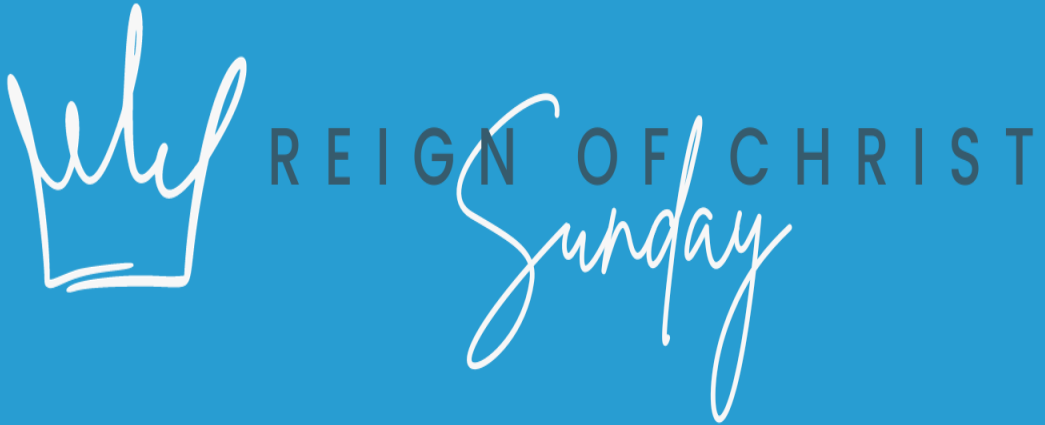


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Stockton, CA**

November 23, 2025 - 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 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/Litany for the Reign of Christ Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec

One: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice!

All: Christ our Emmanuel, God with us, will reign forever and ever.

One: The Lord is robed with majesty and clothed with mercy and strength.

All: Christ our humble Savior will reign forever and ever.

One: God has created the world, and God's faithfulness will never be shaken.

All: Christ our Good Shepherd will reign forever and ever.

One: God will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

All: Christ our Prince of peace will reign forever and ever.

One: In this we find our hope. The kingdoms of this world will pass away, but the reign of our redeemer Jesus Christ, the lamb of God, will remain.

All: Take heart! Christ our Risen Lord will reign forever and ever!

OPENING HYMN O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing **#610 vs. 1-4**

(All are invited to stand in body or spirit.)

- V1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!
- V2. The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease, sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
- V3. Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive; the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.
- V4. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Gretchen Louden

One: In Christ, God came to reconcile all things. Trusting in the One who loved us first and reigns over all that we face, let us confess our sin.

All: **Righteous God, our faith invites us into the eternal truth that Jesus Christ is Lord, reigning over the world God has made, bringing justice and peace and new life. We confess that we can struggle to believe and surrender to Jesus' rule in all of our lives. Forgive us for when we have placed other authorities above Jesus or tried to use Jesus as an agent of human ambition. Free us from despair when change seems impossible and the power of Jesus seems hidden. Remind us how the reign of Christ is so different than the ways earthly rulers wield power. Help us to trust you and learn to follow your voice, especially when the road ahead is uncertain. Thank you for loving, forgiving, restoring, and leading us not as a tyrant but as a good shepherd. Trusting in your faithfulness, we offer these silent prayers of confession.**

A MOMENT FOR CONTEMPLATION

(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: Friends, let us surrender anew to the truth which sets us free.

All: **Jesus our Savior and Friend reigns over all our lives with forgiveness and ever new mercies**

Passing of the Peace

Gretchen Louden

One: The peace of Christ strengthens us to live each day in hope and compassion, knowing that the well of God's love will never run dry. It is this peace that we seek to share in this moment, through our words and heartfelt welcome of each other. May the peace of Christ be with you all!

All: **And also with you**

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

Children's Message and Blessing

Kimberlee Roider

Sunday School is provided for children in preschool through 5th grade. All kids in this age range are invited to come up for the Children's Message and to follow Miss Melanie after the blessing.

Song of Preparation**Blessed Assurance****#839**

(All are invited to stand in body or spirit)

V1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

V2. Perfect communion, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **Refrain**

V3. Perfect submission, all is at rest. I in my Savior am happy and bless'd, watching
and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. **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 Early Church Colossians 1:11-20**Gretchen Louden**

One: The Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

Reading from the Gospel**Luke 1:68-79****Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec**

One: The Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE**Living in God's Reign****Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec****PRAYER SONG****How Can I Keep From Singing?****#821 vs. 1,3,4**

V1. My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation. I hear the clear, though
far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

V3. What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth. What though the
darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. **Refrain**

V4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our parent 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

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

~GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD~

SENDING HYMN

Shine, Jesus Shine

#192

(All are invited to stand in body or spirit.)

