

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion Sunday

August 2, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship



If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so
that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

—1 Corinthians 13:3

First Presbyterian Church

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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, 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, September 6th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Margaret Doane

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

“First Corinthians 13, probably best known as the Bible’s “Love Chapter,” offers concise, vivid insights into what it means to love. But 1 Corinthians 13 also describes some of the ways fervent faith can go awry. It notes that even an apostle—and we ourselves such—only partially, barely understands the ways of life and God. And it identifies the top three things in the cosmos that ultimately matter (neither money, nor power, nor status makes the list).”

-- Frank L. Crouch (*The Working Preacher*)

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Wings at My Window

W. Zeitler

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

INTROIT

Take, O Take Me as I Am

John L. Bell

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 145:8-9, 14-18*)

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

✠ The Lord is good to all, and God’s compassion is over all that God has made.

The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you, God, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

✠ The Lord is just in all God’s ways, and kind in all God’s doings.

The Lord is near to all who call on the Lord, to all who call on the Lord in truth.

*HYMN 315

In the Midst of New Dimensions

NEW DIMENSIONS

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

* Stand if you are able

✠ The congregation will read.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

We come to confession not because we believe we are bad people, but because we know there are areas of our lives that stand in need of God's healing touch. And God, who is more ready to forgive than we are to confess, will hear us with a loving ear, ready to heal any brokenness within us or between us. Let us begin in silence and then together.

Moment of silent prayer

✠ Holy God, you have revealed yourself to us in Jesus Christ. Everything we need to know about you has been shown. Your goodness, mercy, healing and renewal are on full display. But sometimes we do not see what is right before us. Sometimes we miss the miracle. We misunderstand you, and so we misunderstand the world. Forgive us, we pray. Restore to us the ability to see you as you reveal yourself. Renew within us the capacity to perceive your way in the world, for this life, and in the life that is to come. We pray it in Jesus' name, and for his sake. Amen.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see: everything has become new.

✠ All this is from God, who reconciled us to God's self through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Believe the promise of the Gospel:

✠ In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

(We stand and sing the Response)

SUNG RESPONSE 205 *Live in Charity

UBI CARITAS

(Sing English, then Latin, two times through.)

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

DEACONS' MOMENT for MISSION

Kyle Smith

ANTHEM

In the Garden

C. Austin Miles

I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses; And the voice I hear, falling on my ear, The Son of God discloses. *And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own, And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known.* He speaks and the sound of His voice

is so sweet the birds hush their singing; And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. *And He ...* I'd stay in the garden with Him Tho'
the night around me be falling; But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe, His
voice to me is calling. *And He ...*

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

✠ **Holy God, amidst the flood of words that barrage us daily, speak
your eternal Word that offers life, and bless us in its hearing,
through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:16-23 (CEB)

I say be guided by the Spirit and you won't carry out your selfish desires. A person's selfish desires are set against the Spirit, and the Spirit is set against one's selfish desires. They are opposed to each other, so you shouldn't do whatever you want to do. But if you are being led by the Spirit, you aren't under the Law. The actions that are produced by selfish motives are obvious, since they include sexual immorality, moral corruption, doing whatever feels good, idolatry, drug use and casting spells, hate, fighting, obsession, losing your temper, competitive opposition, conflict, selfishness, group rivalry, jealousy, drunkenness, partying, and other things like that. I warn you as I have already warned you, that those who do these kinds of things won't inherit God's kingdom.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this.

1 Corinthians 3 (CEB)

If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don't have love, I'm a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and I know all the mysteries and everything else, and if I have such complete faith that I can move mountains but I don't have love, I'm nothing. If I give away everything that I have and hand over my own body to feel good about what I've done but I don't have love, I receive no benefit whatsoever.

Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. As for prophecies, they will be brought to an end. As for tongues, they will stop. As for knowledge, it will be brought to an end. We know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, what is partial will be brought to an end. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, reason like a child, think like a child. But now that I have become a man, I've put an end to childish things. Now we see a reflection in a mirror; then we will see face-to-face. Now I know partially, but then I will know completely in the same way that I have been completely known. Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim.

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Love as an Ethic Rev. Dr. Brian S. Symonds

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 give your offering 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, the world and all that is within it was made at your Word. You have blessed us with countless gifts of love. Receive then, our offerings as commitments of our intention to see the world through the eyes of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

✠ **Amen.**

SACRAMENT of the LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him, and who want to love him more. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, a better life, a fairer world. It is Jesus himself who invites you.

SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

✠ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

✠ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

✠ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

GREAT PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

Gracious God we give you thanks for your love:

The love that made us and shaped the world;

that awaits us when this life is done...

The love of Jesus.

That teaches us, heals us, and

calls us to die and to rise with him...

The Spirit's love

That gathers us here and makes us one;

welcomes and feeds us at every meal;

that sends us out with bread to share

O Trinity of love,

We give you thanks for this meal,

For your presence here within us,

And with all those across time and space

Who join in our hymn of praise:

SANCTUS

James C. Huffstutler

✠ **Holy, holy, Lord Almighty, God of power and might.**

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Glory in the highest.

