

**Pentecost  
Life Skillz Sunday**

**May 24, 2026**

**10:30 a.m. Worship**



*by Rebecca Allen*

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**“I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.  
Your young will see visions.  
Your elders will dream dreams.”**

*—Acts 2:17*

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**First Presbyterian Church**

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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, June 7<sup>th</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Bobbi Cummings

## REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

“This Sunday symbolizes simultaneously beginnings and endings. It is a fulcrum that turns around the movement from life to death to new life. Pentecost is in so many ways the powerful, Spirit-filled celebration of the new life of the church. This one body of Christ with many members animated by the gifts of the Spirit upends the very hierarchies—Jew or Greek, slave or free—that would divide it. This body of Christ is the embodiment of the promise that death does not win, made good on the cross. Each of the beginnings and endings of this Sunday is an invitation into the great cosmic spiral of life, death, and life beyond death. They are calls to faith that in the death of Jesus there is the resurrection of his collective body, the church.” --*The Working Preacher*, Crystal Hall

## GATHERING MUSIC

### PRELUDE

*Sonatine*

*M. Ravel (1875-1937)*

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

## WELCOME

### INTROIT

*Spirit of the Living God*

*Daniel Iverson*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

All together in one place;

✘ they heard the rush of a violent wind;

it filled the entire house.

✘ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared and rested on each of them;

they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

### \*HYMN 268

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

DIADEMATA

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

\* Stand if you are able

✘ The congregation will read.

## PRAYER of CONFESSION

God's Spirit is alive and at work among us, gathering us for worship, calling us to return to God through prayer, praise, celebration and confession. Let us pray together.

✠ **Spirit of the Living God, we hesitate and doubt. You call us to act boldly, but fear keeps us quiet and circling. We confess our lack of courage, splintered by uncertainty and second-guessing. Forgive us for all the times we shrink from your call. Embolden us to dream beyond what we know and imagine the world as beloved community. Let your Spirit fill us, prodding us beyond inertia. Grant that we might be Christ's body, not in fits and starts but with steady conviction. Guided by your Holy Spirit, help us be active participants in ushering in your peaceable kingdom. Amen.**

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed.

✠ **Amen.**

*(We stand and sing the Response)*

**\*SUNG RESPONSE 587**

*Alleluia*

CELTIC ALLELUIA

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANTHEM

### *Spirit, Come Down<sup>1</sup>*

*Mark Hayes*

Spirit, come down like days of old. Spirit, come down and fill my soul. Lord, I want to be used by You, to feel your power in all I do. Spirit, come down and fill my soul. Now on the day of Pentecost the disciples of the Lord were in one place when suddenly from heav'n on high came the sound of a mighty wind. That mighty wind then filled the place, and the Spirit appeared like tongues of fire. It took control of ev'ryone, filling them with pow'r. Spirit, come down like the days of old. Spirit, come down and fill my soul. Lord, I want to be used by You, to feel Your pow'r in all I do. Spirit, come down and fill my soul. There were people there from ev'ry land, yet they heard God's word in their native tongue, for the Spirit had helped them understand the mighty word of the Lord. Spirit, come down like the days of old. Spirit, come down and fill my soul. Lord, I want to be used by You, to feel Your power in all I do. Spirit, come down and fill my soul, fill my soul. Spirit, come down like the days of old. Spirit, come down and fill my soul. Lord, I want to be used by You, to feel Your power in all I do. Spirit, come down, Spirit, come down, Spirit, come down and fill my soul. fill my soul.

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<sup>1</sup> Words & Music: Pepper Choplin. ©1999 by Harold Flammer, a division of Shawnee Press, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

## First SCRIPTURE

### Acts 1:2b-9 (CEB)

Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God's kingdom. While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, "This is what you heard from me: John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?" Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight.

## REFLECTION PART I

*Close Encounters of the Divine Kind: Rev. Brian S. Symonds  
An Unbelievable Gift (Celebrating)*

### \*HYMN 26

### *Earth and All Stars!*

FOUNDATION

*(The choir sings the first stanza. The congregation joins in for 2-4)*

## Second SCRIPTURE

### Acts 2:1-13 (CEB)

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,

Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?" Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!"

