

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Stockton, CA

August 23, 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*

~Gathering the Family of God~

Prelude

Robert Schumann: Träumerei

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

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God!

All: Day to day and night to night, unending is their silent speech of beauty and wonder.

One: How shall we join their joyful witness?

**All: With words that proclaim God's inclusive love,
with works that bring forth God's powerful justice,
with worship that rejoices in God's wondrous presence, now and always.
Amen!**

Opening Hymn

God is Calling through the Whisper #410 vs. 1-3

Verse 1

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling – can you hear? God is calling – can you hear?

Verse 2

God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needling; strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling – can you hear? God is calling – can you hear?

Verse 3

God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling – and we hear! God is calling – and we hear!

~Bringing our Whole Selves in Worship~

Call to Reconciliation:

Kimberlee Roider

One: One: Forgiveness and reconciliation don't accomplish much if we are not willing to first admit what is wrong. Let us bring our honesty to God as we ask for deep healing and peace.

All: Holy God, you have given us the freedom to choose your way. You have told us what is good. Jesus has shown us the commandments to love God and love neighbor, giving us an example and teaching us the way. And yet we confess that, too often, we fail to do what is good and right. Afraid to be seen as moralistic, we do not say what needs to be said. Afraid of being ineffective, we do not dare to do what needs to be done. Forgive us, we pray and, in your abundant mercy, recall us to your ways. Give us courage to act and wisdom to hold ourselves to a standard of grace and truth. Remind us again that you have made us and walk this road with us. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ.

(Moment of silent reflection)

Assurance of Forgiveness:

Kimberlee Roider

One: Friends, it is for freedom that we are set free. Hear and believe the good news of the gospel.

All: Standing in the light of God's mercy, we are seen, loved, forgiven, and led in paths of justice and peace!

Passing of the Peace

Kimberlee Roider

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

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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise #12 vs. 1-3

Verse 1

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Verse 2

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

Verse 3

To all life thou givest, to both great and small.
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

~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 Early Church Romans 12:9-21 pg 1764 **Kimberlee Roider**

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

Reading from the Gospels Matthew 16:21-28 pg 1524 **Rev. Ashley Love**

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

Sermon

The Divine Kaleidoscope

Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec

Prayer Song

Servant Song #727 vs. 1-4

Verse 1

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

Verse 2

We are pilgrims on a journey, we're together on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

Verse 3

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

Verse 4

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

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

Doxology

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

~Going Forth to Love and Serve the Lord~

Sending Hymn

Here I Am Lord #69 vs. 1-2

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night;
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Repeat Refrain

Benediction
Choral Amen
Postlude

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

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.)

Announcements

Meetings This Month:

August 31 Session Meeting 10:30 am

Weekly:

Book Study at 7 pm on Zoom

Bible Study at 10 am Thursdays

Hospitality after Worship Setup/Cleanup

August 30 -- Jane

September 6 -- Sylvia

September 13 -- Carol

September 20 -- Carol

September 27 -- Jane

Worship Assistants

August 30 -- Kimberlee Roider

September 6 -- Carol Dietrich

September 13 -- Eleanor Lawrence

September 20 -- Bill Alessio

September 27 -- Janet Sepiol

Sunday School Volunteers

August 30 -- Tola Eley

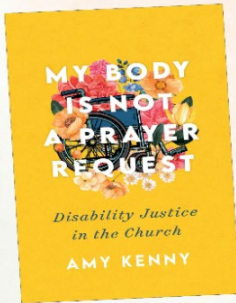
September 6 -- Tola Eley

September 13 -- Yeji Cha

September 20 -- Cynthia Allison

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.



**BOOK STUDY
MONDAY
EVENINGS AT 7PM
ON ZOOM**

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

**CHECK EMAIL FOR
THE ZOOM LINK**

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

**10 AM IN THE GENEVA
ROOM AT FPCS**

Join us for a time of meditative
Bible study, reflection, discussion,
music, and fellowship.



**STARTING IN
SEPTEMBER!**

New Bible Study!

**1st and 3rd Wednesdays
5-6:15 pm at Charlie's home
(contact office for address and gate instructions)**

**Pastor Ashley will lead with a
similar format to our Thursday
morning Bible study, featuring a
meditative style of reading
scripture called lectio divina,
music, and prayer. All are
welcome!**





Prayer Requests

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

- Pastor Ashley asks for prayers for Family Promise leader Jory and his wife, who recently welcomed twins at 27 weeks and need prayers for the family and the babies as they grow to maturity and can go home soon.
- Cheryl offers prayers of thanksgiving that we could send help to Colombia. Four trucks were loaded with food and sent to help the victims of the earthquakes.
- Eleanor asks prayers for the son of her friend and their family. He fell and had a brain bleed. Prayers for his rehab and recovery.
- Shalise asks for prayers for the ladies in her house and also for her health and her son's health.
- Sheryl asks for safe travels for her daughter, who is coming to visit.
- Sol asks for prayers that his oldest cat will live well. He is 16 years old!

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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Stockton, CA 95202

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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 Louden and Janet Sepiol

Committee Chairs

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.