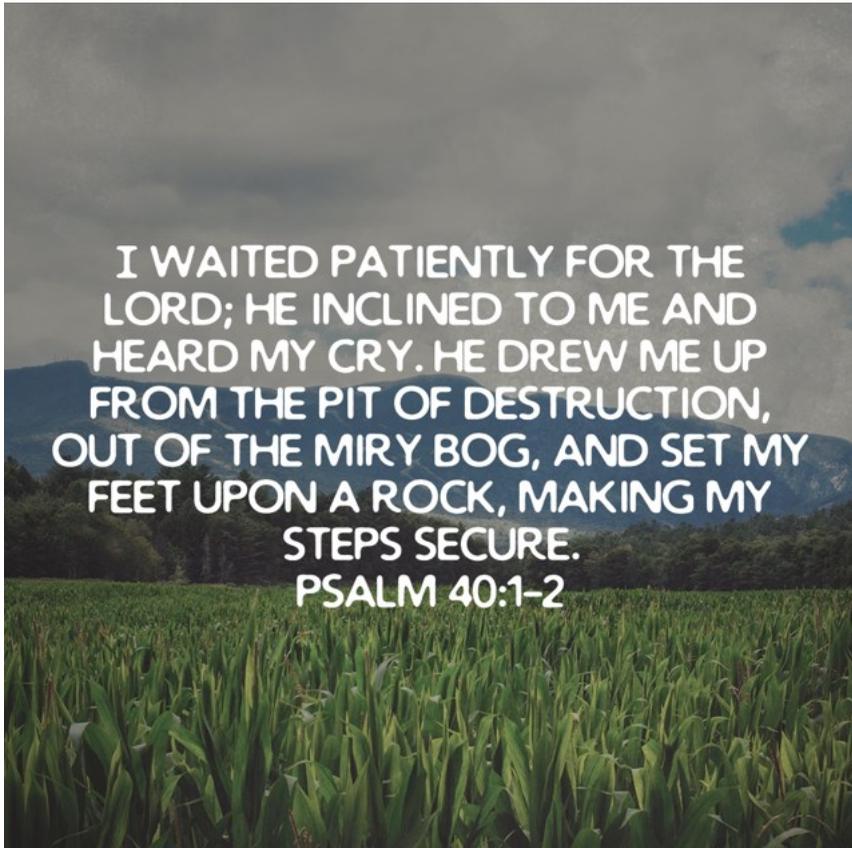


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Stockton, CA**

January 18, 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 **Domenico Scarlatti: Sonata in E Major K. 380** **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

Gretchen Louden

One: Come, bring your heart to the One who knows you and loves you without condition.

All: God's faithfulness and goodness stretch higher than the sky.

One: Come, bring your hurts and hopes to the Savior who came not for the healthy, but for the sick.

All: Jesus Christ came to preach good news to the poor, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim freedom to captives.

One: Come, bring your questions and your needs to the great Comforter of our souls.

All: The Breath of God is surely here, giving us life and leading us in paths of righteousness.

One: Amen, let us wake up our spirits in song.

OPENING HYMN

God is Here!

#409 vs. 1,3,4

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

Verse1: God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Verse3: Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Verse4: Lord of all of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive: we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Gretchen Louden

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 live in a time of rising fear and conflict. It is hard to know where to look and what to do in the midst of all that is weighing on our minds and hearts. Especially here, we need to remember our identity as beloved children of God and our calling as disciples of Jesus. Where we have done wrong by what we have done or left undone, forgive us we pray. When our minds have been consumed with despair and hatred, we offer them up to you to be shaped instead by your strong love and justice. Open our eyes to see the path of faithfulness and give us courage to take it. Shine your light of truth and peace in our hearts that we might be strengthened for the living of these days.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

(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: Let us lift our heads and release our clenched hands. The God who came to be with us in Jesus Christ will surely not abandon us or turn us away.

All: Let us believe the good news of God's grace! We are forgiven and free!

Passing of the Peace

Gretchen Louden

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. What a gift it is to be together today. Let us greet each other with joy!

Children's Message and Blessing

Rev. Karen Sapio

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 Preparation

I Need Thee Every Hour

#735 vs. 1-3

Verse1: I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord; no tender voice like thine
can peace afford.

