may hum.*



<sup>1</sup> *Feasting on the Word Lectionary Liturgies*

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## ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

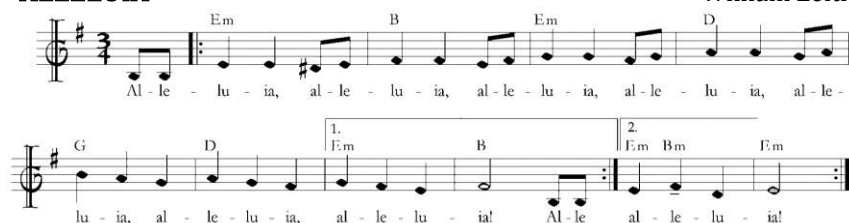
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

✠ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole.  
Alleluia, Amen.

*(We stand and sing Alleluia)*

### \*ALLELUIA

*William Zeitler*



## TIME with the CHILDREN

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

### ANTHEM

*It Is Well with My Soul<sup>3</sup> Setting: John Ness Beck*

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll - Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul. It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul. My sin—O the joy of this glorious thought—my sin, not in part, but the whole is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll: the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend, “Even so” – it is well with my soul!

## SCRIPTURE

### Hebrews 12:18-29

You haven’t drawn near to something that can be touched: a burning fire, darkness, shadow, a whirlwind, a blast of a trumpet, and a sound of words that made the ones who heard it beg that there wouldn’t be one more word. They couldn’t stand the command, *If even a wild animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.* The sight was so frightening that Moses said, “I’m terrified and shaking!”

But you have drawn near to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem, to countless angels in a festival gathering, to the assembly of God’s firstborn children who are registered in heaven, to God the judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous who have been made

<sup>3</sup> Music based on *Ville de Havre* by Philip P. Bliss. Setting by John Ness Beck. Text by Horatio G. Spafford. ©1981 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

perfect, to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better than Abel's blood.

See to it that you don't resist the one who is speaking. If the people didn't escape when they refused to listen to the one who warned them on earth, how will we escape if we reject the one who is warning from heaven? His voice shook the earth then, but now he has made a promise: *Still once more I will shake not only the earth but heaven also*. The words "still once more" reveal the removal of what is shaken—the things that are part of this creation—so that what isn't shaken will remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that can't be shaken, let's continue to express our gratitude. With this gratitude, let's serve in a way that is pleasing to God with respect and awe, because our God really is a consuming fire.

### **Luke 13:10-17**

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. A woman was there who had been disabled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and couldn't stand up straight. When he saw her, Jesus called her to him and said, "Woman, you are set free from your sickness." He placed his hands on her and she straightened up at once and praised God. The synagogue leader, incensed that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, responded, "There are six days during which work is permitted. Come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath day."

The Lord replied, "Hypocrites! Don't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from its stall and lead it out to get a drink? Then isn't it necessary that this woman, a daughter of Abraham, bound by Satan for eighteen long years, be set free from her bondage on the Sabbath day?" When he said these things, all his opponents were put to shame, but all those in the crowd rejoiced at all the extraordinary things he was doing.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✱ **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*What Is the City of God?*

*Pastor Wendy Lamb*

**RESPONSE REFRAIN 389**

*Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord*

HAL'LUHU

*Sing Twice*

**BUILDINGS & 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

### \*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, 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 795

*Healer of Our Every Ill*

*Haugen*

### \*MOMENT for REFLECTION

### \*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

### \*RESPONSE

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

*Clephane/Maker*

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

## POSTLUDE

**GREETER:** Lynda Savage

**USHERS:** Margaret Doane, *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**

**Ron & Ruby Kraft, Bob Saenz**

*Elders: Phyllis Hough, Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark*

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

*Pastor Nominating Committee:*

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

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

**Aug 25 Gill & Jane Snyder**

**Aug 28 Sarah Alyda Fletcher**

**Aug 26 Beatrice Star**

**Aug 29 Jim & Sheila Cimino**

**Valentina Valenzuela**

**Aug 30 Wanda Gernux**

**Aug 27 Jessica Edwards**

**Shannon Nolin**

***Campus Preservation Fund.*** As our campus ages, the repairs and upkeep grow greater and more expensive. As we enter our 7<sup>th</sup> decade in these buildings, we anticipate some very large needs. Session has established the Campus Preservation Fund to help meet those needs, and will match any donations made to the Fund through October 1<sup>st</sup>, up to \$10,000. If you are able to give, your gift will be doubled. Thank you.

***A New Member Class*** has been scheduled for two Sundays, September 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join our congregation, or simply learn more about what it means to be Presbyterian, contact the church office at (909) 882-3308, [pres.first@gmail.com](mailto:pres.first@gmail.com), or talk to Laurie or Wendy.

***If your group meets regularly, either on campus or otherwise,*** please contact Mimi in the church office as soon as possible when your meeting schedule changes. This allows her to keep the calendar accurate, properly announce meetings, and avoid double-scheduling. Thank you for your help.

***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*

Once upon a time,  
a river ran wide and free.  
It curled like silver through the valley,  
feeding fields, feeding orchards.  
Children played and splashed on its banks.

But the city grew,  
and the engineers frowned.  
“It wanders too much,” they said.  
“It wastes its strength.  
Let us discipline it.”

So they cut stone walls,  
straightened the banks into channels,  
and pressed the river down  
like a prisoner in irons.

“Now it obeys,” they boasted.  
And for eighteen years,  
their boast seemed true.  
The river trickled almost silently,  
ashamed to speak.  
Fields paled, orchards withered,  
children played in dry dust.  
Yet the officials named it progress.

Then came The Storm.  
Rain hammered roofs,  
thunder rolled the hills,  
and the river stirred in its torpor.

It heaved against the stones,  
tested its chains,  
and with a roar of a thousand voices,  
burst free.

Streets filled, walls cracked,  
the engineers cried “Ruin!”  
But beyond the city  
the river spilled across thirsty fields,  
sank deep into waiting soil,  
woke sleeping seeds.

Morning came green.  
Farmers laughed and wept for joy,  
pointing to shoots  
rising almost overnight.  
“This is no ruin,” they said.  
“This is how the river was meant to be.”

Children frolicked on its banks.

And in the music of its flowing waters,  
some heard a song:  
not of rebellion,  
but of life returning.

-- *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