

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Stockton, CA**

April 19, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.



Picture of Earth taken from Artemis II

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 Peter Tchaikovsky: "Sweet Dream" from Album for the Young
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

Rev. Karen Sapio

Gathering Prayer for Earth Day

One: Holy God, we come this day with praise in our hearts and songs on our tongues.

All: We join all creation, from the sun, moon, and stars to the wild animals, mountains and trees, in praising your holy name.

One: Holy Spirit, through this worship, move in us and through us. Strengthen our connections to each other and to the natural world so that we recognize creatures great and small, and rivers, hills, and trees as our siblings.

All: Christ our Lord, embolden us to be doers of justice in our local communities and to the ends of the earth so that all people and all creation may know your love and mercy.

One: Amen. Let us join with creation to sing praise.

Opening Hymns All Creatures of our God and King #15 vs. 1-4

V1. All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam, sing praise! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

V2. O brother wind with clouds and rain, you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.
Alleluia! Alleluia! O sister water, flowing clear, make music for your Lord to hear. Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

V3. O brother fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shadows of the night.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds such blessings on our way, sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

V4. All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain or sorrow grieve. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Christ bears your burdens and your fears; so, even in the midst of tears, sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Gretchen Louden

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: Precious God, we humbly come before you this day. By your creative will and design, all life forms took shape out of your holy breath, each for its particular purpose and yet all interdependent. May we remember that before we became different races, ethnicities, and genders, we were cocooned in your holy creative intent alongside the possibility of all creation that was to come - all of us fearfully and wonderfully made, our very design and purpose glorifying you. We acknowledge that all creation comes from and is a reflection of you. Our hearts are heavy with grief at the harm we cause our human and nonhuman kin. We ask your forgiveness. We pray for ourselves and all people to repent and prioritize care of our precious Earth. Beloved creator-God, through your power that is as gentle as a lamb and yet capable as to call worlds into being, we ask that you speak to all hearts to change our ways for the flourishing of all of your wondrous creation.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

(This single minute of quiet is offered to encourage you to share your personal thoughts with God as well as listen to God through the presence of the Holy Spirit.)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Gretchen Louden

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

Gretchen Louden

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

No Sunday School

Children are invited to stay in worship with their families or at the kids table as there is no Sunday school today.

Song of Preparation For the Beauty of the Earth #14 vs. 1,2,4,5

V1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

V2. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light. **Refrain**

V4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild. **Refrain**

V5. For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given; for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven. **Refrain**

~Hearing God's Word~

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD

Gretchen Louden

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 104:1-18

Gretchen Louden

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 104:19-35

Rev. Karen Sapio

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Rev. Karen Sapio

Prayer Song

As the Deer

#626

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee.

You're my friend and You are my brother Even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other so much more than anything.
You alone are my strength, my shield to You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.

Church Meetings
This week:

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Cancelled - Worship Assistant Meeting

Monday, April 20, 2026

7:00pm - Prayer Meeting on Zoom

Tuesday - April 21, 2026

10:00am - Hospitality Meeting

Wednesday - April 22, 2026

2-3pm - Food Pantry Distribution

Thursday - April 23, 2026

10:00pm - Bible Study (Geneva Room)

Coffee hour and Potluck Schedule
(set up, clean up)

Hospitality after Worship fellowship
schedule

April 5: Tola Eley
April 12: Jane Knoop
April 19: Sylvia Cavanaugh or Carol D.
April 26: Carol Dietrich or Cheryl Hunt

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

April 5 - Bill Alessio
April 12 - Gail Herron
April 19 - Gretchen Loudon
April 26 - Kimberlee Roider

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

April 5 - Tola Eley
April 12 - Yeji Cha
April 19 - No Sunday School
April 26 - Kimberlee Roider

For our online worshippers, all are invited to join us on Zoom below is our Zoom Account:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/83626879321](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83626879321)

Meeting ID: 836 2687 9321

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF STOCKTON FOOD PANTRY**

Emergency Need!

Our Food Pantry serves 90-100 families every two weeks, providing a lifeline to our community. Recently there was a lapse in supply from our food sources and we had to use up most of our emergency food reserves.

Can you or a community group you are involved with help us restock our shelves with these staples?

Canned Items - beans, meals (ravioli, chili, etc), meat/fish, fruits, veggies

Other Items - pasta, rice (1-2 lb bags), peanut butter, cookies

Donations can be dropped off in the office
Monday-Thursday 9am-12pm, or by appointment.
We are also always looking for volunteers for our
distributions on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays!

Please email pastorashley@fpcstockton.org
with any questions.



Scholarships Available



Last day to submit application - May 1.
Your **entire application** must be turned in together.
Late applications will not be accepted. You can email, mail or drop-off application to the office.

REQUESTED PRAYERS

The Church Office and members of the church receive several prayer requests each week.

Please pray for:

- Pastor Ashley asked for prayers for her continued improvement from her pneumonia and asthma episode.
- Bill Alessio asked for prayers that all the boy scouts and parents got home safe after they left the camping trip at Beale Air Force Base northern CA because of the storms last weekend. Bill reported the wind, lightning and rain were terrible, the tent flooded and he and Nathan spent the night in wet sleeping bags before they left on Saturday.
- Pastor Ashley asked for prayers for peace and a cease fire in the areas of war. Prayers for guidance, justice and peace. She also gives thanks that the space trip to the moon has landed safely.
- Charlie asks for prayers for healing and comfort for his partner Mark who has a severe foot infection.
- Charlie gives thanks for a successful surgery and asks prayers for healing as he recovers.
- 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. This is her second close friend that has received this news this year. Prayers for healing, and God's mercy and peace on all involved as they cope with this sad news.
- Charlie ask for prayer for his friend Sean Richardson who lost his youngest brother James last night in a car accident. Prayers for comfort as the family grieves.
- Sheryl asked for prayers for her daughter Sheila who works hard to help take care of others.
- Charlie request prayer for his dear friend Shane Humphrey who's cousin Mercedes is in the hospital with cancer and end of life complications. Prayers for strength and comfort and knowledge to make the proper decisions for Mercedes' comfort in these difficult times.
- Mara asked for prayers for the people of Hawaii affected by the rain and flooding.
- Pastor Ashley shared the joy that her dear friend Esther and her husband Danny have welcomed their third child, a son named Matias.
- Sheryl asked for prayers for her, her family, the church family and the world.

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 of Stockton

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am -12 pm

www.fpcstockton.org

Email: office@fpcstockton.org

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or on YouTube at [@FirstPresbyterianStockton](https://www.youtube.com/@FirstPresbyterianStockton)

Board of Elders (Session)

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

Committee Chair

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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