

## Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship



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**“Don’t be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks.”**

*Philippians 4:6*

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### **First Presbyterian Church**

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

**909.882.3308**

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

**MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT:** REV. DR. 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, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

# Morning Worship†

Lector: Wanda Skipper

## REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

Philippians 4:6-8 serves as a powerful guide for us in our walk of faith. We are reminded to turn to God in prayer, with gratitude, instead of dwelling in anxiety. The peace of God becomes our guard, and we are instructed to focus our minds on things that are virtuous and praiseworthy. As we internalize these teachings, we grow in our faith, cultivating a mindset that reflects Christ's character and brings glory to God.  
--Jaime Wilson, *scripturesavvy.com*

## GATHERING MUSIC

**PRELUDE**      *The Girl with the Flaxen Hair* C. Debussy (1862-1918)

## WELCOME

**INTROIT**      *Threshold Choir*

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us here to worship. We carry many worries and are distracted by many things, but here, in this time and place, we are invited to set them aside, to be fully present. Let's pause and take a deep breath. We remember who we are:

✠ **We are the body of Christ.**

We remember whose we are:

✠ **We are God's beloved children.**

We remember our chief purpose:

✠ **To glorify and enjoy God forever.**

Let us worship God!

**\*HYMN 367**      *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*      ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

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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

Those who speak the truth from their heart abide in God's presence. Let us speak the truth now as we offer our act of reconciliation together. First in silence and then together:

*Silent prayer.*

- ✠ Holy God, we are pulled in many different directions. We are distracted by the news, quick to point fingers and pass judgment, but reluctant to examine the ways we benefit from the injustice in our world. We are distracted by our fears. We fear the loss of health, safety, and financial security. Instead of proclaiming your abundance, we operate from a mindset of scarcity. We confess our distraction, even as we acknowledge that sometimes we embrace it because it's easier than sitting at Jesus's feet, learning what it means to follow him. We confess that distraction is easier than discipleship. Forgive us. Help us discern and choose the better path as we seek to follow Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

This good news will not be taken away: We are seen as God's beloved children, holy and blameless, reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. Let us live into this good news: we are forgiven!

*(We stand and sing the Response)*

**\*SUNG RESPONSE 587**

*Alleluia*

CELTIC ALLELUIA

## TIME with the YOUNG DISCIPLES

*[After Time with the Young Disciples, children are encouraged to worship with us. There are activity bags and books available.]*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANTHEM

*Threshold Choir*

## PRAYER for ILLUMINATION *(Psalm 19:14)*

- ✠ May the words of our mouths, and the meditations of all of our hearts, be acceptable, even pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our strength and redeemer. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE

### Philippians 4:6-8 (CEB)

Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then

the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim,

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Prayer and Poetry:*

*Rev. Dr. Brian S. Symonds*

*Proclamation and Pause*

## **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**

*Threshold Choir*

**\*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**

With abundance upon abundance, Almighty God, you have seen to our needs. We return this portion of our wealth, we offer these prayers, and we remember the gift of time you have given us as tokens of our commitment to know you, to love you, and to serve you. Bless these gifts, multiply and use them, and may we bless ourselves as we see your work in our midst,

✠ **Amen.**

## **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Haiku or free writing—Poetry practice

A traditional haiku consists of three lines with a syllable pattern of 5-7-5 (5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the second, and 5 in the third).

