

Transfiguration

February 15, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship



“So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in the dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”

—2 Peter 1:19

First Presbyterian Church

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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, March 1st.

Morning Worship[†]

Lector: Margaret Doane

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

"In addition to the eyewitness account of the transfiguration, Peter points to the prophetic word, a reference to the Old Testament prophets, as further evidence that he isn't just making up myths about Jesus. But note that the prophetic word is temporary—it is an ongoing word for the dark places and dark times that we live in. Yet, our anticipation is for the dawn of a new day when the morning star—Jesus himself (see also, Revelation 22:16)—will rise in our hearts."

--Ruth Anne Reese, *The Working Preacher*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE *There's a Greatness in God's Mercy* W. Zeitler
William Zeitler, Organ (Pedals only --no hands!), Curtiss Allen, Tuba
Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

INTROIT *This Is the Day¹* James Christensen
This is the day the Lord has made; Rejoice and sing to God's name.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** (*adapted from Psalm 99, Inclusive Bible translation*)

Our God is holy and mighty, a leader who loves justice, who established honesty, justice, and righteousness.

☒ God has done this! We worship you, O God! You are holy!

***HYMN 258** *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing* DEO GRACIAS

PRAYER of CONFESSION

We don't have to look very far to see the brokenness of our world: broken relationships, broken systems, broken nations, broken people. We are tired. We are worn. And we know that the world

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

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

¹ Text & Music: James Christensen. © 1983 National Music Publishers, admin. Fred Bock Music Company, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.
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didn't get this way on its own. So, together, let us confess our part in the brokenness of things, and ask for God's help to repair and restore.

(Take a moment to silently name your longing.)

☩ God of radiant light, we confess that we are a people who are sometimes too comfortable dwelling in darkness. We say we want things to change, that we do not accept the way things are. But, in reality, we want someone else to take care of the changing. We resist transformation and sometimes do not even believe it is possible. Forgive our unbelief. Soften our hearts toward one another and ourselves. May your Spirit move through and among us. Make us light bearers for your sake, and for the sake of your people. Amen.

The good news is this: while we do not always – or perhaps often – get it right, God is faithful. God keeps God’s promises. Let this truth deep down seep into your weary bones: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free for life in God’s Spirit. Thanks be to God.

***SUNG RESPONSE 726 *The Summons*²**

John L. Bell

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same?
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow 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

MONENT for SPIRITUALITY and MISSION

Christa Wallis

ANTHEM

I Waited for the Lord

Felix Mendelssohn.

I waited for the Lord, He inclined unto me, He heard my complaint, He heard my complaint. O bless'd are they that hope and trust in the Lord. O bless'd are they that hope and trust in Him.

² 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 ONE LICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John, and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✉ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

On Being the Church: Rev. Brian S. Symonds

Reconciliation and Revisioning the 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

Gracious and holy God, we give you thanks for the many gifts in our lives. We are well and truly blessed. We dedicate these offerings to you. Multiply them beyond our imagining, that others might experience your love and grace, your mercy and justice. May we come to know a world where each person is enough and has enough. These things we ask boldly in Christ's name.

- ✖ Amen.

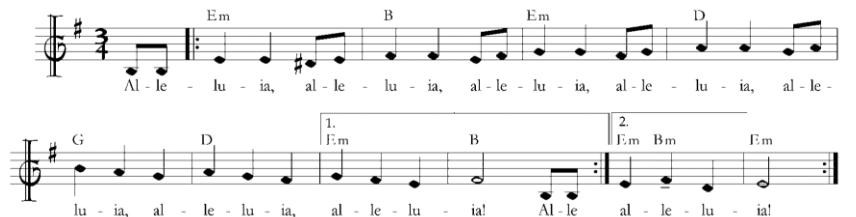
PRAYERS of the PEOPLE, OUR LORD'S PRAYER

- ✖ 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.

BURIAL of the ALLELUIA

*ALLELUIA

William Zeitler



'Alleluia' is the song of God's people- our song of Easter and ultimate joy. We love the sound of Alleluia!

But this is not the season of Easter- this week begins the season of Lent. It is the season of the wilderness, repentance, and the cross.

We come to God as we are: with a history of rights and wrongs, with a past of shaky discipleship, carrying the joys and sorrows of our life.

We long to stay with what is familiar, to cling to the comfortable and hang on to the past; to find our security in a world of our making.

But God calls us to move on and to let go: to enter the place of reflection, to be willing to change. It is time to face what we often deny, and to discover that God's love is all we really need.

To avoid what we fear by running away only makes things worse. So we trust God in our dying and in our rising.

We enter the wilderness together; ready to look at what God wants to heal, ready to tend what we often avoid.

And we put away the Alleluia until we emerge, ready to sing it with fresh joy.

CHANGING PARAMENTS

The Bells will play as the paraments are changed.

BELL MUSIC *What Wondrous Love Is This* arr. Douglas E. Wagner

As the Bells play, the paraments are changed, the Watch and Pray banner is raised, the worship leaders change their stoles, the Paschal candle is lighted.

The Alleluia is gone from our sight.

Let it remain in our hearts.

Watch and pray.

Watch and pray.

Watch and pray that we will be found ready.

