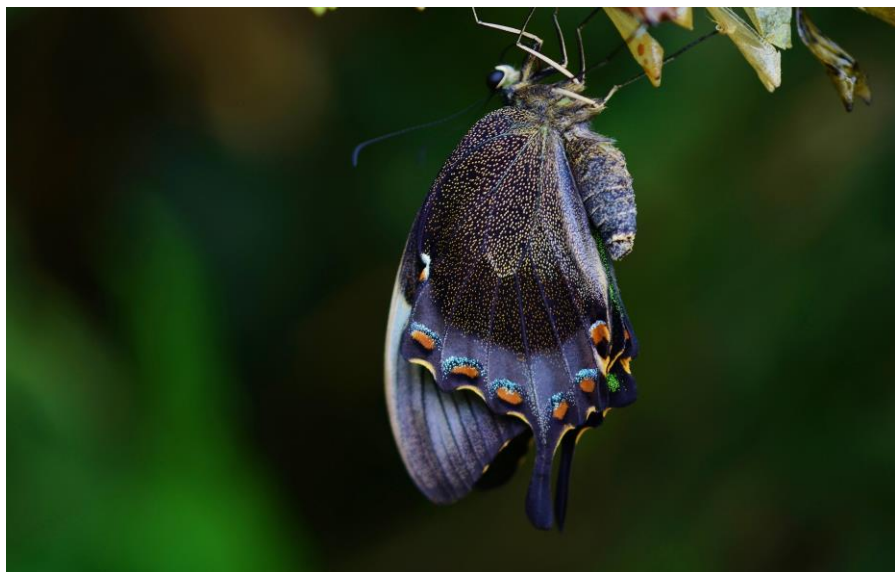


Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship



“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Matthew 11:28-29

First Presbyterian Church

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

909.882.3308

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: Amy Smith

“In the Bible, gentleness is portrayed as a profound inner strength characterized by humility, kindness, and patience, rather than weakness or passivity. In the New Testament, the Greek term *praotes* describes gentleness as a fruit of the Spirit, emphasizing its importance in Christian character (Galatians 5:22-23). Gentleness is celebrated as a virtue that contrasts with worldly values of power and dominance, highlighting that true strength is expressed through a gentle spirit”.

-- Microsoft Copilot

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Sanctuary of Faith

W. Zeitler

INTROIT (301)

*All Are Welcome*¹

TWO OAKS

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 67*)

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

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

*** Stand if you are able**

✱ The congregation will read.

¹ Text and Music: Michael O'Shields. ©1981 Universal Music Corp. and Sound III, Inc. (admin Hal Leonard Corporation). Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

- ✠ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. The earth has yielded its increase; God has blessed us.
- ✠ May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

*HYMN 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

PRAYER of CONFESSION (*Romans 11:32*)

The apostle Paul says that we are “imprisoned in disobedience,” but that God is merciful to all. We live amid the tension of knowing that the Lord is quick to forgive and recognizing that we need to be forgiven. We also live amid the tension of knowing that, through Christ, all things are being made new and recognizing that our broken world needs to be transformed. From the discomfort of this tension, let us offer our prayer of reconciliation first in silence and then together.

Moment of silent prayer

- ✠ Merciful God, your world cries out. The fruits of our disobedience are harming your creation. You tasked us to be good stewards of your creation and we have fallen short. You challenged us to love You and love our neighbor, and we have failed to show that love. You promise to bring all people joyfully together in a house of prayer on your holy mountain. We find ways to stay apart. Bring us together, O Lord. Empower us with a spirit of love for You and love for all our neighbors. Help us live lives of service to You so that all your children will know Your peace. Forgive us when we fall short and continue to transform your world, leading us to your promised kin-dom. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Paul writes: “I ask, then, has God rejected the people? By no means! For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” God has shown us mercy and God will be merciful to all. Hear and believe this good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

- ✠ Amen.

(We stand and sing the Response)

***SUNG RESPONSE 205 *Live in Charity*²**
(Sing English, then Latin, two times through.)

UBI CARITAS

**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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM (462) *I Love to Tell the Story*

HANKEY

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION (*Isaiah 56:1*)

Thus says the Lord: “Maintain justice and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.” Let us pray.

✠ **God of every time and place, may your Spirit move among us so that the words we hear and the words we speak will be to your glory, will lead towards justice, and will reveal to us your salvation and deliverance. In Jesus’ name, 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.

Matthew 5:5, 11:28-29 (CEB)

“Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.

“Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I’m gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim,

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

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 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 *(Isaiah 56:7)*

Holy God, you tell us that "offerings will be accepted on your altar, for your house shall be called a house of prayer." Thank you for all that you have given us. Continue to guide us as we dedicate these offerings and our lives to you.

✠ 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 643

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

Where have you seen or experienced Christ in this service?

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

RESPONSE (835) *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

CLOSER WALK

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea, daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be. I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

POSTLUDE

GREETER: Mindy & Amy Rueda

USHERS: Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Al Rueda, *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

Lorraine Bishop, Noé Falconi, Marianna Fowles

Elders: Jon Horstmann, Lynda Savage, Amy Smith

Deacons: Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda, Kristine French

This Weeks' Celebrations

Aug 17 Joanne Ballard

Ethan Gano

Aug 19 Aaron Rueda

Aug 20 Elle Carlos

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Pastor Brian will be out of town August 19-22.

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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!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

The Pastor's Book Club will meet **Thursday, September 10 at 5:00 p.m.** at **DJ's Coffee Shop**, 265 E. 40th Street. The book club will use scripturally provocative and institutionally controversial writings to generate real conversations with each other. The first book for discussion is ***Separation of Church and Hate*** by John Fugelsang.

Music Box

Ellian's tapestries hung in castles.

Lords waited years for them.

He wove hunting scenes where the hounds seemed ready to leap from the cloth. Forests shimmered with a hundred shades of green. Faces so lifelike that visitors sometimes greeted them before realizing their mistake.

People traveled from distant kingdoms to watch him work.

Years' worth of commissions lined up.

Too many apprentices applying.

He rather enjoyed all of it. And why not?

==+=+=

The first mistake was almost invisible.

A single thread in the wrong place.

Then another.

He blamed poor wool.

Bad light.

A dull shuttle.

By winter he could no longer believe his own excuses.

The physician spoke gently.

"Your eyesight is failing."

Ellian laughed.

"It will return."

It did not.

==+=+=

The commissions dried up.

His apprentices found other masters.

He sold all but one of his looms.

Only one merchant still brought him work.

Sails.

Plain linen sails for fishing boats and merchant ships.

He could no longer weave hounds.

Nor forests.

Nor faces.

His eyes had failed.

His hands had not. They still knew.

Ellian accepted because hunger is persuasive.

==+==

Years passed.

Every day the shuttle passed back and forth, back and forth.

The cloth was plain.

Strong.

No one admired it.

==+==

One autumn afternoon, an old sailor knocked on his door. His first visitor in years.

"Master Ellian?"

"I was."

The sailor removed his cap.

"I'm Blarr. Captain of the Sea Wren. I wanted to thank the man who wove our sail."

Ellian frowned.

"It wasn't much to look at."

The captain looked toward the harbor.

"Just returned from the Black Reach. Worst storm I ever seen, and I've seen plenty."

Ellian nodded.

"All our sails shredded. Except yours."

He took Ellian's hand and shook it once.

Then left.

Ellian returned to his loom.

-- *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.