

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
October 12, 2025 10:30 a.m. Worship



*Hands*

---

Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. --Jeremiah 29:5

---

### **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, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Christa Wallis

## REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

...I cannot promise this blessing will free you from danger, from fear, from hunger, or thirst, from the scorching of sun or the fall of the night. But I can tell you that on this path there will be help. I can tell you that on this way there will be rest. I can tell you that you will know the strange graces that come to our aid only on a road such as this, that fly to meet bearing comfort and strength, that come alongside us for no other cause than to lean themselves toward our ear and with their curious insistence whisper our name. beloved. Beloved. Beloved.

--Jan Richardson, *Beloved Is Where We Begin*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

*This Too Shall Pass*

*W. Zeitler*

#### INTROIT

*This Is the Day<sup>1</sup>*

*James Christensen*

This is the day the Lord has made, Rejoice and sing to God's name.

#### \*CALL to WORSHIP (*from Psalm 66*)

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!

✠ Sing to the glory of God's name.

All of creation worships, singing praise to God.

✠ Sing to the glory of God's name.

Let us give glory to God.

#### HYMN 39

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

*Runyan*

## PRAYER of CONFESSION

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Assured of God's grace, let us confess our sin together:

✠ Holy God, When we are in need, we cry out for your mercy and healing. Yet, we confess that too often, we are confident in our own strength. We take the blessings to which we feel entitled

---

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

\* Stand if you are able

✠ The congregation will read.

<sup>1</sup> © 1983 National Music Publishers, admin. Fred Bock Music Company, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

and continue on our way, rather than returning to you in worship and praise. Jesus, have mercy on us! It is easy to take for granted the ease of life we so often experience, while failing to question why others are pushed to the margins and excluded. It is tempting to take pride in our health and strength rather than confronting ableism in all its forms. Jesus, have mercy on us! Help us to grow in compassion for all people. Redirect our paths so that we return to you, offering our praise and gratitude, now and always. 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*

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 PARDON

The saying is sure: If we have died with Christ, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. We are clothed with the righteousness of Christ. Our sin is forgiven! Thanks be to God.

## \*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!  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## TIME with the CHILDREN

*[Children are always welcome in worship. KidSpace will not meet today.  
There are activity bags in the narthex.]*

### ANTHEM

#### *Like A River In My Soul*<sup>3</sup>

*Tim Osiek*

I've got peace like a river, like a river in my soul. I've got peace like a river, calmly flow. When the world closes in, feel the stillness within. I've got peace like a river, like a river in my soul. I've got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul. I've got love like an ocean, endless ocean, deep and full. When you're lost and alone, let the waves bring you home. I've got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul. In my soul, in my soul. My soul, in my soul. I've got joy, I've got joy, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. I've got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul. When your hope nearly dies, just remember, once again you shall rise! I've got joy like a fountain, love like an ocean, like a river in my soul, like a fountain, like an ocean, like a river in my soul!

### SCRIPTURE

#### **Jeremiah 29:4-7**

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

#### **Luke 17:11-19**

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

---

<sup>3</sup> Traditional spiritual arranged by Tim Osiek. ©2018 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*I Know Just Two Things*     *Rev. Brian S. Symonds*

**\*REFRAIN 39**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness<sup>4</sup>*

*Runyan*

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

**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 basket in front or give it to the usher. 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 and 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 351**

*All Who Love and Serve Your City*

CHARLESTOWN

**\*MOMENT for REFLECTION**

**\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

---

<sup>4</sup> Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923. Music: William Marion Runyan, 1923. Text & Music ©1923, ren.1951 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

