

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship



“Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Luke 1:78-79

First Presbyterian Church

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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, 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: John-Paul Fletcher

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

“This brief text takes the reader through the exodus, into the monarchy, across the prophetic tradition of ancient Israel, and into the hope for a new promise fulfilled first through John the Baptist and then through Jesus. As such, the text reminds us that we live in a cycle of both the declaration and fulfillment of God’s promises in prophetic utterances.”

--Yolanda Norton, *The Working Preacher*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Aria

F. Peeters (1903-1986)

INTROIT

*The Summons*¹

KELVINGROVE

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known; will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Upon Mount Horeb, Elijah heard the voice of God, not in the wind, or the earthquake, or the fire, but in the sound of sheer silence.

✠ Holy God, quiet our minds and our hearts, rid us of distraction, so we can hear you and know you among us.

*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.

¹ Tune: Arr. by John L. Bell; © 1987, WGRG c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent
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PRAYER of CONFESSION

We return to God through an act of reconciliation. Let us honestly acknowledge how we have gone astray and confess our sin to God. Let us begin in silence and then together.

Moment of silent prayer

✠ God our refuge, you hear our cries for mercy. You know our exhaustion, our cynicism, our sense of defeat. You lift the lowly and offer hope to the hopeless. But we are quick to lose perspective and exaggerate critique. We confess the ways we are tempted to give up on the path of reconciliation. We pray for your forgiveness. Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

✠ Amen.

(We stand and sing the Response)

***SUNG RESPONSE 205 *Live in Charity*²**

UBI CARITAS

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

Live in charity and steadfast love.

Live in charity; God will dwell with you.

**Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.**

TIME with the YOUNG DISCIPLES

Blessing of the Backpacks and Tags

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

SHOWALTER

What a fellowship, what a joy divine; leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.* O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on

² Text: Latin, 8th cent.; English trans. Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier. ©1979 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, agent. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-7062545. All rights reserved.

the everlasting arms. *Leaning ...* What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms? I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. *Leaning*

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

✠ **Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us so we may faithfully discern your way. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:22-23 (CEB)

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.

Luke 1:67-79

John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied,

"Bless the Lord God of Israel

because he has come to help and has delivered his people.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant David's house,
just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago.

He has brought salvation from our enemies

and from the power of all those who hate us.

He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and remembered his holy covenant,

the solemn pledge he made to our ancestor Abraham.

He has granted that we would be rescued

from the power of our enemies

so that we could serve him without fear,

in holiness and righteousness in God's eyes, for as long as we live.

You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

You will tell his people how to be saved

through the forgiveness of their sins.

Because of our God's deep compassion,

the dawn from heaven will break upon us,

to give light to those who are sitting in darkness

and in the shadow of death,

to guide us on the path of peace."

This is the word of faith that we proclaim,

✘ Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Quality of Life
-- Inner and Outer Peace
A Conversation with Sharon Alvarado,
Principal at Mt. Vernon Elementary School

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

Gracious God, the gifts we offer reflect only a portion of all that you have given us. Take these offerings, we pray, and multiply them for your use. May our offerings be a blessing to those most in need, to those most vulnerable. May our offerings, given in a spirit of generosity, abate the desire to hoard, and spread the desire to share.

✘ 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 137

He Came Down

HE CAME DOWN

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

Where have you seen or experienced Christ in this service?

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

GREETER: Jeanne Clark

USHERS: Katie Smith, *Lead Usher*

Marilyn Kraft, *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: Neal Williams, Robin Edwards, John-Paul Fletcher

Deacons: Brent Nord, Chris Thomas, Dave Thomas

This Weeks' Celebrations

Aug 9 Jackie McKee

Aug 10 Aaron Saenz

Aug 11 Ryan Michael Mantei
Brent Nord
Kurt & Lisa Star

Aug 12 Yvonne Rios-Kasinger

Aug 15 Alexia Aguilar
Ashley Ballard
Ramon Ramirez

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***SUMMER SOCIAL—TODAY!*** The Deacons Summer Social Event will be held ***right after the worship service.*** Hot Dogs, Games, Puzzles, Waterslide! Stay and have some fun!

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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!

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*If you are interested in learning how/helping with the audio tech* for our services, contact James Welte. We could use a few more people to help.

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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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***Bakers needed!*** We would like to have some loaves of homemade bread, particularly breads from around the world, for our World Communion celebration in October. If you are a baker, contact the church office and let us know if you can help.

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***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*

True story...

Decades ago, when I first arrived in Southern California, I landed an ongoing gig playing my glass armonica at Disney Walk.

I'd set up my armonica at their prescribed time and place, and play for four hours, selling CDs. Folks would listen to the music, ask me questions about the instrument, and hopefully buy a CD or three. It paid the bills.

One evening a family stood before me. A father, mother, and daughter -- maybe nine years old.

They listened, and the parents asked me questions.

Then the daughter started asking her own.

"Why do you use water?" "Why do the glasses turn?"...

I answered her questions -- she had a lot of them. It was fun.

They lingered longer than most, and then moved on.

As father and daughter paused some twenty feet away from me, the mother came back.

"Beth had a sister, who passed three months ago. She hasn't spoken a single word since."

She paused.

"Until tonight. Asking you questions. Thank you..."

She squeezed my hand, and they all walked away into the evening.

*-- 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.