## REFLECTION PART 2



## RECOGNIZING OUR CARDINALS

*Today we recognize graduating seniors from San Bernardino High whom we consider "our own". Many have been interns.*

*They participate in our weekly "Life Skillz" breakfast group.*

### **San Bernardino Life Skillz Seniors**

***Liliana Aceves, Patricia Aguilar, Amisadai Aran, Esmeralda Cavallero, Angelina Franco, Joshua Garcia, Marjorie Beltran Gomez, Ana Quevedo Hernandez, Vincent Morales, Sebastian Ramirez, Sara Santana, Emonnie Thomas, Naydelin Torres Romo, Neomi Vargas***

### **Life Skillz Leaders**

***Ariana Aceves, Stephani Congdon, Bobbi Cummings, Brooke Dvorak, Jim Morris, Pat Morris, Marlene Olivias, Rick Rodriguez***

### **Recipients of the Presbyterian Women Scholarships**

***Tahj Brookins  
Emonnie Thomas  
Jacob Ramirez***

**Receiving the Sally Morris Memorial Scholarship**

*Xochitl Sasser*

**Recipients of the Cummings Auto Group Life Skillz Scholarship**

*Liliana Aceves*

*Patricia Aguilar*

*Amisadai Aran*

*Esmeralda Caballero*

*Angelina Franco*

*Joshua Garcia*

*Marjorie Beltran Gomez*

*Ana Quevedo Hernandez*

*Vincent Morales*

*Sebastien Ramirez*

*Sara Santana*

*Naydelin Torres Romo*

*Neomi Vargas*

**WE HEAR from STUDENTS and ALUMNI**

*Jessica Flores, Class of 2025*

*Liliana Aceves, Ana Quevedo Hernandez, Class of 2026*

**Third SCRIPTURE**

**Acts 2:14-21 (CEB)**

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young will see visions.

Your elders will dream dreams.

Even upon my servants, men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.

The sun will be changed into darkness,  
and the moon will be changed into blood,  
before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim,

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

### REFLECTION PART 3

#### 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

#### *Speaking in Tongues*

*David Dennis, soprano saxophone, Susan Addington, percussion*

#### \*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

You give with open hands, Most Generous God, sharing gifts as seed to sow. We gather these offerings, asking only that they might take root and flourish — to tend your Kin-dom, to nurture your beloved community. Let our acts be not merely ritual but a commitment: a shaping of the world in your image, one generous gesture at a time.

✠ **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 295

*Go to the World!*

SINE NOMINE

#### \*MOMENT for REFLECTION

**\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

**RECESSIONAL**

*Laudate Dominum*  
Laudate Dominum,  
Laudate Dominum,  
Omnes, Gentes,  
Alleluia.

*Taizé*

*We sing as we walk outside. Once on the lawn, we'll release doves, a sign of the Spirit's freedom & flight. (We will be releasing the doves on the lawn between the Sanctuary and Fireside Lounge. Please make your way to the lawn and patio in that direction, taking your belongings with you.)*

**GREETERS: Mindy & Amy Rueda**

**USHERS: Katie Smith, *Lead Usher***

Al Rueda, Jim Siegmund, *Hospitality Ushers*

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

**LIVESTREAM TEAM: James Welte, Kevin Lamb,  
Oliver Lamb, Lynn Usher**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK**

**Ron & Ruby Kraft**

*Elders:* Jon Horstmann, Lynda Savage, Sue Alexander

*Deacons:* Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Amy Gano

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

**May 24** Trinity Conley

Penny Ramirez

**May 27** Jenna Garza Schneider

**May 28** Mark Adelson

Jon Preciado

Maria Saenz

Al & Mindy Rueda

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On Monday, May 25, the church office will be closed for Memorial Day.

*Pastor Brian will be away from May 27 through June 10* as he receives his doctorate, and takes a brief vacation. The Rev. Sam Roberts will preach for us on these Sundays.

**To address safety concerns, the E street gates will be locked on Sunday beginning on May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

***Reminder: Our next Blood Drive will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup>.***

Beginning this Sunday and continuing on the following Sundays, the Deacons will be taking sign-ups in the Fellowship Hall after church.

***Please join Presbyterian Women on Monday, June 1st*** at 6 pm in Fireside Lounge for our **Annual Birthday Gathering and Election and Installation.**

Our guest speaker is Claudia Jefferson-Glipa, Executive Director of Family Promise of Riverside. Dessert will be served.

Donations of paper goods or gift cards for Family Promise are welcome.