Blessed, blessed,

blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Hear us as we remember those who need your care this day

for those who are sick in body or mind,

for those who are grieving

for those who long for comfort

and especially for ...

In their need may they know your healing touch.

Hear us as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

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.

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

Jesus, Breathe your Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and cup.
Fill them -and us – with your Presence,
Feed our deepest hunger, and our persistent thirst.

THE WORDS of INSTITUTION

On the night of his arrest,
Jesus took bread,
and after giving thanks to God,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Take. Eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way he took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my love,
poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

Look, here is your Lord, coming to you in bread and in cup.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

CELEBRATION of the MEAL

(The cup is non-alcoholic. Gluten-free bread is available. Communion will be served around the tables. Begin by passing the bread, saying, “the body of Christ.”

Then offer the cup saying, “the cup of salvation.” Allow the person to dip their bread and eat it and then pass them the cup. If there are gluten free folks around the table, please offer them the cup first along with the gluten free bread.)

MUSIC for COMMUNION

PRAYER after COMMUNION

✘ We give you thanks for this feast of abundance that we shared this morning.

Grant us that we go out and make a place for everyone at the table as you did because we have shared the bread of new beginnings and cup of belonging and can't remain the same.
Amen.

*HYMN 693

Though I May Speak

GIFT OF LOVE

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

Where have you seen or experienced Christ in this service?

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

God Be with You till We Meet Again

Tomer

POSTLUDE

GREETER: Meryll Davis

USHERS: Chris Thomas, *Lead Usher*

Rick Rodriguez, *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
Deborah Holk, Ron & Ruby Kraft
Elders: Pat Morris, Susan Skoglund, Katie Smith
Deacons: Brent Nord, Chris Thomas, Dave Thomas

This Weeks' Celebrations

Aug 8 Tim Usher

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***The Church of Amazing Grace*** begins worshipping at their new home at 829 North Mt. Vernon Avenue today, and we are invited to join them.

***SUMMER SOCIAL—NEXT SUNDAY!*** The Deacons Summer Social Event will be held on ***Sunday, August 9 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. Your financial contributions have permitted us to get some staple cans in volume from Feeding America, as you can see in Fellowship Hall. (Whew! We ran out of veggies for a wee bit!) If you enjoy the gift of bargain shopping, **we still need pop-top meals-in-a-can (e.g. spaghetti-os) or pop-top tuna & chicken for non-cooking bags.**

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***JOIN OUR SUMMER CHOIR!*** Summer choir is an opportunity for anyone to drop-in and participate in shaping our worship! You don't have to be experienced in order to learn this music. All that is required is attendance at the 8:45 a.m. rehearsal before worship each Sunday. Regular choir members and director Curtiss Allen will welcome you!

***Big Bear Lake Christian Conference Center is celebrating 100 Years!*** with a weekend-long celebration from Friday, August 28 thru Sunday, August 30. If you would like to go up for the weekend, or just have a wonderful day in Big Bear, register at [olena@bblccc.com](mailto:olena@bblccc.com)

## *Music Box*

Everyone said Mara had a memory for everything. Birthdays. Recipes. The names of flowers. Names of people she met only once ages ago. The stories old people told only once before expecting everyone else to carry them forward. If someone misplaced a tool or forgot a promise, they asked Mara.

Then the fever came. It finally broke, and she opened her eyes for the first time in days. Looking at her husband sitting by the bed holding her hand, she said, "Have we met?"

Months later it was no better. The village pitied them. Some suggested he send her to relatives who could care for her. Others assured him that, in time, she would surely remember.

She never did.

She admired their little cottage as though she had never seen it. She asked the same questions every day. Sometimes she thanked Elian for helping her carry water.

Sometimes she asked whether his wife would be home soon. Every answer broke his heart some more.

Yet she was not unhappy.

She delighted in butterflies as though no one had ever discovered them before. She laughed whenever children laughed. She found wonder everywhere, while Elian carried enough memory for them both.

One autumn evening, as they walked through the village in the cool of the evening, they heard a mother singing a lullaby to her child.

Before Elian realized what was happening, Mara joined in. Every word. Every note. Her voice was quiet but certain, as though it had been waiting years for someone to begin.

Elian stopped walking. It was the song she had sung to their little son each night before he died, long ago.

When the final note faded, Mara stood silently. Then tears filled her eyes. "I don't know why I'm crying," she whispered.

Elian took her hand. "I think part of you remembers."

From that evening on, he sang to her. Not to test her. Not to pull memories back by force. Simply because somewhere beyond words, the song bonded them.

Most songs awakened nothing. But every now and then, something stirred. A harvest hymn made her laugh before she knew why. An old wedding tune caused her to reach for his arm. A shepherd's song left her gazing across the hills with a look of quiet longing.

Years passed.

She never remembered their wedding day.

She never remembered the tiny boy they had buried.

She never remembered the countless ordinary evenings that had once seemed too ordinary to treasure.

But whenever Elian sang one of 'their' songs, she reached for his hand.

One spring evening she looked at him thoughtfully.

"Have we been friends a very long time?"

He smiled.

"Yes."

She studied his face for another moment.

"I'm glad."

*-- William Zeidler*