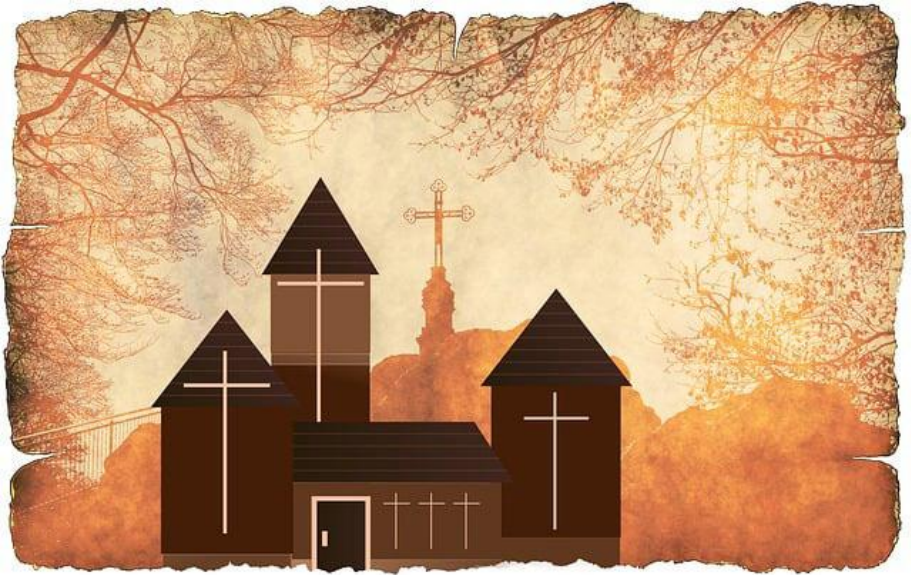


Third Sunday of Epiphany  
January 25, 2026 10:30 a.m. Worship



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“A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.”

—*Matthew 4:21-22*

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## First Presbyterian Church

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

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[www.fpcsb.net](http://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](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.

**OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Susan Skoglund

## REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

“When we reflect on the lives of James and John before their encounter with Jesus, we see ordinary fishermen taking care of their family business. Their lives were likely filled with dreams of success within their community. Yet, in that single moment with Jesus, everything changed. They left their nets. They left their father. They chose to follow a man they perhaps barely knew, driven by the hope and promise of something greater.”  
--Jamie Wilson

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

*Prelude in Em*

*F. Chopin (1810-1849)*

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

#### INTROIT

*From the Rising of the Sun*

*Eric H. Thiman*

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, the Lord's name be praised, the Lord's name be praised.

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 27:1*

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

✠ **The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

We gather in the presence of God. Let us open our hearts and minds in worship.

#### \*HYMN 321

*The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

## PRAYER of CONFESSION

Let us pause here to confess the sins that have kept us from recognizing and enjoying God's presence.

*(Take a moment to silently name your longing.)*

✠ **Gracious God, when despair and suffering overwhelm us, we cry out for you and feel abandoned. We doubt your presence and**

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

\* Stand if you are able

✠ The congregation will read.

**your promises. We believe you have turned away from us in anger. We ask why you have forsaken us. In these moments, strengthen us in faith and fill our hearts with courage. We believe, God. Help our unbelief. Amen.**

*"The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting."*  
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen. *(Psalm 103:17)*

**\*SUNG RESPONSE 726      *The Summons*<sup>1</sup>      John L. Bell**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?**

**Will you care for cruel and kind 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**

*[Children are always welcome in worship. There is KidSpace today in Room 10 following the Time with the Children.]*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ANTHEM      *Be Thou My Vision*<sup>2</sup>      arr. Jeffrey H. Rickard.**

Be thou my Vision, O lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that thou art; Thou my best thought by day or by night. Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my Wisdom and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father; thine own may I be; Thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise; Thou mine inheritance, now and always; Thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure thou art. High King of heaven, my victory won; May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all. O still be my Vision, O Ruler, O Ruler of all.