***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.**

## *Music Box*

No one could say afterward what had caused it. Had some unseen comet passed overhead in the night? Had some strange herb drifted into the village well? All anyone knew was that on an otherwise ordinary Friday morning, the people of Sant'Anima woke up understanding each other perfectly.

Not just the words. The words behind the words.

The Mayor had governed for eleven years on the strength of a particular smile – the one that said "I hear you" while meaning "next." That morning, he used it yet again on old Ferrante, who was complaining once more about the drainage ditch. This time Ferrante's face went still. Not angry. Just done. The Mayor froze, his expression like a man who has drawn his sword and found the blade broken off at the hilt.

Fourteen years of marriage, approximately four thousand "I'm fines." That morning, she said it again over breakfast, reflexively, and they both heard it – the exhaustion and the love and the thing she could not say and the sorrow about that fact, all of it arriving in those two words like a wound waiting for someone to remove the bandage. He put down his fork. She put down her tea. There was nothing to add.

The Priestess had preached for thirty years about the peace that passes understanding. That morning, she understood, with quiet precision, that a third of her congregation endured her affectionately, a third thought she was brilliant, and a third was thinking about lunch. She also understood how much she loved them anyway – all of them – with a ferocity she had not realized. Her homily was four minutes long, her best ever.

Bettini and Corso had not spoken in nine years over a property line and a fig tree. That morning, they passed in the marketplace and understood each other completely – the specific wound behind each man's position, the pride, the original moment when repair had still been possible, and both had chosen not to. They stood a long time. Neither apologized. But Corso said, "The figs were good this year." And Bettini said, "Good weather for them." Both of them knew everything had been said.

Mara was seven. For her, nothing much seemed different. Don't grownups always say what they mean?

By evening, people moved through the village quietly, carefully, the way you move in a dark house where someone is sleeping, trying not to trip over the furniture.

The widow at the well finally told her friend about her Tuesday afternoons — not the grief, everyone understood grief, mostly — but the specific challenge of HER Tuesday afternoons. Her walk home felt shorter than it had in years.

The baker, standing next to his apprentice at the oven, grasped the full weight of the boy's longing to be somewhere else entirely, to be someone else entirely — at sea perhaps? — and felt, for just a moment, the vertigo of understanding that every person around him contained an entire world, vast and ungovernable, and that he had been surrounded by it his whole life without knowing it.

By the morning of the second day, it had passed.

They woke to the familiar, comfortable fog of ordinary speech, ordinary inference, ordinary misunderstanding. Some felt relief they were not proud of. Some reached for what they'd understood and found only the memory of it — the echo of an open door, now closed.

The Mayor tried his smile on Ferrante at the market. Ferrante accepted it, as before.

The couple said "good morning" and meant it, mostly, which is what "good morning" has always meant.

Only Mara seemed puzzled by the fuss. "Why can't everyone keep talking like that?" she asked her mother.

Her mother said, "It's complicated, love."

Mara thought for a moment, then —

"Why?"

*— William Zeidler*

### ***Pastoral Care Coverage***

Pastoral care is an integral and important part of the ministry at First Presbyterian Church San Bernardino, as well as the Presbyterian Church (USA). Below is a bit about Pastoral Care from the PC(USA)'s Book of Order:

**“All members are called to take part in the ministry of pastoral care, visiting the sick, supporting the weak, and comforting those who mourn. Ruling elders, deacons, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament<sup>t</sup> have particular responsibility for the exercise of pastoral care within the community of faith.” W-5.0204**

And the call of the pastor even has a specific charge for pastoral care:

**“...to exercise pastoral care, devoting special attention to the poor, the sick, the troubled, and the dying;” G-2.0504**

#### ***When church and community members seek pastoral care:***

The church Secretary receives requests for pastoral care. Generally, the Secretary will get permission (or not) to add those names and persons to the Pastoral Care and/or Prayer Chain weekly emails. Notifications of immediate hospitalizations, transfers to hospice care, and terminal or near terminal diagnoses will be forwarded to the Pastor.

The Pastor will make arrangements to visit persons who are hospitalized, those transferred to hospice care, those with terminal or near terminal diagnoses, and those who have just passed away.

#### ***When the Pastor is away on scheduled time off:***

The Pastor will be notified of deaths, and hospitalizations (visit arranged upon return).

**The Minister of Pastoral Support will be notified of deaths, hospitalizations, those transferred to hospice care, those with terminal or near terminal diagnoses, and those who have just passed away (visits may be arranged).**



*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.