

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Communion Sunday

September 7, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship



Kelly Latimore, *Pauli Murray*. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.
--*Galatians 3:28*

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.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, October 5th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Rebecca Allen

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

In not a single one of these little campaigns was I victorious. In other words, in each case, I personally failed, but I have lived to see the thesis upon which I was operating vindicated. And what I very often say is that I've lived to see my lost causes found.

— Pauli Murray

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Andante

G. Handel (1685-1757)

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

*INTROIT

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Wesley/Prichard

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

*CALL to WORSHIP¹

With endless creativity,
God forms and shapes our lives.

✧ Each of us bears the image of our maker.
Each of us is made in love.

*HYMNS

411

God Is Here Today²

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)*

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

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

¹ *Glory to God* online hymnal

² Text: Raul Galeano; English trans. C. Michael Hawn. Music: Raul Galeano; arr. C. Michael Hawn and Arturo Gonzalez. English translation and Music Arr. ©1999 Choristers Guild. Reprinted by permission of OneLicense #A706254. All rights reserved.

Come all you people,
 come and praise your Maker;
 come all you people,
 come and praise your Maker;
 come all you people,
 come and praise your Maker;
 come now and worship the Lord. *(Repeat)*

Come and sing the praise of the Lord: sing hallelujah!
 Come and sing the praise of the Lord: sing hallelujah!
 Let all that lives, all that has breath,
 sing the praise of God, hallelujah!
 Let all that lives, all that has breath,
 sing the praise of God. *(Repeat)*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

- ✱ God of Life, all are one in you
 Yet we allow ourselves to be divided
 Sometimes we form a smaller circle
 And allow our privilege to make us complacent
 We fight for justice for some, but not all
 We have our own prejudices and fears.
(Moment for silent reflection and confession)
- ✱ Unshackle us from the chains of prejudice and fear and give us
 courage that we may show forth the reconciling love and true
 freedom which you revealed in your Son. 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 eleison. Kyrie eleison.
 Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

³ Text & Music by Alexander Gondo, 20th cent. Text transcr. I-to Loh, 1986. Music arr. John L. Bell, 1994. Arrangement ©1994 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) Reprinted by permission of OneLicense #A706254. All rights reserved.

⁴ Text: From Psalm 150. Music: Israeli melody; arranged by John L. Bell. Arrangement ©2008 WGRG Iona Community (GIA Publications, Inc., agent.) Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

⁵ Traditional Liturgical text. Music: Dinah Reindorf, 1987. ©1987 Dinah Reindorf. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le al - le - lu - ia!

TIME with the CHILDREN

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

ANTHEM

Fill-a-Me Up ⁶

Pepper Choplin

Refrain: Fill-a-me up, come-a Holy Spirit. Fill-a-me up to the top-a my soul. Fill-a-me up, come-a Holy Spirit. Fill-a-me-up now and take control. So many things try to fill me up. Fill-a-me up, come-a Spirit, come. So many things try to weigh me down. Fill-a-me up, come-a Holy Spirit, come. Fill-a my heart now until you stay and Chase the other things away. Fill-a my heart, come, Spirit. (Refrain.) Now my heart is an open door. Fill-a-me up, come-a Spirit, come. Here your Spirit is welcome Lord. Fill-a-me up, come-a Holy Spirit, come. Fill-a my heart now and let it grow and change my life so all will know- Fill-a my heart, you come and (Refrain).

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

⁶ Text & Music: Pepper Choplin. ©2002 The Lorenz Corporation. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pauli Murray: Song of Hope

Pastor Wendy Lamb

HYMN 730

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God
Verse One

GRAND ISLE

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

Heaven is here, and earth, and the space is thin between them.
Distance may divide, but Christ's promise unites those
bound by time with those blessed by eternity.

...Let the heavens be joyful! ✠ **Let the whole earth be glad!**

Heaven is here, and earth, and the church above and below is one.
Peter is here, and Paul, Martha and all the Marys, Hildegard and Francis, Fred and Pauli; the saints from far back and those who left us not long ago. And only sight prevents us from seeing them, one with us on the other side.

...Let the heavens be joyful! ✕ **Let the whole earth be glad!**

Heaven is here, and earth, and the God who made them is present.
Jesus, our brother, sits beside us; the Spirit of God, the Dove makes her resting place among us. God wipes our tears, and sets a rich feast for us.

