



Alana Jordan on Pixabay

Fourth Sunday
in Easter
April 26, 2026
10:30 a.m.
Worship

“I know you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”

—*Job 42:2*

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, May 3rd.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Mary Bolaños

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

It's one thing to say that "God is sovereign and all-powerful" – that's a basic tenet of our faith – but it's quite another to live each day as though that were actually true. When we are buffeted by cruel realities of politics and culture, when grave challenges arise in our personal circumstances, it can be difficult to steady ourselves in the hope that God is indeed capable, that God is even aware of us and cares for us. This morning, we will seek assurance in Scripture of God's unlimited ability and unfailing love.

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE

Consolation

W, Zeitler

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

WELCOME

INTROIT

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

* CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 139*)

Sovereign God, you know us through and through.

✘ **You know everything we do and every thought we think – you even know what we're going to say before we say it.**

Your presence is everywhere, from the heights of heaven to depths of earth.

✘ **You are beyond our understanding, as hard as we may try to grasp your greatness.**

We exhaust ourselves in contemplation.

✘ **And at the end of it all, we are still with you.**

*HYMN 32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

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

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

PRAYER of CONFESSION

✠ Almighty and merciful God, forgive us when we fail to put you first, when we think we can just “do it ourselves.” Forgive us when we think so little of you that we doubt your willingness and ability to be a force in our lives. Teach us again who you are and what you can do, and help us be better partners with you in your work in the world. In Jesus’ name, amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

✠ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.

(We stand and sing the Response)

***SUNG RESPONSE 587**

Alleluia

CELTIC ALLELUIA

{Children may leave for KidSpace in Room 10 during the anthem.}

ANTHEM

God So Loved the World¹

John Stainer

God so loved the world, God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth, believeth in Him should not perish, should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. God so loved the world, God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth, believeth in Him should not perish, should not perish, but have everlasting life, everlasting, everlasting life. God so loved the world. God so loved the world.

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Your word, O God, has the power to change lives and create new worlds. As we consider your word today, fill us with the same Holy Spirit as inspired its author, so that we may embrace your promises and act in your name.

SCRIPTURE

Job 38:1-7, 42:1-6

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Gird up your loins like a man;

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

¹ Words and Music: John Stainer; Edited by N. Clifford Page. ©1931 Carl Fischer, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone
when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?”
Then Job answered the Lord:
“I know that you can do all things
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me that I did not know.
‘Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you declare to me.’
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes.”

Mark 10:23-27

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

This is the word of faith that we proclaim.

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Too Much for God?

Rev. Ron Duvall

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**

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 837** *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* SHOWALTER

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** *God Be with You till We Meet Again* *William G. Tomer*
God be with you till we meet again, By His counsels guide, uphold you, With His
sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again. God be with you
till we meet again, Keep love's banner floating o'er you, Smite death's
threat'ning wave before you, God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet,
till we meet, Till we meet at Jesus' feet; Till we meet, till we meet, God be with
you till we meet again.

POSTLUDE

Rev. Ron Duvall has been a member of Riverside Presbytery since 1977, serving in churches in Twentynine Palms and Rialto before leaving the pastorate in 1993 to attend the School of Nursing at Loma Linda University. He retired from Loma Linda Health in 2016, having worked in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and as a Liver Transplant Coordinator. He currently resides in Redlands and serves as Parish Associate at the First Presbyterian Church there.

GREETER: Linda McCarl

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Marilyn Kraft, John-Paul Fletcher, *Hospitality Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord, Brandon Turner

LIVESTREAM TEAM: James Welte, Kevin Lamb,
Oliver Lamb, Tim Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Noe Falconi, Marianna Fowles, Debora Holk

Elders: Neal Williams, Robin Edwards, John-Paul Fletcher

Deacons: Dave Thomas, Steve Smith, Joanna Nord

This Weeks' Celebrations

Apr 27 Jonah Roy Morales

Apr 28 Jim Cimino

Mark Freeman

May 1 Lily Bolaños

Aidan Morris

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Please take a moment to notice *our beautiful new white paraments*, handcrafted by Janet Smith, former member of our church and Steve Smith's sister-in-law.

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.**

Per Capita Apportionment. 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!

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Music Box

She had kept bees for her whole life. Alone.

She moved through the apiary each morning the way water moves — unhurried, with absolute certainty. This life just suited her.

Her sister had asked only once, in her last weeks, and she had said yes before the sentence was finished. That was in February. Her son arrived in April with one bag and the silence of someone who had cried himself empty.

She showed him his room and made him a sandwich. Hardly a word was said all evening. Her sister had asked, and she had said yes. Now the reality of what yes meant was becoming apparent. "Just a lost boy," she muttered.

The next morning she brought him to the apiary. "Needs to earn his keep."

He was afraid of the bees from the first moment — it was obvious from how he held himself. She handed him a suit and veil without comment, and set him to a simple task at a safe distance.

He lasted twenty minutes before a single bee, drawn to the sharp smell of his fear, found the gap at his wrist and stung him.

His reaction was slightly outsized. He knew it and was embarrassed. She said nothing, only took his wrist and worked the stinger free with a practiced thumbnail. From the shelf inside the barn door she took a small jar — her own preparation, royal jelly mixed with herbs from the forest — and worked a small amount into the welt.

"They're not angry," she said. "They just see you."

He looked at her as though this were the strangest comfort he had ever been offered.

She almost smiled.

The hive hummed. Doing what bees have been doing for 100 million years.

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The fear kept returning. Weeks in, he still approached the apiary with that held-breath quality, that watchful hesitation. She noticed

he had developed a habit of studying each hive before committing himself – trying to read the situation before acting.

One morning, they were inspecting a frame when he said quietly, "What is this streak of chalk right there?"

She looked. Looked again. Closer than she should have needed to. Fungus. She hadn't seen it.

She took the frame from him, carefully turning it in the light. A small thing – a hint of chalk in one corner, an early sign of a problem she would have caught a year ago from ten feet away. She would deal with it.

She set the frame back without speaking.

That evening she sat in the waning light. She had been struggling more and more to see.

The work no longer belonged to either of them. "More like shared," she thought – "like a hive."

==+++==

She was dusting the mantle when her sleeve caught his figurine. The kind a child keeps forever.

It broke into pieces on the floor.

The silence in the room was total. She turned – he was in the doorway.

After a moment, he said, "I'm not angry. I just see you."

She gathered the pieces carefully, one by one, and set them on the shelf.

==+++==

Early one morning – the light still flat and new – she looked up from a frame to find him already working the next hive over. Calm hands. Sure movements. His body no longer braced against what might happen. Still watchful, but differently – the watchfulness of attention rather than fear.

"Listen. Something sounds off with this one," she said.

"Let me take a look."

Good man, she thought.

The hive hummed.

-- *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.