

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Stockton, California**

October 5, 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

Opening Hymn In Christ There is No East or West #317 vs. 1-3

V1: In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

V2: In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.

V3: Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec

One: Welcome, all drawn in faith to Jesus Christ our Savior, to the table that he has set.

All: From East and West, North and South we arrive to this feast of grace.

One: Alongside us we find people of every race, culture, language, and homeland.

All: The God who knows us each by name blesses the heartfelt worship we bring, beautiful in the harmony of our diverse voices.

One: God you have made us one in your Spirit, but not the same. We are a mosaic, a tapestry woven together to more fully reveal the pattern of your love and glory.

All: We give thanks to you, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Let us bring our offerings of praise!

Song of Peace

Waymaker

V1: 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

V2: 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

Chorus

Prayer of Reconciliation

BILL ALESSIO

One: Peace can sometimes seem like an abundant spring of life, and can sometimes feel like water in a desert. We know that God is the giver of peace and so in hope, let us lay our hearts before our Maker.

All: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. We look at a world undone by strife, torn by violence, separated by hatred. Yet you call us to walk the way of peace. Forgive us, O Lord, for refusing to follow you on this path because the cost is too high, the direction too confusing, the conditions too harsh. Forgive us our complacency. Grant us clarity of vision to see the light, and the strength to walk behind you. In the power of your Spirit we pray, Amen.

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

BILL ALESSIO

One: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

All: To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

BILL ALESSIO

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

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 Peace**Peace Like A River**

#623

- V1: I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river;
I got peace like a river, in my soul. [Repeat]
- V2: I've got joy like a fountain . . . [Repeat]
- V3: I've got love like an ocean . . . [Repeat]

~ Hearing God's Word ~**Prayer for Understanding God's Word****BILL ALESSIO**

(a moment is given before each scripture reading to invite all to find the passage in the pew Bibles)

- One: Holy God, as we read your word, may your Spirit speak through it that it may be for us the word of life. Amen.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures**Psalm 103:6-22****BILL ALESSIO**

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

Song of Peace**When the Poor Ones**

#762

- V1: When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,
When the thirsty water give unto us all,
When the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.
- V2. When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
When they hope though even hope seems hopeless,
When we love, though hate at times seems all around us,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.
- V3. When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
When our lips can speak no words other than true,
When we know that love for simple things is better,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.
- V4. When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
When we learn how to make peace instead of war,
When each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.

Reading from the Gospels**Luke 1:76-79****Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec**

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

Joys and Concerns**Prayer for World Unity from PC(USA) Book of Common Worship****Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec**

One: O God, you love justice and establish peace on earth. We bring before you the disunity of today's world: the absurd violence, and the many wars, which are breaking the courage of the peoples of the world; militarism and the armaments race, which are threatening life on the planet; human greed and injustice, which breed hatred and strife. Send your Spirit and renew the face of the earth; teach us to be compassionate toward the whole human family; strengthen the will of all those who fight for justice and for peace, and give us that peace which the world cannot give.

Peace Prayer Song

Dona Dobis Pacem

#752

LATIN:
1 Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.
2 Dona nobis pacem. Dona nobis pacem.
3 Dona nobis pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

HEBREW:
Sim shalom, sim shalom, sim shalom.
Sim shalom aleinu.

שים שלום עלינו

ARABIC:
Rabbu habna salamann tamman.
Rabbu habna salamann.
رَبُّ هَيْبِنَا سَلَامًا تَامًا
رَبُّ هَيْبِنَا السَّلَام

Invitation to the Table
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer (in template)
Serving of Bread and Cup

Invitation to Stewardship

Craig Holmes

Invitation to the Offering
Doxology
Offertory
Prayer of Dedication

~GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD~

Sending Hymn

I Come With Joy

#515 vs. 1-3,5

V1. 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.

V2. 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.

V3. 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.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

Antonin Dvorak, arr. William Fisher: Going Home

Diego B.

(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 today.

Church Meetings in October:

Sunday - Oct. 12th
Potluck - "Veggie Forward"

Every Mondays
7:00pm - Weekly Prayer Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday - Oct. 14th
12:30pm - Presbyterian Women
Bible Study in Geneva

Wednesday - Oct. 15th
9:30 am - Finance, Building, and Grounds

Every Thursdays
10:00am - Bible Study - Geneva Rm

Tuesday - Oct. 21st
10:00 am - Hospitality Meeting

Coffee hour (set up, clean up)

Oct. 5 - Sylvia Cavanaugh/Marilyn Franklin

Oct. 12 - Carol Dietrich/Marilyn Franklin

Oct. 19 - Jane Knoop/Marilyn Franklin



REQUESTED PRAYERS

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

Please pray for:

- Doug and Cheryl are grateful for your prayers for courage, strength, and hope: their daughter-in-law Rebecca is continuing the long healing process of the new ankle; our friends Zeke, Ami, Peter, and Mark are healing from the trauma of gun violence. It was a joy to worship with all of them. We pray for the transformation of the person who was driven to take another life. We are thankful for all the people who are seeking to respond to the despair and fear in the hearts of many of our neighbors that leads so many in our nation to hateful actions that destroy lives and families. May we choose love.
- Shalise requests prayers for her sons. Also for prayers for all the women at her residence, that they might live in harmony and peace. She thanks God for her job, and would like to find another one so she could then move into a place of her own.
- Pastor Ashley announced that she had been elected to be Moderator of the Presbytery and asked for prayers for God's guidance (and strength) in all the work this job entails over the next couple of years.
- Prayer of peace for Frances McPherson as she adjusts to her new location at Brookside.
- Mara reported that her daughter-in-law gave birth! May God bless her son's growing family.
- Mary Lou Hover request prayer as she deals with rough moments due to her pain of arthritis. Praying for healing and comfort.
- Prayers for Gretchen's family as they grieve the loss of her brother-in-law who passed suddenly.
- 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

To keep the list of prayer requested current, would you please update your requests as the subject of your request improves or transitions. Of the requests that remain static they will be moved off the list after a month until further information on them is available. Please contact the Church Office or Pastor Ashley, if you have any questions or concerns.

First Presbyterian Church of Stockton

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

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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 Louden -	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.

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