**\*RESPONSE**

*Sevenfold Amen*

*John Stainer*

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**POSTLUDE**

*William Zeitler*

**GREETER:** Robin Edwards

**USHERS:** Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Al Rueda, Chris Thomas, *Security Ushers*

**SOUND ENGINEERS:** Brent Nord, Dan Direen, Brandon Turner

**CAMERA OPERATORS:** Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

**LIVESTREAM ENGINEER:** James Welte

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK**

**Sandy Garza, Debora Holk, Ron & Ruby Kraft**

***Elders:*** Neal Williams, Amy Smith, Lily Bolaños

***Deacons:*** Joyce Lyons, Rick Rodriguez, Jim Siegmund

***Pastor Nominating Committee:***

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

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

**Oct 12** Mimi Lange  
Jeoff Molcan  
Owen Morris

**Oct 17** Jacob Babcock  
Bobbi Cummings

***Important Congregational Meeting Today***

There will be a **congregational meeting directly following 10:30 AM worship TODAY**. The purpose of this meeting is to be introduced to and vote for a nominee for the position of Pastor/Head of Staff: the Rev. Brian Symonds. Pastor Symonds will preach during worship that day. Please note that those who are qualified to vote to approve the PNC's recommendation must be active members on the church rolls.

***Reformation Sunday***, which we traditionally celebrate with bagpipes and dancers and shortbread cookies, is only three weeks away! We will have the Kevin R. Blandford Memorial Pipe Band and highland dancers. If you would like to help pay this cost, perhaps as a memorial to a loved one or friend, please get your offering, and the name of the

person(s) you wish to honor, to the church office by **Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**.

***Reformation Sunday? Bring us shortbread cookies!***

If you are able to bring shortbread for our celebration (you can make it or buy it), **please let the church office know by October 16<sup>th</sup>**, and then bring it to the kitchen before church on or before Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. The church will purchase some gluten-free shortbread, so that everyone may celebrate!

**SAVE YOUR BLOOD.** Our second blood drive in association with Lifestream will be on **Sunday, November 30**. If you are a regular donor, a reminder: you can only give every 60 days. For those of us that are regular donors to Lifestream, please try to be here with an open arm. ***Remember your iodine.***

***Thank you for your generous support of our food participants.*** Thank you for your generous donations of shelf-stable foods. A suggestion list is 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**

A girl once found a ragged man at the forest's edge,  
hungry, limping, and shunned by all.

The villagers hissed warnings:

*He is a thief, a shadow, a fool.*

*You will regret your kindness.*

But she gave him food from her pack anyway,  
and bound his wounds with strips of her own cloak.

When he asked to walk beside her,  
she said yes, though unease stirred in her heart.

For many days they traveled,  
and she began to hope her mercy was not folly.

But when they reached the narrow mountain pass,  
where she had long sought to bring her sacred gift,  
the man betrayed her.

He stole the gift and vanished into the crags,  
leaving her with empty hands and broken trust.

She staggered homeward, grief-struck,  
while the village mocked her soft heart.

*Mercy is wasted on the unworthy, they said.*  
*Now you see.*

Years passed. She lived quietly,  
her quest abandoned,  
her heart still tender but scarred.  
She never knew what became of the thief.

Meanwhile, far from the village,  
the thief lost his way in the wilderness.  
Starving, half-mad,  
he stumbled upon a hidden monastery.  
The monks took him in, asking nothing.  
There, he found a silence that would not let him hide,  
and the chants at dawn pierced him deeper than any blade.

The thief himself,  
slowly, painfully,  
became someone else.

He became the one who rang the bell at dawn,  
the one welcoming wanderers at the gate,  
the first to volunteer for the lowliest chores.

In time, he became the one they called Abbot.

He tried many times to find the girl,  
to return her gift.

But when he had first stumbled upon the monastery,  
he had been so lost with cold and hunger  
that afterward he could never retrace his steps.

And so the sacred gift he had stolen  
was folded into their worship,  
woven into their daily prayers  
until it seemed it had always belonged there.

The girl never knew.

Her kindness had been betrayed,  
her quest undone,  
her name forgotten in the village.

Yet her mercy lived on in ways  
she could not have foreseen,  
and her offering, carried by another's hands,  
fulfilled her vow — her intention — more completely  
than if she had succeeded.

For such is the hidden way of grace:  
what we lose may ripen elsewhere.  
And we plant seeds  
whose harvest may not be ours to see.

*-- William Zeitler*



*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