

Second Sunday of Epiphany
Ordination & Installation of Officers

January 18, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship



“...and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.”

—John 1:36-37

First Presbyterian Church

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909.882.3308

www.fpcsb.net

MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT: REV. BRIAN S. SYMONDS

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, February 1st.

Morning Worship[†]

Lector: Amy Smith

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

Calling of the First Disciples: After John identifies Jesus, two of his disciples, Andrew and another unnamed disciple, follow Jesus. When Jesus notices them, he asks, "What are you seeking?" They respond by asking where he is staying, to which Jesus invites them, "Come and see" (1:38-39). This invitation marks the beginning of their journey as disciples. *(Generated by Microsoft AI)*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Aria* *F. Peeters (1903-1986)*
Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

INTROIT *Spirit of the Living God* *Daniel Iverson*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us here together — each of us, all of us, our whole selves.

☒ We bring our questions, our longings, our hopes, our dreams and our fears.

Jesus invites us to come and see where God is at work.

☒ Across the street and across the globe, Jesus is present.

Within these walls and within our hearts, God is here.

☒ Let us worship the God who reaches out in love and invites us to come and see!

***HYMN 39** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* FAITHFULNESS

PRAYER of CONFESSiON

Jesus, the Lamb of God, came to redeem and reconcile, to take away the sin of the world. We are invited to tell the truth about the places in need of healing and wholeness. Let us join in the communal act of repentance:

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

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

(Take a moment to silently name your longing.)

✖ Saving God, we confess that we often have not waited patiently for you. We have preferred to sing our own song, to go our own way, and to put our trust in idols, institutions and individual strength rather than trusting you. We confess that it is easier to bring you sacrifices and offerings, rather than offering our lives to you. We search for delight in all the wrong places. We keep quiet about the ways we have experienced your love and presence, and we fail to invite others to come and see you, the source of life and love, at work all around us. Forgive us, God. Abide in us until your new song of hope and redemption pours from our lips, and your love is shared in our words and deeds. Amen.

God inclines to us, rescues us and sets us again on solid ground. God has not withheld mercy from us. Trust in the steadfast love and faithfulness of God and know that we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

***SUNG RESPONSE 726 *The Summons*¹**

John L. Bell

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

TIME with the CHILDREN

[After Time with the Children, our children are encouraged to worship with us. There are activity bags and books in the Narthex.]

GIVING THANKS for FAITHFUL SERVICE

Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Phyllis Hough, Brad Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM

10,000 Reasons² Jonas Myrin/Matt Redman.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, worship his holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, it's time to sing your song again. Whatever may pass, and

¹ Tune: Arr. by John L. Bell; © 1987, WGRG c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Text: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, © 1987, WGRG c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

² Text & Music: Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman ©2011 CandelaWorks Music (ASCAP). Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes. *Bless the Lord, O my soul...* You're rich in love and you're slow to anger. Your name is great and your heart is kind. For all your goodness I will keep on singing; ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *Bless the Lord, O my soul...* And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near and my time has come; still my soul will sing your praise unending ten thousand years and then forevermore! *Bless the Lord, O my soul...*

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-19

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given to you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 1:29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of

God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "Where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ Thanks be to God.

SERMON

*On Being the Church:
Why Church?*

Rev. Brian S. Symonds

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.**

*PRAYER OF THANKS

Holy God, we are not lacking in any gift, and we give you thanks and praise. Receive the gifts of our hearts and lives, not as vain sacrifice, but as a joyful response for your steadfast love. Use what you have given us to your glory in every place. Transform our gifts to become a beacon of hope, a word of life, and a balm of healing for all of creation.

✠ Amen.

**The OFFERING of OUR LIVES
ORDAINING and INSTALLING NEW LEADERS
to the Office of Elder:
to the Office of Deacon:**

**OPENING STATEMENT
SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY**

There are different gifts, But it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God,

But it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through different people in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves One purpose through them all.

Each one is given a gift by the Spirit, To use it for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, And individually members of him.

QUESTIONS

♦ Of those to be ordained and/or installed

God has called you by the voice of the church to serve Jesus Christ in a special way. Now will you answer these questions?

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Do you?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? Do you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? Do you and will you?

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? Will you?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? Will you?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? Will you?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? Do you?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? Will you?

❖ Of those to be elders

Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

❖ Of those to be deacons

Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need and In your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

❖ Of the congregation (*and officers: listen as your church family recognizes your gifts and your call*)

Do we, the members of the church, accept ***Robin*, John-Paul, Jon, and Lynda, as ruling elders, and accept Rebecca, Amy*, Brent*, Chris and Dave*** as deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the church?

LAYING on of HANDS

[The officers to be ordained shall kneel for prayer and the laying on of hands by the Session, other Elders, and Ministers of the Word. Those previously ordained shall stand for the prayer of ordination and installation. Elders nearer the pulpit, deacons nearer the lectern, all facing the steps to facilitate kneeling.]

PRAYERS of ORDINATION and INSTALLATION

❖ By the Pastor.

Gracious God, in every age you have called men and women to speak your word and lead your people. We thank you for these you have

called from among us to help us do your work. Give them courage and compassion; Give them joy in their work. Fill them with your Spirit, so they may have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. We offer ourselves to you as you have offered yourself to us.

❖ By those to be ordained or installed:

Gracious God: you have chosen me. Now give me strength, wisdom, and love to preach the gospel at all times.