***HYMN 700** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* I'M GONNA LIVE

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** *May the Blessing of God Almighty* Unknown

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost be upon you, and remain with you forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE

The Order of Chivalry: Endurance

W. Zeitler

GREETERS: Doris Nord, Donna Feit

USHERS: Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Mark Adelson, Dave Thomas, *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

Noé Falconi, Marianna Fowles

Elders: Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis, Pat Morris

Deacons: Rick Rodriguez, Jim Siegmund, Kyle Smith

This Weeks' Celebrations

Feb 15 Randy Mantei

Joanna Nord

Feb 16 Kendra Elizabeth Lamb

Feb 19 Amy Smith

Ash Wednesday. There will be two Services of the Ashes you may choose to attend on ***Ash Wednesday, February 18th.*** The first service will be held at ***12:00 p.m.*** The second will be held at ***5:00 p.m.*** The Imposition of Ashes will be included in both services, which will be held in the Chapel.

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***Ash Wednesday is approaching, inviting us to journey with Jesus as he moves with determination to Jerusalem, in spite of all the opposition he faces. Our congregation has found that Easter itself is a deeper, more profound and joyful experience when we accept the Lenten invitation. LENTEN QUIET NIGHTS*** are planned to help us be faithful to the journey. In the contemplative space of the Fireside Room, we will share prayer, readings and silence centered around the theme: ***God, Always Seeking Us.***

**WHERE: Fireside Room**

**TIME: 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**DATES: THURSDAY EVENINGS: February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26**

*Please enter the Fireside Room in silence.*

**SIMPLE SOUP SUPPER.** Simple, and simply delicious, soup and bread suppers are offered following Quiet Night services.

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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 pouches or pop-top cans of meat, fish, or fruit.**

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.

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***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.

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Per Capita Apportionment. As we begin the new year, it's time once again to recall our connection to the Presbyterian Church of the USA. We and other Presbyterian congregations all over the country and beyond join together to provide the sustenance for the organization that provides structure, support, education, emergency responses, social justice outreaches, clergy care, and inspiration to us all. The PCUSA is the Mothership, and we are outposts that rely on her goodness to reach our potential!

The annual Per Capita Offering for 2026 requires that we pay \$44 for each member of our congregation to our national organization. This amount is requested from you above and beyond your regular pledge offering.

Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church (please make a note on your check that the donation is for the Per Capita Offering). Thank you so much for being faithful stewards of our denomination!

Wendy Lamb will be commissioned as the worship leader for Community Presbyterian Church in Redlands at the Presbytery Meeting on Saturday, February 21st at Palm Springs Presbyterian Church. If you would like to attend, the church is at 815 S Camino Real, Palm Springs. The Presbytery Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

Music Box

In the lower quarter of the city, where ash drifted like gray snow, stood the Hall of Glassblowers. She had never expected to matter there. She was steady. That was the word the Masters used. She mended bent tongs, hauled coal, and swept cinders while others shaped molten glass into vaulted forms and singing vessels.

When the kiln burst, she was alone in the east chamber. It began as a tremor. Then a crack like frost splitting wood. Then heat — sudden and lunging — pouring from the side. The chamber filled with fire. Masters shouted. Sparks leapt into rafters. The flue howled.

She did not think. Later she would try to remember what had gone through her mind. But in the moment there was no thinking — only

doing. The fire folded and unfurled. It reached and recoiled. She saw — not with her eyes alone — where the air bent wrong. She seized a pole and struck a support beam. Hard. Once. Twice. The beam gave way. A panel fell. Air rushed in from the side instead of the front. The flame turned inward. Sand flew. Wet cloth smothered. The roar collapsed into smoke. Silence settled. She stood breathing as if she had run for miles. Only then did her hands begin to shake.

The Masters stared. “She moved as if she knew the kiln’s bones,” one said later.

It took three days for the smoke to clear and to complete the repairs. The Hall reopened. Work resumed. She returned to sweeping cinders. At first she waited for something to change. A summons. A new instruction. None came. One Master watched her more closely. Another avoided her gaze.

She tried once to call back the silence. She stood before a training flame and willed herself into that widening. Nothing. Yet the old coat of smallness would not hang properly on her shoulders. When a younger apprentice fumbled a gather, she corrected him without hesitation. The firmness of her voice surprised them both. When a Master spoke sharply, she did not shrink — the words passed through her. She did not become bold. She became — uncontained.

Weeks later, a smaller blaze flared in the annealing oven. Smoke curled. Straw smoldered. All eyes turned to her. For a heartbeat, something widened — the edge of that same silence — and then it closed. She moved competently — no more than that. She damped the straw. Opened the vent. Ordered water. The fire died without drama. A few faces fell.

That night she walked along the canal where ash congealed in the reeds. The city felt narrower than before. She missed, unexpectedly, the simplicity of being small. Now she lived with the knowledge that there was a depth in her she could neither name nor command. She did not know whether it would open again. She only knew she could not return to the shape she had been.

In the days that followed, she noticed other things. A Master paused before issuing an order, as if listening inward. A brash apprentice closed his eyes before relighting a flame. The Hall of Glassblowers, once simple in her mind, now seemed layered — as if beneath every gesture ran another current, and beneath that, another still.

She worked as before: mending tools, sweeping cinders, hauling coal. In the night watch, she stood before the kiln and watched the low, patient burn of the fire. She did not see a craft she had failed to master. She saw a threshold. And she did not know whether she stood before it — or lived within it.

— 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.