



Fred Rogers publicity photo

**Twenty-Fourth
Sunday
in Ordinary
Time
September 14,
2025
10:30 a.m.
Worship**

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

--Matthew 5:4

First Presbyterian Church

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

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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: Sharon Landeros

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

"People have said, "Don't cry," to other people for years, and all it has ever meant is, "I'm too uncomfortable when you show your feelings. Don't cry." I'd rather have them say, "Go ahead and cry. I'm here to be with you."
--Fred Rogers

Today we are celebrating the beginning of the KidSpace and the educational year with Breakfast Church! Please feel free to munch while we worship. If you need something, you may get up and get it.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Prelude in E* J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

***INTROIT** *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* Traditional
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea, daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

*CALL to WORSHIP¹

We bring all we are to worship God:

- ✠ our hopes and our losses,
our faith and our questions.
- ✠ our unique gifts and selves.
Just as we are, this very day,
- ✠ we bring our praise to God.

*HYMNS

188	<i>Jesus Loves Me!</i>	Bradbury
623	<i>I've Got Peace like a River</i>	
591	<i>Halle, Halle, Hallelujah</i> (Refrain only)	Bell

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

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

¹ *Deep Well Worship*. Carol H. Prickett.

PRAYER of CONFESSION²

- ✘ Creator God, you made us with full and complex hearts that can respond in so many ways to the realities of your world. Forgive us when we deny what we feel, or lash out from our feelings; when we turn away from others' grief, fear, or anger; when we believe you only love us if we pretend everything is okay; when we try to be less than the people you have made us to be.

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

- ✘ Give us strength to face the fullness of our own hearts, and to love others as we meet them.
We pray in the name of Christ. 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.)

KYRIE³

Dinah Reindorf

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.

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)

² *Deep Well Worship*. Carol H. Prickett.

³ ©1987 Dinah Reindorf. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

*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

*This Is My Word*⁴

Pepper Choplin

As the snow falls from heaven as it comes in swirling showers from the sky, so is my Word. As the rains bring the water to the earth that is thirsty and dry, so is my Word. And the Word of my mouth it shall not return empty, it will bless the earth wherever it is heard. As the rains bring renewal and the tender buds begin to come alive, so is my Word. Giving seed to the sower and the bread to the hungry til they thrive, so is my Word. And the word of my mouth it shall not return empty, it will bless the earth wherever it is heard, this is my Word. O Lord when I am weary, when I feel the days I'm living are in vain, my God, help me be faithful to the Word you have given to proclaim. Proclaim the Word and you will go out in joy and be led forth in peace and the hills will break before you into song. So be faithful, brave, and true, for I will go before you. And when your earthly journey here is done, I'll say "Well done!", I'll say "well done", I'll say "well done, well done!" As the snow falls from heaven and the rain comes in showers from the sky, this is my Word.

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;

⁴ Text: Pepper Choplin (from Isaiah 55:10-12). Music: Pepper Choplin. ©1999 Harold Flammer, a division of Shawnee Press, Inc. Used with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Matthew 5:1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Mr. Rogers: Pastor Wendy Lamb
The Mad That You Feel*

HYMN 730

*I Sing a Song of the Saints of God
Verse Two*

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

***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 765 *May the God of Hope Go with Us*

ARGENTINA

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* *Traditional*

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more; guide me gently,
safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.

POSTLUDE

GREETER: Bobbie Terrell

USHERS: Mark Adelson, *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

Sandy Garza, Deborah Holk

Elders: Amy Smith, Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane

Deacons: Rick Rodriguez, Jim Siegmund, Kyle Smith

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Shelby Obershaw, Christa Wallis, Neal Williams

This Weeks' Celebrations

Sep 16 Robert Godby

Sep 17 Bonnie Ainsworth

Sep 18 Mindy Rueda

Sep 19 Kimberly Ballard Hansen

A New Member Class starts today and continues next Sunday. If you would like to join our congregation, or simply learn more about what it means to be Presbyterian, talk to Laurie or Wendy.

Thank you for your generous support of our food participants. Thank you for your generous donations of shelf-stable foods. A suggestion list available at reception, and on our website. We encourage bargain shopping since all donations can be put to good use. **Currently we would especially appreciate both regular & pop-top cans of fruit.**

Campus Preservation Fund. WE HAVE EXCEEDED OUR GOAL! THANK YOU ALL! Please remember that this is an ongoing need, and we will be grateful for your donations at any time.

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. Thank you for your generous donations of shelf-stable foods. A suggestion list available at reception, and on our website. We encourage bargain shopping since all donations can be put to good use. **Currently we would especially appreciate both regular & pop-top cans of fruit.**

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 was once a boy who shepherded a flock of a hundred sheep.
Every morning, he led them out to graze in the meadows,
and every evening, he counted them one by one
as they returned to the fold.

He knew them all by name:
Wobblekins and Butterbean,
Snorflehoof and Starwhistle,
Bumblepuff and Thimbleberry.
And he took pride in being their protector,
their guide, their shepherd.

One night, after a long day of grazing,
the boy fell into a deep and dreamless sleep.
When he awoke, the fold was empty.
Not a single sheep remained —
except for a lone lamb,
named Lamby,
bleating at him insistently.

The boy's heart pounded.
He rushed to the hills,
calling their names,
scouring every hollow and ravine.
But there was no answer.
No bleating, no hoof prints,
no sign of struggle or wolves.
It was as if the entire flock
had simply vanished.

Day after day, he searched.
Lamby followed him everywhere,
stumbling through brambles and streams,
her plaintive cry piercing the silence.
Sometimes she would run ahead,
bleating urgently,
darting in a direction he didn't expect,
other times nipping at his pant legs.

But he would scoop her up
and carry her in his arms.
"There now," he would whisper,
"Don't be afraid."

We'll find them."

Weeks passed.

The boy grew ragged and hollow-eyed.

At last, one evening,
he climbed a high ridge at the edge of the valley.
There, through a break in the mist,
he saw a great green valley beyond the mountains —
lush pastures shimmering in moonlight.

And there, far below,
his flock!

Every single sheep, grazing peacefully,
as if they had never been lost.
Their wool shone like silver in the night.

The boy's joy turned to confusion.
Why had they gone there without him?
Why had they left him behind?

As he gazed, Lamby leapt and spun,
bleating with delight.
She nipped at his trousers,
just as she had been doing all along.

And suddenly, he understood.

The flock had not been lost.
He had been the one wandering,
keeping them in barren land
long after it could sustain them.
While he slept, they had moved on
to where they could thrive.
And this little lamb —
whom he had misunderstood, even scolded —
had been left behind
to guide him home.

Tears stung his eyes.
He lifted Lamby into his arms,
her heartbeat warm against his chest.
For the first time,
he followed rather than led,
crossing the ridge under the rising dawn.

When he reached the valley,
the flock surrounded him with gentle bleats,
pressing close as if to say,
“You were never abandoned.”

From that day forward,
the boy no longer thought of himself as their leader,
but as their companion —
the hundred-and-first sheep.

And sometimes,
when the sun sank low and shadows stretched long,
he would remember the night
when he realized that
the lost sheep was himself.

-- *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