

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Stockton, CA

MAY 17, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

As God's family through Jesus Christ, we seek:

- *to know God through prayer, worship, and Bible study*
- *to be open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit*
- *to share God's love with each other, our community, and the world*

~Gathering the Family of God~

Prelude Domenico Scarlatti, Sonata in D Major K.119 **Diego Bustamante**

(All are invited to enjoy the Prelude as part of our worship service. We request that voices are kept to a whisper to allow for a meditative atmosphere.)

Choral introit

Welcome/Call to Worship

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

One: God of grace and peace, in Jesus Christ you stand among us,

All: Our assurance of healing, hope, and joy in our fearful, wounded world.

One: Living God, in Jesus Christ we have seen the marks of your saving love

All: Help us open our eyes to recognize your presence with us, our risen Savior

One: Once again, let us lift up our heads and meet the eyes of our Good Shepherd who calms our troubled hearts and fills them with peace.

All: Jesus our Messiah is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Opening Hymn

Morning Has Broken #664 vs. 1-3

Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!

~Bringing our Whole Selves in Worship~

Call to Reconciliation:

Bill Alessio

One: We have celebrated Easter with flowers and eggs which represent new life and hope. In celebration of Earth Day, we remember all of the truths about resurrection that we find in nature. Let us join with creation in the process of rebirth, by dying to sin and rising to new life in the footsteps of the risen Christ.

All: Jesus, your resurrection invites us to hope for more than the sin we find in our own lives and in the patterns and structures of this world. We long for what is wrong to be made right. We yearn for lives marked by reconciliation and peace and joy. So we bring you our broken hearts and regrets, the mistakes that keep us up at night and the wounds that keep us living in a defensive posture. We place into your hands the hurts and injustice of our world. We ask for healing for when we have been mistreated or hurt, and the courage to stop the cycle of retaliation. Spirit of God, bid us to rise as we follow Jesus from the grave into this new day our Creator has made. (Moment for silent reflection)

Proclamation of Forgiveness and Hope

Bill Alessio

One: Jesus is risen! Let us lift our heads to find and embody the new life springing up all around.

All: Like grass which springs up from charred earth and all kinds of resilient life which adapts to their environments, we claim our place in God's good creation, continually crafted by God's grace. Hallelujah!

Passing of the Peace

One: When the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples who were terrified behind locked doors, he greeted them with the words "Peace be with you!" May our voices echo with that greeting as we share the grace we have received. Friends old and new, May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you!

All: And also with you

One: Amen. Let us turn and greet each other with Christ's peace.

Children's Message and Blessing

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

One: As our children head off to Sunday school, we send them with this blessing:

All: May God be with you there.

One: And our children say: Kids: May God be with you here!

~Listening to Scripture~

Song of Preparation There is a Longing in Our Hearts #470 vs. 1-2

There is a longing in our hearts, o Lord for you to reveal yourself to us.

There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.

For justice, for freedom, for mercy, hear our prayer.

In sorrow, in grief, be near, hear our prayer, O God.

There is a longing in our hearts, o Lord for you to reveal yourself to us.

There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.

*For wisdom, for courage, for comfort, hear our prayer.
In weakness, in fear, be near, hear our prayer, O God.
There is a longing in our hearts, o Lord for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.*

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

Bill Alessio

One: Holy Spirit, thank you for your word. Open our hearts and minds to hear what you are saying to us today.

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 121

Bill Alessio

One: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Reading from the Early Church

1 Peter 5:6-11

Rev. Ashley L.Skrabec

One: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon Strength in Humility

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

~Responding in Faith~

Prayer Song

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

#833 vs. 1,3-4

*O Love, that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe, That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

*O Joy, that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O Cross, that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be*

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

One: God of grace **All: Hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer

(Please feel free to pray the words below or use the language of your heart.)
Our Parent(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.

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology

#607

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

~Going Forth to Love and Serve the Lord~

Sending Hymn

Christ Be Our Light #314 vs. 1,2,4,5

*Longing For Truth, We Turn To You.
Make Us Your Own, Your Holy People,
Light For The World To See.*

*Refrain: Christ Be Our Light! Shine In Our Hearts. Shine Through The Darkness.
Christ, Be Our Light! Shine In Your Church Gathered Today.*

*Longing For Peace, Our World Is Troubled.
Longing For Hope, Many Despair.
Your Word Alone Has Power To Save Us.
Make Us Your Living Voice. (Repeat Refrain)*

*Longing For Shelter, Many Are Homeless.
Longing For Warmth, Many Are Cold.
Make Us Your Building, Sheltering Others,
Walls Made Of Living Stone. (Repeat Refrain)*

*Many The Gifts, Many The People,
Many The Hearts That Yearn To Belong.
Let Us Be Servants To One Another,
Making Your Kingdom Come. (Repeat Refrain)*

Benediction

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

Choral Amen

Postlude Ludwig van Beethoven: Sonata in E Major, Op. 109 (1st movement) **Diego Bustamante**

(All are invited to enjoy the Postlude as part of our worship service. If you choose to leave during the Postlude, please do so quietly.)

