

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Stockton, CA

October 4, 2026 - 10:30 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*

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 4, 2026

~Gathering the Family of God~

Prelude Ludwig van Beethoven: Sonata in C Minor Op. 13 (2nd movement)

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

In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God called them good.

All: Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.

One: What does the Holy One require of us?

All: To do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God.

Leader: Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me... Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

All: Come, Holy Spirit and unite our voices around your table of grace as we sing together with all of creation.

Opening Hymn

I Come With Joy #515 vs. 1-4

Verse 1

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

Verse 2

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

Verse 3

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

Verse 4

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here,
alive among us here.

~Bringing our Whole Selves in Worship~

Call to Reconciliation:

Gail Herron

One: The living water of God is here, bringing renewal and new life. Let us bring our hearts to God in reflection, leaving behind that which holds us back from the love, freedom, and justice of Christ.

All: God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: In baptism you join us to Christ in his death that we might be raised with Christ in new life; but too often we cherish old ways and fail to embrace the risen life of

righteousness, justice, and love. We do not nurture the ways of peace and instead allow enmity to grow among us, setting neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We mistreat the earth you entrust to our care, and live in discord with all you have made. Forgive us when we done wrong by what we have done and left undone. God who continues to create in and through us, heal our brokenness and set us free from all that enslaves us. Raise us to new life in Jesus Christ that we may know the fullness of reconciliation and overflow your life-changing mercy to the world.

(Moment of silent reflection)

Assurance of Forgiveness:

Gail Herron

One: Friends, like rain falling on dry land, we receive the mercy and grace of Jesus who does not give up on us or our world. We are forgiven and immersed in the waters of life that refresh us to rise in God's joy, peace, and purpose.

All: May God our Creator who brought water from the rock sustain us in the desert. May Christ our Lord who is Living Water refresh us for the work of restoration. And may the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Gail Herron

One: The Spirit of God binds us together as a community of faith, to share the love and peace that God so generously bestows on us. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you

One: Amen. Let us greet each other with God's love.

Children's Message and Blessing
Skrabec

Rev. Ashley Love

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

Somos El Cuerpo De Cristo/We Are the Body of Christ #768

Chorus

Somos el cuerpo de Cristo. We are the body of Christ.
Hemos oído el llamado; we've answered "Yes" to the call of the Lord.
Somos el cuerpo de Cristo. We are the body of Christ.
Traemos su santo mensaje. We come to bring the Good News to the world.

Verse 1

Dios viene al mundo a través de nosotros. Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
God is revealed when we love one another. We are the body of Christ.
Al mundo a cumplir la misión de la Iglesia, Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
Bringing the light of God's mercy to others; We are the body of Christ.

Chorus

Verse 2

Cada persona es parte del reino; Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
Putting a stop to all discrimination; We are the body of Christ.
Todas las razas que habitan la tierra, Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
All are invited to feast in the banquet. We are the body of Christ.

Chorus

Verse 3

Que nuestras acciones reflejen justicia; Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
Stopping abuse and relieving the hungry; We are the body of Christ.
Vamos al mundo a cuidar su rebaño. Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
Serving each other we build up the kingdom; We are the body of Christ.

Chorus

~Prayer for Understanding God's Word~

One: Creator Spirit, who hovered over the waters at creation's birth, who descended in the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism, who was poured out under the signs of fire and wind at Pentecost: Come to us, open our hearts and minds, so that we may hear the Word of life and be renewed by your power. Amen.

Reading from the Gospels John 7:37-39 p.g 1660

Gail Herron

Reading from the Early Church Galatians 3:26-29 pg. 1813 **Rev. Ashley Love**

Remembrance of Baptism

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

All: I do.

In whom do you put your trust?

All: In Jesus Christ my Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

All: I will, with God's help.

All: Spirit of the Living God, hover once more over us as you did at creation, energizing us with your life, that as we remember our baptism in Christ, we may be an open conduit of your Holy Spirit flooding all of creation with blessings of your abundant, redeemed life. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus, the living water. Amen.

Reflection Song Now There is No Male or Female #493 vs. 1-2

Verse 1

Now there is no male or female; there is no free or slave;
Now there is no Jew or Gentile in the earth Christ died to save.
Christ has set us free for freedom: we no more sing slavery's creed;
Old submissions cannot claim us; Christ has set us free indeed.

Verse 2

Crucified with Christ the savior, baptized in his holy death,
And as Christ was raised to glory we have new life on this earth.
Power of water and God's naming, turning us from dark to light,
Joins us to those who, before us, ran the race and fought the fight.

Celebration of Communion

Joys and Concerns

The 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 World Communion Offering Video

Doxology

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

Intercessory Prayers for the Season of Creation

All: Where water flows, Lord, let everything live, trees for food and leaves for healing.

~Going Forth to Love and Serve the Lord~

Sending Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth #14 vs. 1-3,5

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

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:

Repeat Refrain

Verse 3

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:

Repeat Refrain

Verse 5

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:

Repeat Refrain

Benediction

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

Choral Amen

Postlude Dave Brubeck: Strange Meadowlark

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.)

Meetings This Month:

October 3 SJPC Pride in the Park 11am

October 4 World Communion Day

October 11 Church Potluck-Veggie

Forward Dishes

October 11-25 Hosting Family Promise

October 14 Food Pantry Distribution at 2 pm

October 19 Spiritual Growth Committee
4 pm on Zoom

October 20 Hospitality

Committee 10:30am

October 21 Finance, Building and
Grounds Committee 9:30am

October 24 Trunk or Treat 4-6pm

October 26 Session Meeting 9:30am

October 28 Food Pantry Distribution at 2 pm

Weekly:

Bible Study at 10 am Thursdays

Evening Bible Study Every 1st and 3rd

Wednesday at 5 pm

Hospitality after Worship Setup/Cleanup

October 4 -- Cheryl

October 11 -- Carol

October 18 -- Jane

October 25 -- Sylvia

Worship Assistants

October 4 – Gail Herron

October 11 -- Craig Holmes

October 18 -- Doug and Cheryl Hunt

October 25 — Gretchen Loudon

Sunday School Volunteers

October 4 – Tola Eley

October 11 --

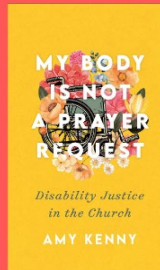
October 18 – Yeji Cha

October 25 – Cynthia Allison

If you are interested in serving with Hospitality, as a Worship Assistant, or as a Sunday School Volunteer, please contact the Office.



Book Discussion and Brainstorming



OCT 25 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

In response to our recent reading of Amy Kenny's book *My Body is Not a Prayer Request*, we will reflect as a church family on Disability Justice and discuss ideas and goals related to accessibility. No reading required- just come with an open mind, courageous heart, and a creative spirit!



Prayer Requests

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

- Charlie asks for prayers for my friend Shane Humphrey and his wife Malani Alexander. Malani's sister was in a car accident and unfortunately passed away. Prayers of peace and comfort during this terrible time of grief.
- Charlie ask for prayers as he starts using a bi-pap machine and that his team is quickly able to get a portable machine approved for his use so he is able to use it full-time.
- Prayers for Sheryl and her family as they grieve the passing of her cousin Denise.
- Prayers for Carol's brother and sister-in-law as they navigate her new health diagnoses.

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
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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.