

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Stockton, CA**

January 14, 2024 —11:00 a.m.



JANUARY 14, 2024

~GATHERING THE FAMILY OF GOD~

PRELUDE

Jun Lee

(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

Star of Glory

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Ashley

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

One: God our loving parent, who gathers us up in the sturdy and tender arms of unconditional love,

All: Some of us come weeping with loss, and some come laughing with joy. We come with both broken and grateful hearts, clear and cluttered minds

One: With wonder we find that there is space for all that we bring and all that we are here at the foot of the cross.

All: In faith, we come to worship, drawing near to Jesus Christ, seeking rest and renewal for our souls

One: Amen, let us wake up our spirits to sing!

GATHERING HYMN 10,000 REASONS

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

Chorus: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, worship God's holy Name. Sing like never before, O my soul. I'll worship Your holy Name.

Verse 1: The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning; It's time to sing Your song again. Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me, Let me be singing when the evening comes.

Chorus

Verse 2: You're rich in love and You're slow to anger, Your Name is great and Your heart is kind; For all Your goodness I will keep on singing, Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Chorus

Verse 3: And on that day when my strength is failing, The end draws near and my time has come; Still my soul will sing Your praise unending, Ten thousand years and then forevermore.

Call to Reconciliation

Gretchen Louden

One: In a culture that so often demands perfection or at least the appearance of it, admitting we need forgiveness and help is a revolutionary act. Trusting in God's great love that enfolds us before we could ever earn it, let us lay down our burdens in honesty.

All: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

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: Beloved of God, let us receive with joy the good news which sets us free.

All: We are welcomed, forgiven, and redeemed by our Savior Jesus Christ!

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

AMAZING GRACE

#649 vs. 1,3,5

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

Verse 1: Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

Verse 3: Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come. 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

Verse 5: When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Let there not be strangers here, but friends and fellow travelers joined together by the God who knows each of us by name. May the peace of Jesus Christ our Messiah be with you all.

All: And also with you

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

Children's Message & Blessing**~Hearing God's Word~****Prayer for Understanding God's Word**

One: Holy Spirit, we ask that you would prepare our minds and hearts to hear what you are saying to us today. May we see the light and be changed, reflecting Your grace in all we do. Amen.

Reading from the Psalms

One: The Word of the Lord

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

All: Thanks be to God

Gretchen Louden

Reading from the Gospels

One: The Word of the Lord

John 1:43-51

All: Thanks be to God

Rev. Ashley Love

MESSAGE**KNOWN AND CALLED****INVITATION TO THE OFFERING****PRAYER OF DEDICATION****DOXOLOGY**

#606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all people here below; praise God above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER SONG**Indescribable**

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

Verse 1: From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea, creation's revealing Your majesty. From the colors of Fall to the fragrance of Spring, every creature unique in the song that it sings, all exclaiming.

Chorus: Indescribable, uncontainable You placed the stars in the sky and you know them by name, You are amazing God. All powerful, untamable, awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim You are amazing, God.

Verse 3: Who has told every lightening bolt where it should go or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow? Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light yet cancels us to bring us the coolness of night? None can fathom...

Chorus

Affirmation of Faith, Based on the Writings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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.

Ordination and Installation of Elders for 2024

(See Insert)

~GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD~

SENDING HYMN

Here I Am , Lord

#69

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

Verse 1: 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.

Verse 2: 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?

Refrain

Verse 3: I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

BENEDICTION CHORAL AMEN

Rev. Ashley

POSTLUDE

Jun Lee

(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 is no Zoom Coffee Hour due to January Potluck.

We hope you can join us for **Bible Study** this Thursday at **10 am** in the Geneva Room.

Annual Congregation Meeting January 28th

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 28th following worship. If you are a member, please plan to join us. The business to be conducted is as follows:

Receive the 2024 budget and the 2023 Annual Report
Vote on the 2024 Pastoral Terms of Call for Pastor Ashley
Annual Corporate Meeting

This Week

Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 15th
FB&G Meeting - Tuesday, January 16th (10am)
Session Meeting - January 21st (following worship)

Later This Month

Food Pantry Distribution – January 24th
Annual Congregational Meeting - January 28th (following worship)

REQUESTED PRAYERS

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

- Maya, Marilyn Lloyd's grandniece, is recovering from surgery and resting from Phase 2 of chemotherapy. She will remain in the hospital until approximately next March. Prayers for strength and courage for her, her family, and her friends
- Frances McPherson-Mendez is at Fulton Gardens in Stockton, Room 4A. She is very discouraged that she can't put pressure on her foot to walk yet. Please pray for healing and comfort for Frances and wisdom for the doctors caring for her.
- Mara Duffy's friend Sarah, who has some health concerns, is doing better, but her mother, Rebecca, is having a hard time with it. Pray for healing and peace.
- Mara Duffy's friend Brandi, has a tumor behind her eyes. We give thanks that the tumor is responding to medication so no chemo is needed at this time. Brandi's mother had a successful quadruple bypass surgery but is in some pain. Prayers for her recovery process and relief from pain..
- Prayers for healing for Allison, Tola's young friend who is undergoing chemotherapy for stomach cancer.
- Prayers for the families that surround all those whose loved ones have serious illnesses.
- Prayers of comfort and strength for Eleanor's friend Denise and son Hunter as they grieve their husband and father Bob who recently died from cancer.
- Prayers for Marie Holly, granddaughter of Sue Sherrow, who at age 20 just had a heart transplant.
- Charlie requests prayers for his friends Nicole and Francesca as they recover from Covid.
- We continue to pray for DeDe, Tola's friend, for strength and peace to enjoy her family as she continues her treatment for her brain tumor.
- We grieve with Sheryl Stagg and her family at the passing of their Aunt Debra.
- We are thankful that Charlie is out of the hospital and we pray that he may continue to heal and gain strength.
- Prayers for Kim Roider's friend, Jenny, who has a broken femur and is awaiting surgery.
- Prayers of healing for Mary Lou Hover following a surgery for a broken hip.
- Prayers for the Zuckerman family and all who are grieving our dear friend Margaret Zuckerman.

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.

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm

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Board of Elders (Session)—Committee Chair

Bill Alessio—Personnel

Sylvia Cavanaugh—Congregational Care

Carol Dietrich—Fellowship and Finance, Buildings & Grounds

Gail Herron—Stewardship

Craig Holmes—Support & Endowment

Cheryl Hunt—Mission

Kim Roider—Christian Education and Scholarship

Charlie Briggs—Worship & Music

Clerk: Janet Sepiol

Pastor: Rev. Ashley M. Love

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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