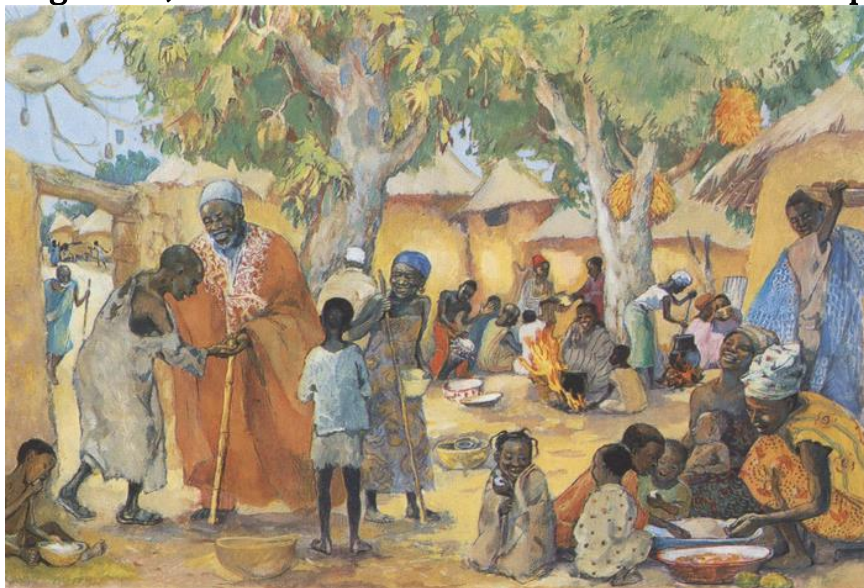


Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
August 31, 2025 10:30 a.m. Worship



JESUS MAFA. *The poor invited to the feast*,  
from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library,  
Nashville, TN.

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So let's continually offer up a sacrifice of praise through him,  
which is the fruit from our lips that confess his name.

*Hebrews 13:15*

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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

## 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: Kristine French

## REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

I don't know of any virtue more important these days than hospitality to the stranger; to those we perceive as other than us.

— Parker J. Palmer

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Aria*

*F. Peeters (1903-1986)*

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

### \*INTROIT

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

*Joseph Bamby*

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries: may Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair: may Jesus Christ be praised!

### \*CALL to WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

God calls us to service,

✠ **rather than honor.**

God calls us to love the unknown,

✠ **rather than the familiar.**

We come to this time of worship,

✠ **trusting in the grace of Jesus Christ,**

who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

### \*HYMN 401

*Gather Us In*

*Marty Haugen*

## PRAYER of CONFESSION

✠ **Merciful God, forgive us for we exalt ourselves  
and mock the humble.**

**We choose to believe we are self-sufficient  
rather than trust in your strength.**

*(Moment for silent reflection and confession)*

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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> *Feasting on the Word Lectionary Liturgies*

- ✘ Open us to your spirit,  
that we might serve all people  
without regard to the outcome,  
devoting ourselves to your honor alone.

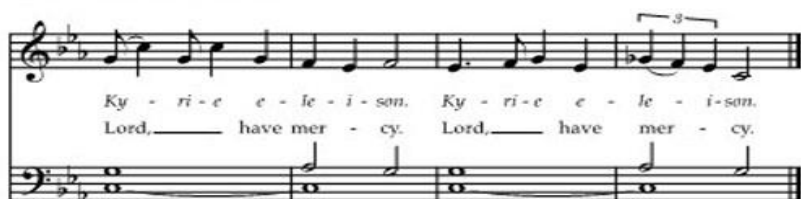
*(We remain seated for the kyrie, an ancient song of the church. We will sing it through in Greek first and then in English.)*

