

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Stockton, CA

**August 9, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.**



*Jesus Walks on Water painting by Tracy Council*

## **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*

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**August 9, 2026**

**~Gathering the Family of God~**

**Prelude** Franz Schubert: Waltz in G-flat Major "Kupelwieser" **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: Glory to God for this new day!

**All: Each sunrise declares the faithfulness of our Creator**

One: Glory to God for this community of faith!

**All: Jesus Christ brings us together as one body united by his love and grace**

One: Glory to God for this opportunity to worship together!

**All: Let us turn our hearts to God and join our voices in response to the Holy Spirit who guides us in all seasons of life**

**Opening Hymn**

**Be Thou My Vision #450**

**Verse 1**

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

**Verse 2**

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father and I, Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

**Verse 3**

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart;  
O King of glory, my treasure Thou art.

**Verse 4**

O King of glory, my victory won;  
Rule and reign in me 'til Thy will be done;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall;  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**~Bringing our Whole Selves in Worship~**

**Call to Reconciliation:**

**Craig Holmes**

One: While we come from many different backgrounds and carry diverse life stories, we all have this in common: we all need God's forgiveness and grace. Let us offer our humility and honesty, that we may be open to the Spirit moving us today.

**All: Redeeming God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and strength, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We bring you our offering of honesty and trust, knowing that we have strayed from your commandments. We lament the violence and division in our world. We know all too well the hatred we find in ourselves and in our societies. It can be difficult to believe that the high road is worth taking, or that our efforts to make peace can bear fruit. Forgive us for our apathy and wrongdoing. Heal us and teach us to respond to the dark not with more darkness, but with Your light of truth and compassion.**

(Moment of silent reflection)

One: Scripture assures us that nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Hear and believe the good news of the gospel.

**All: If anyone is in Christ they are a new creation! Let us take hold of this promise and affirm together that we are forgiven and freed.**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Craig Holmes**

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**

Blessing of the Backpacks (see insert)

**~Listening to Scripture~**

## **Song of Preparation**

In the Bulb there is a Flower #250

### **Verse 1**

In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

### **Verse 2**

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

### **Verse 3**

In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity,  
in our death, a resurrection, at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

## **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 10:5-15 pg 1760 **Craig Holmes**

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

**Reading from the Gospels** Matthew 14:22-33 pg 1520 **Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec**

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

**Sermon** **A Faith that Keeps on Leaping**

**Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec**

## **Prayer Song**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand #834

Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,  
when my life is almost gone, hear my cry,  
hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

## 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

Blessed Assurance #839 vs. 1,3

##### Verse 1

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O, 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.

##### Verse 3

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest;  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

##### Repeat Refrain

#### Benediction

**Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec**

#### Choral Amen

**Postlude** Carole Bayer Sager and David Foster: The Prayer **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



### Hospitality after Worship Setup/Cleanup

August 9: Carol/Marilyn

August 16: Jane/Marilyn

August 23: Sylvia/Marilyn

August 30: Jane

### Worship Assistants

August 9 – Craig Holmes

August 16 – Doug and Cheryl Hunt

August 23 – Gretchen Loudon

August 30 – Kimberlee Roider

### Sunday School Volunteers

August 9 – Kimberlee Roider

August 16 – Autumn Alessio

August 23 – Sylvia Cavanaugh

August 30 --

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

### Meetings This Month:

**August 9** Church Potluck "Salad Spectacular"

**August 12** Food Pantry Distribution at 2 pm

**August 17** Spiritual Growth Committee 4 pm on Zoom

**August 18** Hospitality Committee at 10 am

**August 20** UOP Service Day 8:30 am to 12 pm

**August 24** Session Meeting 10:30 am

**August 26** Food Pantry Distribution at 2 pm

**August 29** Native Core Overdose Awareness Event 11 am to 4 pm

### Weekly:

Book Study at 7 pm on Zoom

Bible Study at 10 am Thursdays



## Prayer Requests

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

- Prayers for Charlie as he navigates possible new diagnoses and as he adjusts to additional accommodations for mobility and safety.
- Prayers for safety and a wonderful adventure for Gretchen as she travels in Tanzania.
- Sheryl requests prayers for her aunt who is going through Alzheimers.
- Shaliese asked for prayers for peace for her daughter and continued prayers her son, her house, and prayers for herself and her health.
- Sung asked for prayers of healing as his son, Sol took a fall there and broke his nose, but it seems to be healing well and no surgery will be required.
- Rosalie asked for prayers for the people around Spokane WA who are being evacuated or in peril because of the fires, and also for the firefighters and volunteers.
- Mara requests prayers for those facing deportation to dangerous or unstable locations, especially those being deported to Haiti.
- Prayers for Maurice's (who volunteers for the food pantry) Wife Charlene as she had a very serious surgery this week. He asks for prayers for her healing and positivity as she begins to recover.
- Pastor Ashley also asked for prayers of comfort and healing to all those affected by the shootings in Idaho.

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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[www.fpcstockton.org](http://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.**