Refrain: I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee! O bless me now, my
Savior—I come to thee!

Verse2: I need thee every hour; stay thou near by; temptations lose their power
when thou art nigh. **Refrain**

Verse3: I need thee every hour; teach me thy will, and thy rich promises in me
fulfill. **Refrain**

~Hearing God's Word~

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD

Gretchen Louden

One: Holy Spirit, thank you for your word. Open our hearts and minds to hear what
you are saying to us today.

Reading from the Psalm

Psalms 40

Gretchen Louden

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Reading from the Gospels

John 1:29-42

Rev. Karen Sapio

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Jesus Opening Lines

Rev. Karen Sapio

Prayer Song

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

#300

Verse1: We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord; we are one in the
Spirit; we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be
restored:

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes they'll
know we are Christians by our love.

Verse2: We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand; we will walk
with each other; we will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land:

Refrain

Verse3: We will work with each other; we will work side by side; we will work with each other; we will work side by side, and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride.
Refrain

Verse4: All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son, and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
Refrain

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Karen Sapio

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

~GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD~

Sending Hymn

O God in Whom all Life Begins

#308

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

Verse1: O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit, bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root. Bring forth in use the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace; deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.

Verse2: Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts. So let our varied gifts combine to glorify your Name that in all things by word and deed we may your love proclaim.

Verse3: Through tears and laughter, grief and joy, enlarge our trust and care; so bind us in community that we may risk and dare. Be with us when we gather here to worship, sing, and pray; then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

Pauline Viardot: Menuet from Cendrillon (Cinderella)

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.)

Church Meetings

Sunday - Jan. 18, 2026

Potluck today after worship service

Monday - Jan. 19, 2026

No Weekly Prayer Meeting this week.

Thursday - Jan. 22, 2026

No Bible Study meeting this week

Coffee hour and Potluck Schedule **(set up, clean up)**

Hospitality after Worship fellowship
schedule

January 4 - Sylvia Cavanaugh

January 11 - Carol Dietrich

January 18 - Jane / Gretchen (cleanup)

January 25 - Sylvia Cavanaugh

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

January 4 - Eleanor Lawrence

January 11 - Bill Alessio

January 18 - Gretchen Loudon

January 25 - Craig Holmes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be no Zoom Coffee Hour this morning.

Sunday School Volunteers

January 4 - Melanie/Tola Eley

January 11 - Melanie/Yeji Cha

January 18 - Melanie/Cynthia Alison

January 25 - Melanie/Sylvia Cavanaugh

Call to Congregational Meeting:

Sunday, January 25, 2026,
Immediately following worship.

The following business will be conducted:

- Receive the 2026 Budget and the 2025 Annual Report
- Vote on the 2026 Terms of Call for Pastor Love Skrabec
- Annual corporate meeting Change of By-Law

Office will be closed on
January 18, 2026

Also, Pastor Ashley will
be on vacation week of
18th.



REQUESTED PRAYERS

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

Please pray for:

- Jerry Weber shared the joy that his nephew Nick had a new baby.
- Charlie requested prayers for Gretchen's sister, Sheila, who was in the hospital for Gallbladder surgery for speedy recovery.
- Cheryl thanked all who helped with Family Promise during Christmas week - especially those who came out to visit with the families. They really appreciate the help and welcome.
- Craig asked for prayers of peace and comfort for his son-in-law, Kevin and daughter Michelle, and the families, as Kevin lost his Mother last week.
- Radi request continuous prayers and protection her son, Saic and the whole family.
- Mara requested prayers for reconciliation for Stockton's mayor and city manager
- Craig stated a concern that after Saturday's shootings in Stockton he was reminded of the Cleveland School shooting in Stockton 36 years ago. He reported that nothing has changed since that horrible incident, and asked for prayers for our community and it's leadership that that something can change and we never have a repeat of this violence here.
- Pastor Ashley asked for prayers of protection and peace for people of Sudan and all over the world where there is violence and injustice.
- Shalise asked for prayers for all those affected by the ICE campaign and to put an end to unjust practice.
- 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.
- 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 of Stockton

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Stockton, CA 95202

209-465-2653

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

www.fpcstockton.org

Email: office@fpcstockton.org

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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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