V1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus:

Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory. Blaze, Spirit, blaze;
set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

V2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness. Search me; try me; consume all my
Darkness. Shine on me; shine on me. **Chorus**

V3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness; ever
changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me; shine on me. **Chorus**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE Rodgers and Hammerstein: Some Enchanted Evening from South Pacific

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 silently.)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be no zoom coffee hour this morning.

Church Meetings in November

Monday - Nov. 23, 2025

7:00pm - Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting

Wednesday - Nov. 26, 2025

2-3pm - Food Pantry Distribution

Thursday - Nov. 27, 2025

No Bible Study - resume Dec. 3
(Thanksgiving Day)

December 21-27

Family Promise

Coffee hour and Potluck Schedule

(set up, clean up)

After worship fellowship schedule

November 23 - Tola

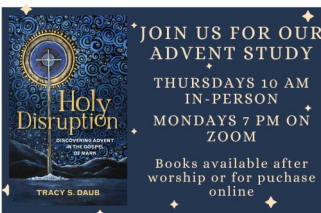
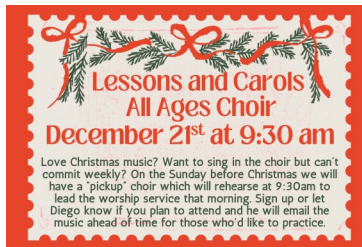
November 30 - Sylvia & Marilyn

December 7 - Carol & Marilyn

December 14 - Jane & Marilyn

December 21 - Cheryl & Marilyn

December 28 - Marilyn



REQUESTED PRAYERS

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

Please pray for:

- Tola asked for prayers for her neighbor, Ron, who found his wife Vicky had passed away in their kitchen Saturday morning. Prayers for God's peace, strength and comfort for Ron, his family and friends during their time of grief.
- Carol shared the joy that the family had gathered on Saturday to celebrate her mother's 102nd birthday and also that of her eldest daughter who is also celebrating her birthday this week. God's blessings on them both.
- Sylvia has asked for prayers for her friend Suzanne, and her family, as hospice has come to help her after struggling for years with kidney failure. May God give them strength and comfort during this difficult time.
- Prayers for comfort and strength for Frances McPherson as she navigates health challenges.
- Cynthia A asked for prayers for her sister Susan who is having a heart procedure this week, and also for safe travel for Cynthia as she goes to be with her.
- Mara asked for prayers for her daughter and family in Finland as they learn to cope with the cold weather and the night that comes at 4:30 pm.
- Radi's son Saic asked for prayers for everyone in the Philippines as they recover from the tsunami and flooding that has hit their country and for people everywhere dealing with disasters.
- Pastor Ashley asked for prayers of protection and peace for people of Sudan and all over the world where there is violence and injustice.
- Pastor Ashley asked for prayers for her husband Chris's co-worker, Ruby, and her family, as they grieve and try to cope with the suicide of a family member.
- Charlie asked for prayers for his friend Sharon and her family as they grieve the loss of her sister this last week. Charlie also asked for prayers for safety and peace for Trans Awareness Month and the upcoming Trans Day of Remembrance.
- Shalise asked for prayers for all those affected by the ICE campaign and to put an end to unjust practice. She also asked for prayers for the government to approve the budget so that all citizens might again receive the food and care they need.
- Cheryl H shared the joy and daily messages that the Presbytery in Columbia sends thanking us for our donations and support. She also shared a video of the flooding in 3 Columbian towns, including churches in the Presbytery, The video showed flooding in the buildings she and Doug stayed in when they visited Columbia. Many homes and a few lives have been lost. Prayers for help for those communities and Gods grace and mercy.
- Marilyn Lloyd requests prayers of healing for her sister Nancy, after fractures caused by a fall.
- Prayers of comfort for all who were affected by the earthquake in the Philippines, and strength for those helping.
- We pray for all those who are on H1B visas and their families as they are shaken by potential changes to their immigration status
- Pastor also asked for prayers for our country and it's leaders, asking for peace and justice for all during this turbulent and difficult time in our country and our world.
- Pastor Ashley requests prayer for all asylum-seekers and immigrants who are living in fear and for all who have been detained or deported without due process.

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

31 E. Vine St.

Stockton, CA 95202

209-465-2653

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

www.fpcstockton.org

Email: office@fpcstockton.org

Like us on



Follow Us on

<http://fpcstockton.org/videos/>
or on YouTube at [@FirstPresbyterianStockton](#)

Board of Elders (Session)—Committee Chair

Charlie Briggs -	Spiritual Growth Co-Chair
Carol Dietrich -	Finance, Buildings & Grounds
Cheryl Hunt -	Hospitality Co-Chair
Jane Knoop -	Nominating and Support & Endowment Co-Chair
Gretchen Loudon -	Hospitality Co-Chair
Kim Roider -	Spiritual Growth Co-Chair
Janet Sepiol -	Personnel and Support & Endowment Co-Chair
Clerk of Session -	Janet Sepiol
Pastor -	Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

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.

Copyright permission is granted through CCLI 477436