## **SCRIPTURE**

### **1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Text: Irish poem, trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt. Music: Irish ballad SLANE; arr. Jeffrey H. Rickard. ©1990 Sacred Music Press, a division of The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services) Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas.” Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say you were baptized in my name. I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

### **Matthew 4:12-23**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*On Being the Church: Rev. Brian S. Symonds*  
*Why Is It So Hard to 'Do' Church?*

## 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 present these offerings to you in faith. We trust that you will bless and use them to further Christ's ministry and serve those in need. May these gifts bless those we know who are suffering and those known only to you.

- ✠ 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 697

*Take My Life and Let it Be*

HENDON

### \*MOMENT for REFLECTION

### \*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

### \*RESPONSE

*Sevenfold Amen*

*John Stainer, 1873*

## POSTLUDE

**GREETER:** Linda McCarl

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

Marilyn Kraft, John-Paul Fletcher, *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**

Noe Falconi, Marianna Fowles, Sandy Garza

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

*Deacons:* Rick Rodriguez, Jim Siegmund, Kyle Smith

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

***Jan 25*** First Presbyterian Church

***Jan 28*** Linda McCarl

***Jan 29*** Brenda Frederick

***The Annual Meeting of the Congregation*** will be held on **Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>** immediately after worship. We will review the Annual Report, elect our new Nominating Committee, and conduct other business as needed. Please plan to attend.

***Super Bowl Bake Sale.*** Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 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!

***Souper Bowl of Caring.*** On Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup>, we ask the congregation to bring in cans of food for our Food Program.

***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](mailto: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 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. Registration begins now. We're inviting you to an awesome winter camp weekend designed just for 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.cotiway.org)  
Please contact Christa Wallis [chriwallis@aol.com](mailto:chriwallis@aol.com) if you'd like to apply for a scholarship to help defray the cost of attending.





## *Music Box*

At dusk, the lamplighter made his usual rounds, touching flame to wick as the sun slipped away. By the time the fishermen returned in the evening, the harbor was bedecked with lights.

The lamps burned all night. By morning, most had gone out. The day was well underway, the quay alive with nets being cleaned, fish being sorted and taken to market.

So it was strange, that morning, to see a stranger with a long pole and a jar of oil walking the quay — lighting the lamps.

“Too late! Or too early!” said an old fisherman, smirking.

The stranger said nothing.

He moved slowly along the quay’s edge, trimming wicks, coaxing flame back into glass globes in the shining daylight. In the full light of morning, the lamps looked faint and faintly ridiculous — small suns pretending to matter.

A young fisherman named Eli watched. His net had torn again. He sat mending it with practiced hands. The stranger worked nearby.

“You’re wasting oil,” Eli said, not even looking up.

The stranger smiled. “Only if you think lamps are for seeing.”

Eli frowned. “That’s exactly what they’re for.”

“Nope,” the stranger said. “Lamps are for being seen.”

Eli glanced around. The harbor was bright with morning.

“No one’s seeing them,” he said.

“Not yet,” the stranger replied.

By afternoon, the storm arrived out of nowhere — sudden, violent, folding the horizon flat. Fog rolled in thick as wool. Boats that should have been home were still out, swallowed by gray. Eli found himself running to the quay.

The lamps were burning.

Not bright. Not heroic. But steady. Each one a small refusal.

Through the fog, shapes emerged — boats limping home, guided not by the unseeable sun, but by tiny flames lit earlier.

When the last boat limped in safely, Eli looked for the stranger. He was nowhere to be found.

That evening, the lamplighter came as usual.

The lamps burned.

The harbor slept.

No one mentioned the daylight lamps.

The next day, Eli didn't mend his net. He left it folded on the bench — neat as a promise kept too long — and walked the length of the harbor, looking for the one who had done the pointless but indispensable thing.

Then Eli understood that acts of guerrilla goodness don't shout.

They simply light the way.

*-- 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:

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.