

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Stockton, CA

September 27, 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*

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 27, 2026

~Gathering the Family of God~

Prelude

Jarred Wright

(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

Call to Worship **from Psalm 65:5-13**

One: God our Savior, You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds,

All: the hope of all the ends of the Earth and of the farthest seas,

One: who formed the mountains by your power,

All: having armed yourself with strength,

One: who stilled the roaring of the seas,

All: the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.

One: The whole Earth is filled with awe at your wonders;

All: where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.

One: You care for the land and water it;

All: you enrich it abundantly.

One: The streams of God are filled with water

All: to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.

One: You drench its furrows and level its ridges;

All: you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

One: You crown the year with your bounty,

All: and your carts overflow with abundance.

One: The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;

All: the hills are clothed with gladness.

One: The meadows are covered with flocks

All: and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

Opening Hymn

Way Maker

Verse 1

You are here moving in our midst,

We worship you, we worship you

You are here, working in this place

We worship you, we worship you

Chorus

Way Maker, miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness

My God, that is who you are

Way Maker, miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness

My God, that is who you are

Verse 2

You are here touching every heart

We worship you, we worship you

You are here healing every heart

We worship you, we worship you

You are here turning lives around

We worship you, we worship you
You are here, mending every heart
We worship you, we worship you
Repeat Chorus

~Bringing our Whole Selves in Worship~

Call to Reconciliation:

Janet Sepiol

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. In this season of Creation, we are especially reflecting on our calling to care for the natural world and its waters.

All: God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: We thank you for the gift of water — the waters on the Earth, and under the Earth, the waters above us, and within us. Make us mindful of the care of all the planet's waters, that it may richly sustain life for us and for those who come after us. Forgive us when we have consumed water without restraint and polluted what you have created and called good. Forgive us for neglecting to protect the water which nurtures life for our natural world, our neighbors and ourselves. We lament the inequity of water access for all who need it, and we long for a world where all who thirst are satisfied. Jesus our Savior, form us as a church that we might be good news to all of creation. We offer our lives that they would be used for the flourishing of this world that God loves.

(Moment of silent reflection)

Assurance of Forgiveness:

Janet Sepiol

One: God's mercy flows like living water. The love of God, incarnate in Jesus who spoke to troubled waters, forgives us and calms our hearts so that justice may flow to all the dry places in our lives.

All: In the name of Christ, may this grace free us to follow and proclaim the good news of the healing of all creation. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Janet Sepiol

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

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

In Christ Called to Baptize #297 vs. 1-3

Verse 1

In Christ called to baptize, we witness to grace
and gather a people from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ's death,
then, rising to new life, give thanks with each breath.

Verse 2

In Christ called to banquet, one table we share,
a haven of welcome, a circle of care.
Although we are many, we share in one bread.
One cup of thanksgiving proclaims Christ, our head.

Verse 3

In Christ called to witness, by grace we will preach
the life-giving gospel; God's love we will teach.
By grace may our living give proof to our praise
in costly compassion reflecting Christ's ways.

~Prayer for Understanding God's Word~

One: Holy Spirit, we offer this reading of scripture to you. Open our hearts and minds to hear what you are saying to us today.

Reading from the Prophets Ezekiel 47:9-12 pg 1365

Janet Sepiol

Reading from the Early Church Revelation 22:1-7 pg 1938 **Rev. Ashley Love**

Sermon

Eden Restored

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

Prayer Song

O Day of Peace #373

O day of peace that dimly shines
Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
Guide us to justice, truth and love,
Delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands,
Our hearts from envy find release,
Till by God's grace our warring world

Shall see Christ promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
Nor shall the fierce devour the small;
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,
A little child shall lead them all.

Then enemies shall learn to love,
All creatures find their true accord;
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
For all the earth shall know the Lord.

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 Stewardship Season 2026

Gail Herron

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

~Going Forth to Love and Serve the Lord~

Sending Hymn

Shall We Gather at the River #375 vs. 1,3,4

Verse 1

Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Verse 3

Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down;

Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.

Repeat Refrain

Verse 4

Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

Repeat Refrain

**Benediction
Choral Amen**

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

Postlude

Jarred Wright

(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:

September 28 Session Meeting 10:30
am

Weekly:

Book Study at 7 pm on Zoom
Bible Study at 10 am Thursdays
Evening Bible Study Every 1st and 3rd
Wednesday at 5 pm

Hospitality after Worship Setup/Cleanup

September 27-- Jane

Worship Assistants

September 27 – Janet Sepiol

Sunday School Volunteers

September 27 – No Sunday School

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



Announcements



Prayer Requests

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

- Charlie asks for prayer for healing as he is recovering from pneumonia.
- Prayers of gratitude for a wonderful women's retreat last weekend with Carmichael Presbyterian Church.

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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Email: office@fpcstockton.org

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

www.fpcstockton.org

Board of Elders (Session)

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

Committee Chairs

Gretchen Loudon - 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.