## KYRIE<sup>2</sup>

*Dinah Reindorf*



*Note: Lower voices may hum.*



## ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

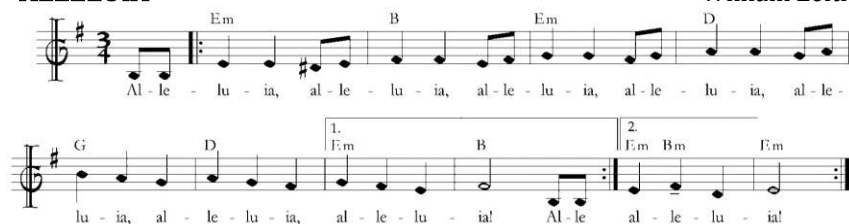
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

- ✘ 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

## *Here I Am, Lord<sup>3</sup>*

*Dan Schutte*

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry, All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send? *Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.* I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone, I will speak My word to them, Whom shall I send? *Here I am, Lord, . . .* I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send? *Here I am, Lord, . . .* I will hold Your people in my heart. Here I am, Lord, here I am.

## SCRIPTURE

### Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Keep loving each other like family. Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place. Marriage must be honored in every respect, with no cheating on the relationship, because God will judge the sexually immoral person and the person who commits adultery. Your way of life should be free from the love of money, and you should be content with what you have. After all, he has said, *I will never leave you or abandon you.* This is why we can confidently say,

*The Lord is my helper,*

*and I won't be afraid.*

*What can people do to me?*

Remember your leaders who spoke God's word to you. Imitate their faith as you consider the way their lives turned out. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

So let's continually offer up a sacrifice of praise through him, which is the fruit from our lips that confess his name. Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✱ **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

## *Strangers and Angels*

*Pastor Wendy Lamb*

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<sup>3</sup> Words & Music: Dan Schutte; arr. Craig Courtney ©1993 OCP. Reprinted by permission of OneLicense #A706254. All rights reserved.

## HYMN RESPONSE REFRAIN 389

*Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord*  
*Sing Twice*

HAL'LUHU

## 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 306

*Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

DENNIS

### \*MOMENT for REFLECTION

### \*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

### \*RESPONSE

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

*Joseph Bamby*

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine: may Jesus Christ be praised! Be this the eternal song through all the ages long: may Jesus Christ be praised!

## POSTLUDE

**GREETER:** Susan Skoglund

**USHERS:** Chris Thomas, *Lead Usher*

John-Paul Fletcher, *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**

**Doris Schiavone, Nancy Sellas, Judy Steppins**

*Elders:* **Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis, Pat Morris**

*Deacons:* **Dave Thomas, Chris Thomas, Joanna Nord**

*Pastor Nominating Committee:*

**Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher**

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

***Sep 4*** Ed Congdon

***Sep 5*** Hilda Nicks

***Sep 6*** Norm & Christa Wallis

Tom & Donna Garza

***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 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</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***

The well in the village square  
had been dry for as long as anyone remembered.

Children played there,  
dropping stones  
to wait for the echo  
that never came.

The villagers said it was useless  
and drank from other wells.

One evening,  
after the others had gone home,  
a boy lingered.  
His name was Aric.

He climbed into the bucket  
and lowered himself,  
hands tight on the rope,  
the wood and pulley gently groaning  
as he descended.

At first there was only dark.

Then a shimmer.

The deeper he went,  
the cooler the air became,  
until he realized  
he was no longer descending —  
but rising.



Below him  
was not earth at all,  
but a sky without bottom,  
a sea of stars  
gazing up through the mouth of the well.

For a few minutes  
he watched rain fall upward,  
landing in puddles over his head.  
And birds few upside down  
with calm, unhurried wings,  
as the moon shone far beneath his feet.

Then he pulled himself and the bucket  
back “up” to his village.

When he climbed out,  
everything looked ordinary again.  
The square, the roofs, the cobbled street.

Except that nothing looked ordinary at all.  
Ever again.

The illusion was broken —  
the illusion of thinking he knew  
how the 'real' really works.

He no longer hurried past the sagging roofs  
or the grit between the cobblestones,  
nor dismissed the other children's laughter  
as only laughter.

Even his own breath  
felt like a mystery  
he didn't understand at all.

For Aric had seen with his own eyes  
that the world was far greater,  
and far stranger,  
than he — or anyone else —  
could possibly imagine.

-- *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