Announcements

Church Meetings

This Week:

Today Pastor Ashley's 40th Birthday Celebration/Potluck 12:30 pm

May 19 Hospitality Committee 10 am

May 20 Finance, Building, and Grounds Committee 9:30 am

This Month:

May 24 Worship Assistant Meeting following worship

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers!

Hospitality after Worship Setup/Cleanup.

May 17: Birthday Celebration!

Worship Assistants

May 17 - Bill Alessio

May 24 - Gail Herron

May 31 - Carol Dietrich

Sunday School Volunteers

May 17—Yeji Cha

May 26—Kimberlee Roider



YOU ARE INVITED TO

Ashley's
40th
Birthday

MAY | 17 | 12:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
31 E Vine Street
Stockton

Come celebrate with the First Pres family!
We'll be having tacos and a good old fashioned church potluck for sides and desserts. Feel free to bring a dish to share!
RSVP at office@fpcstockton.org

Worship Assistant Meeting Rescheduled

May 24th
After Worship

If you are currently a worship assistant (reader) for Sunday morning services or are interested in becoming one, please join us! We would love to give you a small gift to show our thanks, and will also go over any questions and work on the schedule for the next few months.



MONDAY EVENING REFRESH



Start your week off with prayer, Bible study, and fellowship led by Pastor Ashley. All are welcome!

EVERY MONDAY EVENING AT 7 PM
CONTACT OFFICE@FPCSTOCKTON.ORG
FOR ZOOM LINK



Career & Family Age Potluck

Saturday May 30th at 5 pm
The Alessio Home
Contact the office for address

30
MAY



The Church Office and members of the church receive several prayer requests each week. Please pray for:

- Dylan requested prayer for safety and recovery for his cousin Oliver who has been living on the street. We pray for Oliver and for the whole family.
- Princess shared the joy of being back in worship after an illness confining her to a wheelchair. We rejoice with her and pray for continued healing.
- Shalise requested prayers for her house and all who live there, and for those who run the house.
- Charlie asks for prayers for continued healing for his partner Michael. He has been in the hospital and had surgery. Prayers for peace, comfort, and healing and that he will be able to return home soon.
- Rosalie asked for prayers for peace and comfort for her and family and friends of her friend Kathy who just heard that her cancer has returned and has spread. Prayers for healing, and God's mercy and peace on all involved as they cope with this sad news.
- Charlie requests prayers for Shane Humphrey as his cousin Mercedes has finally made the transition from this life to the next . Prayers for strength comfort and peace during this time of extraordinary grief.
- Radi asked for prayers for her son Sid, who is home from the hospital and needs continued healing for the tumor in his lungs and his overall health.
- Kim asked for prayers for Tola who had fallen last weekend and suffered a concussion.

If you have a prayer request, please contact the Church Office or Pastor Ashley. Joys and concerns are added to the prayer list of the people who have signed up to be members of the WE CARE PRAYER TEAM. If you would like to be a part of the WE CARE PRAYER TEAM, contact Cheryl Hunt or call the Church Office.



First
Presbyterian
Church

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www.fpcstockton.org

Board of Elders (Session)

Sylvia Cavanaugh, Cheryl Hunt, Jane Knoop, Gretchen Louden and Janet Sepiol

Committee Chairs

Gretchen Louden - Spiritual Growth Co-Chair
Doug Hunt - Finance, Buildings & Grounds
Janet Sepiol - Personnel and Support & Endowment Co-Chair
Cheryl Hunt & Sylvia Cavanaugh - Hospitality Co-Chair
Jane Knoop - Nominating and Support & Endowment Co-Chair
Janet Sepiol - Clerk of Session
Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec - Pastor
Ministers—all the members of the church

First Presbyterian Church is committed to loving and serving all people, including those from diverse generations, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, and life experiences. Whatever your story, you are welcomed by Jesus Christ and by this church family.

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