***What prayer or who is on your heart today?***

✠ **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 469**    *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*    CHILDREN PRAYING

**\*MOMENT for REFLECTION**  
*Where have you seen or experienced Christ in this service?*

**\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

**RESPONSE**    *Threshold Choir*

**POSTLUDE**

**GREETER:** Shelby Obershaw  
**USHERS:** Mark Adelson, *Lead Usher*  
Chris Thomas, *Hospitality Usher*  
**SOUND ENGINEERS:** Dan Direen, Brent Nord, Brandon Turner  
**LIVESTREAM TEAM:** James Welte, Kevin Lamb,  
Oliver Lamb, Lynn Usher

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK**  
Martha Pinckney, Bob Saenz, Judy Steppins  
*Elders:* Jon Horstmann, Lynda Savage, Sue Alexander  
*Deacons:* Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda, Kristine French

**This Weeks' Celebrations**

|               |                          |               |                     |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| <i>Jul 19</i> | Linda Tiger              | <i>Jul 23</i> | Cheryl Direen       |
| <i>Jul 20</i> | Ryan Nord                |               | Kevin Lamb          |
| <i>Jul 21</i> | Donna Garza              | <i>Jul 24</i> | Larry Marona        |
|               | Ezra Joseph Morales      |               | Elizabeth Franklin- |
| <i>Jul 22</i> | Helen Babcock            |               | Morales             |
|               | Dennis & Laurie Stafford |               | Gary Saenz          |

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Pastor Brian is away July 20-27.  
Pastor Steve Smith will preach for us next week.

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***SUMMER SOCIAL.*** The Deacons Summer Social Event will be held on ***Sunday, August 2 right after the worship service.*** Hot Dogs, Games, Puzzles, Waterslide! Bring a swimsuit or just stay in your church clothes, and come have some fun!

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***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 jars (~16 oz) of peanut butter or pop-top cans or cups of fruit.**

### ***Music Box***

In previous weeks we discovered that *Kyrie* carries the weight of the unutterable Name, and that *eleison* — have mercy — may echo the healing tenderness of olive oil on a wound. This month we follow that cry into the Eastern church, and then follow it somewhere further still.

In the Greek Orthodox tradition, *Kyrie eleison* evolved over centuries into what is called the Jesus Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." It became the heartbeat of a contemplative practice — coordinated with breathing, repeated until it sank below conscious thought into something more like a pulse than a petition. Breathe in: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God. Breathe out: have mercy on me, a sinner. The anonymous 19th century Russian classic *The Way of a Pilgrim* describes a peasant learning this prayer and walking across Russia with it, his whole life reorganized around those words.

It is a beautiful practice. And "a sinner" is honest — humans are, as a species, ethically challenged (to say the least). We know better than we do, with remarkable consistency. We do what we shouldn't, and don't do what we should.

But I want to suggest that *have mercy on me, a sinner* doesn't go far enough. Not because it's wrong, but because it's incomplete. Sin is one dimension of our need. It is not the only one.

Consider what we actually are. We are creatures with perhaps ninety years — on a good day — to figure out a Cosmos that has been running for fourteen billion years. We perceive it through a handful of senses, each with severe limitations. We think with minds that can hold only so much at once and then forget, that tire, that are shaped by wounds and blind spots we mostly cannot see. We misunderstand each other routinely, even when trying our best. We are finite in time, in perception, in cognition, in wisdom.

This is not sin. This is creatureliness. And it calls for mercy just as urgently.

The Hebrew word that underlies *eleos* in many Septuagint passages is *rachamim* — a word whose root is *rechem*, womb. Womb-mercy. The compassion a mother has for the child she carried. It is not juridical. It is not a verdict. It is the tenderness of one who knows you from the inside, who understands your constitution, who is not surprised by your limitations — because She made you.

*Kyrie eleison*, understood this way, becomes something larger than "please don't punish us." It becomes: have compassion on us in the fullness of what we are — ethically challenged, yes, but also finite, limited, chronologically tiny, epistemologically humble, cognitively overwhelmed. Have mercy on us not just for what we've done wrong, but for what we simply cannot be, given what we are.

When we sing those two words on Sunday mornings, we might carry all of that with us. Not just confession, but creaturely honesty. Not just guilt, but need. The whole of us, offered to the one whose name we cannot speak, asking for oil on every wound.

*Kyrie eleison*. Lord, have mercy. On everything and everyone.

— William Zeidler