❖ By the congregation:

❖ God of grace, you call us all to follow you. Help us to put your call at the center of our lives. Give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants lead us; so that our life together will speak of the love of Jesus. Amen.

DECLARATION, CHARGE, and WELCOME

You are now elders and deacons in the Church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation.

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Amen.

Welcome to this ministry.

[As the congregation sings the response, those laying on hands shall welcome the newly ordained and installed elders and deacons into their fellowship in ministry.]

SUNG RESPONSE 698 ³

John Bell

**❖ Take, O Take me as I am, Summon out what I shall be,
set your seal upon my heart, and live in me.... (Repeat)**

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 12**

*Immortal, Invisible,
God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* *Showalter*

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms. Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

POSTLUDE

GREETER: Shelby Obershaw

USHERS: Chris Thomas, *Lead Usher*

Mark Adelson, Rick Rodriguez, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord, Brandon Turner

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Judy Steppins, Lorraine Bishop

Elders: Lynda Savage, Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark

Deacons: Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Amy Gano

This Weeks' Celebrations

Jan 11 Jean-Luc Nicks
Dawn Morris
Jan 13 Zane Preciado
Stephani Congdon
Jan 14 Patrick Morris

Jan 16 Esther Olsen
Deon & Patrick Garcia
Jan 17 Lynette DuClos-Adelson
Mark Munz

Annual Reports. All reports should have been submitted to Amy Smith amymys952@aol.com and/or Mimi Lange pres.first@gmail.com **LAST Friday, January 16th.** If you have not yet submitted your report, contact Amy or Mimi **IMMEDIATELY** to make arrangements.

Super Bowl Bake Sale. **Sunday, February 8th in the Fellowship Hall after worship.** The amazing bakers of PW will tempt you with amazing treats to enhance your Super Bowl Experience! (Or whatever experience you do instead—we're not judging.) Helen will make her special treat, so get there early!

Leonard Scholarship Applications for Fall 2026 are available in the church office and on the church website. All applications must be in the church office by February 28, 2026. Any questions can be emailed to Lynda Savage. LKSavage3@gmail.com

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 cans or bags of beans (pinto, navy, red, etc.).**

Winter Camp will take place on the weekend of March 13th-15th. **Registration begins now.** We're inviting you to an awesome winter camp weekend designed just for 6th thru 12th graders! Our theme this year is ***Warm Hearts, Renewed Spirits***, and it's all about experiencing God's life-giving warmth in the middle of a cold, crazy season. You can look forward to powerful worship & messages, winter fun & chill time, real community and so much more. Call (877)285-0199 or email registration@bblccc.com for more information. Cost is \$165 per camper. Financial help is available.

2026 Companions on the Inner Way Retreat Opportunity.

This spring, *Companions on the Inner Way* will once again offer a safe communal place to explore deep longings for the Holy. Grounded in the Christian tradition, the guided retreats incorporate body, mind, and soul through presentations, dialogue, spiritual practices, art, music, movement, and worship with Eucharist. The retreats strive to create an environment that is theologically curious, radically welcoming, and liturgically vibrant.

The retreat will take place from Sunday, March 8, 2026 to Friday, March 13, 2026 at Serra Retreat Center in Malibu, California.

Registration information can be accessed at www.cotiway.org

Please contact Christa Wallis chriwallis@aol.com if you'd like to apply for a scholarship to help defray the cost of attending.

Music Box

He had spent most of his life searching for the Grail King.

Not recklessly. He had done it properly — consulting the learned, studying old accounts, ferreting out which rumors carried weight and which were smoke. He knew the signs. He knew what to ignore.

And he knew the Grail King would not be found on some lofty throne. On that the old stories agreed.

Late one winter afternoon, on a narrow road he would rather forget, his horse stumbled. The iron rang wrong. A shoe had loosed.

Just down the road, at the edge of a small village, stood a dreary blacksmith's hut.

“Wait a bit,” said the blacksmith. “I've a tricky piece on the forge. Won't take long.”

At the bellows worked a young apprentice — sleeves rolled, face smudged with soot. He worked the leather handles with a steady, unhurried rhythm. The fire breathed when he breathed. The heat neither flared nor faltered.

The knight watched.

When the work was finished, the blacksmith examined the shoe and shook his head.

“Size eight. I'm out. Have to make one.”

He glanced toward the darkening sky. “Too late for tonight.”

The knight nodded. Nothing to be done.

“We're headed to the inn,” said the blacksmith. “Join us.”

The inn was rustic but warm. They broke coarse bread. They shared a bowl of thin stew. They poured something they called “ale.”

The knight found himself lingering over the meal. There was something about the boy at the bellows —

— wait —

Could it be HE?

But, but —

Why would the Grail King be HERE,
in a village like THIS?

That night he slept fitfully, the question churning in his dreams.

Next morning, the new shoe was made and fitted.

As he mounted, the apprentice glanced up. Their eyes met. The boy smiled knowingly.

The knight rode on.

For years afterward — long after his search was spent — he still found himself wondering about the boy at the bellows. — *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:

Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis,
Pat Morris, Susan Skoglund, Katie Smith, Neal Williams,
Robin Edwards, John-Paul Fletcher, Jon Horstmann, Lynda Savage,
and Clerk of Session Amy Smith

and supported by our Board of Deacons:

Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda,
Amy Gano, Rick Rodriguez, Jim Siegmund, Kyle Smith,
Rebecca Allen, Brent Nord, Dave Thomas, and Chris Wright-Thomas.