...Let the heavens be joyful! ✕ **Let the whole earth be glad!**

INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE

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 by servers around the circle. We will come to you.
If you would prefer not to partake, please remain seated or cross your arms
over your chest to receive a blessing. You may be seated once you have been
served. If you would prefer gluten free options, please remain standing and
these will be brought to you.
Please join us in our sung prayer. These refrains will be sung over and over
as we make them our own prayers.*

SUNG PRAYERS

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am⁷
Take, O take me as I am,
Summon out what I shall be.
Set your seal upon my heart And live in me

527 Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup⁸
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Come to me and never be hungry
Eat this bread, drink this cup;
Trust in me and you will not thirst.

466 Come and Fill our Hearts⁹
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
Alleluia.

PRAYER after COMMUNION

✠ In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment,
this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you.
May we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

***HYMN 79**

Light Dawns on a Weary World

TEMPLE OF PEACE

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

⁷ ©1995 Iona Community/WGRG, GIA Publications, Inc. agent. All rights reserved.

⁸ ©1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. All rights reserved.

⁹ ©1982, 1991, 2011 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, agent. All rights reserved.

All songs printed with permission under OneLicense #A706254.

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Wesley/Prichard
Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and
never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above; pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in
thy perfect love.

POSTLUDE

GREETER: Phyllis Hough

USHERS: Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Marilyn Kraft, *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

Lorraine Bishop, Noé Falconi, Marianna Fowles

Elders: Susan Skoglund, Katie Smith, Neal Williams

Deacons: Mindy Rueda, Kristine French, Joyce Lyons

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris

This Weeks' Celebrations

Sep 8 Deon Garcia

Sep 10 Judy Steppins

Sep 9 Harry Babcock

Christian Usher

Jeanne Clark

Sep 11 Jane Snyder

Larry & Melodee Kistner

Sep 12 Laurie Stafford

Rosalind & Ken Mantei

Kelsey Smith

Shelby Obershaw

Ramon & Penny Ramirez

Campus Preservation Fund. WE HAVE EXCEEDED OUR GOAL!

Thanks to your caring and generosity, we have surpassed our goal of
\$10,000.00 (to be matched by Session) and we now have more than
\$15,000.00 in donations. ***THANK YOU ALL!***

A New Member Class has been scheduled for two Sundays, September 14th and 21st. 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, 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

Scouts came from the north road.

“An army,” they told the king.

“Too many for us.”

The king spread the maps,
measured roads with a ruler,
and called the Council.

“No panic,” he said.

“Not yet.

We parley first.”

They met in a plain field beyond the willow flats.

The two parties faced each other.

A tense hush settled.

Then the northern leader emerged from his tent
and lifted his visor.

The king’s men gasped.

The face under the steel was the king’s own —
older, weathered, implacable.

“Terms,” the king said, shaken.

“Only this,” the elder said.

“Set down the crown that makes your kingdom about you.

Keep the throne.

Feed the city.

Judge the quarrels.

But lose the claim that everything must bear your name.

Lose the illusion you’re the center.”

“And what then?”

“If you do, I’m the spring that follows.

If you don’t, I’m the winter.”

The king looked at his crown.

It wasn’t heavy — only his.

Minutes passed.

Then, slowly, he set his crown

on the grass between them.

The elder knelt

and passed his hand over it.

The circlet shrank to the size of a locket.

A page at the elder’s shoulder didn’t hesitate;

he slipped a gold chain from his pouch,

threaded it through the small crown,

and placed chain and crown in the king’s hands.

At the elder’s nod,

the king lifted the chain over his head.

The little crown came to rest against his chest,

over his heart.

The weight felt warm and right,

as if a key had found its lock.

“That’s where it belongs,” the elder said.

“And what now?” the king asked.

“I keep walking,” said the elder, smiling.

“You’ll meet me there.”

He gestured west toward the sunset,

and the quiet army turned with him.

They didn’t vanish;

they thinned toward the horizon
the way a shadow does at dusk.

Later, in the Council, the king announced,
“Here is what changes:
no more signatures where a clerk’s seal will do.
No plaques with my name.
Fewer orders, and clearer.
If something can prosper without my hand on it,
so be it.

“And our accounts change:
no exemptions for the king,
no off-book favors.
The full cost goes in the open ledger,
and we pay it.
We measure everything by whether the work serves the kingdom—
not whether it serves me.”

In the years that followed,
the king did the same work as before —
heard petitions, set disputes, checked stores —
only with his hand light at the center.
He let other hands hold what they could hold.
He said “we” more, and “I” less.

And the kingdom prospered.

-- 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.

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