

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship



Created by Vicki Hamilton

**"The Holy One has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?"**

Micah 6:8

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: Nancy Horstmann

“The prophet’s litany in verse 8 pivots away from sacrificial worship and toward a new orientation for everyday life, reminding the people what God requires of them...the prophet emphasizes that living in right relationship with God is not simply a matter of a perfunctory visit to a worship service. Right relationship with God is an ongoing, seven-days-a-week orientation to life, one that prioritizes the well-being of the neighbor, making a life of worship also a life of doing justice, loving with generosity and fidelity, and journeying in humility with God.”
-- Cameron B. R. Howard, *workingpreacher.org*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Fantasia

J. Pachelbel (1653-1706)

INTROIT (829)

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

OLIVET

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away; O let me from this day be wholly thine! While life’s dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow’s tears away; nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Seek the Lord! Seek God in the wilderness.

✠ **Seek God in the sanctuary.**

Seek God in the burning bush.

✠ **Seek God in the burning heart.**

The Lord is here! This place is holy!

✠ **We are standing on holy ground.**

*HYMN 769

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

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

* Stand if you are able

✠ The congregation will read.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Sin casts us out into the cold, but the warmth of God's forgiveness welcomes us back. Trusting in God's love, let us confess our sins to God: Let us offer our prayer of reconciliation first in silence and then together.

Moment of silent prayer

✠ God of wonders, we confess that we do not understand why you call us when we are scared, clumsy, busy or flawed. We confess that we think we know better than you do who is qualified to do your work. Forgive our fears and excuses and self-doubts. Lend us your fire and your strength, as we go about the work of serving our neighbors, building up your church, loving your children, and tending to the scorched places of our world. Help us to burn for you, without burning up or burning out. Give us a purpose and the courage to pursue it. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news! New life rises from the ashes. In Christ, your sins are dead and you are alive to all that is good.

✠ In Christ, we are made whole; in Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

(We stand and sing the Response)

***SUNG RESPONSE 205 *Live in Charity*¹**

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

¹ 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.

ANTHEM

The Old Rugged Cross

George Bennard

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best For a world of lost sinners was slain. * *So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.* O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me; For the dear Lamb of God left His Glory above To bear it to dark Calvary. * In that old, rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see, For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, To pardon and sanctify me. * To the old rugged cross I will ever be true; Its shame and reproach gladly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my home far away, Where His glory forever I'll share. *

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

✠ **Divine Light, shine on these pages that the stories may speak again to us today. Shine on our hearts that we might know how to respond. 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.

Micah 6:6-8 (CEB)

With what should I approach the Lord and bow down before God on high? Should I come before him with entirely burned offerings, with year-old calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with many torrents of oil? Should I give my oldest child for my crime; the fruit of my body for the sin of my spirit?

He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim,

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Patience:

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Symonds

Unsundering Wisdom And Compassion

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

Generous God, we offer our gifts to you, grateful for all you have given us, and grateful for the chance to give to others. Build up your church through these offerings, that we might be a place where your goodness is seen, practiced, and shared.

- ✠ 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 749

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

Where have you seen or experienced Christ in this service?

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

Revive Us Again

Mackay/Husband

We praise Thee, O God! For the Son of Thy love, For Jesus who died, and is now gone above. We praise Thee, O God! For Thy Spirit of light, Who has shown us our Saviour, and scattered our night. *Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Hallelujah! Amen. Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Revive us again. All glory and praise to the Lamb that was slain, who has borne all our sins and has cleansed ev'ry stain. Revive us again; fill each heart with Thy love; May each soul be rekindled with fire from above. *

POSTLUDE

GREETER: Lynda Savage

USHERS: Lynn Usher, *Lead Usher*

Tim Usher, *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

Bob Saenz, Judy Steppins

Elders: Norm Wallis, Pat Morris, Susan Skoglund

Deacons: Jim Siegmund, Kyle Smith, Rebecca Allen

This Weeks' Celebrations

Aug 30 Wanda Gernux

Shannon Nolin

Sep 4 Ed Congdon

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Is visiting immigrants in detention right for you? The Presbytery of Riverside has informed us of an Orientation & Training Session which can give you an immigrant detention overview, teach about the Adelanto ICE Processing Center, help you understand visitation procedures, and learn what to expect during a visit. Learn about the difference compassion, respect, and support can make. The session is on **Saturday, September 12 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.** Registration is required and closes one hour before the session. The registration link is:

https://uno2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/eXd_nrC5Tdy3_p8ZWB0EOQ

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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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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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Bakers needed! We would like to have some loaves of homemade bread, particularly breads from around the world, for our World Communion celebration on October 4th. If you are a baker, contact the church office and let us know if you can help.

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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.

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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.**

Available for Food Work?

If yes, please contact Rick so we can add you to a list we can call when we need more workers for sorting, organizing, shelving, bagging or distributing food, photocopying and folding handouts, assembling kits, or maintaining food storage spaces. Thanks!

Music Box

Mara had delivered babies for twenty-three years. People said she had good hands. She knew when to wait and when not to. One November evening old Bram came to her door.

"My daughter needs you."

"You have a daughter?"

Bram nodded. Mara took her bag.

The girl was young, hardly more than a child. "Promise me you won't tell anyone I'm here."

"I won't."

Then the pains came hard. Near midnight the child came. A boy. But he wasn't breathing. Mara worked over him until he finally cried his first. Bram sat and covered his face. The girl slept, newborn in her arms. Mara stayed until morning.

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When she reached home, a man was waiting. "Where were you?"

Mara stopped. "At Bram's."

He looked at her. Old Bram had buried two wives and pursued half the widows in the village.

"My wife Lysa needed you."

Mara said nothing.

"I came three times." Mara looked at him. "She died before dawn."

Mara closed her eyes.

"Where were you?" he asked again.

"I told you."

"At Bram's."

"Yes."

He waited. Mara said nothing more. He walked away.

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By Sunday, everyone knew that Mara had spent the night at Bram's. Women began sending to the next town for a midwife. Men winked at Bram when he passed. Everyone looked away when Mara passed.

Bram came to see her. "I'll tell them."

"No."

"They think — "

"I know what they think."

"My girl has gone. It doesn't matter any more."

"It matters to me. I promised."

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One morning Mara brought more flowers to Lysa's grave. She pulled the weeds from around the stone and sat in the grass. Sometimes she wondered what would have happened if she had gone home after the boy was born. Perhaps Lysa would have lived.

"Mara!"

A girl came through the cemetery gate, breathless. "It's my mother. It's time."

Mara stood.

"Something's wrong."

Mara looked once at Lysa's grave. Then she picked up her bag and went.

Reflection

Sometimes doing what is right means letting others believe we are wrong.

-- 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.