

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Stockton, CA

July 12, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.



"The Sower" by Vincent Van Gogh, 1888

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*

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 12, 2026

~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/Call to Worship

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

One: This is the day the Lord has made

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: We find our rest in the eternal arms of God

All: Jesus Christ, our home which can never be moved

One: Come Holy Spirit, awaken our spirits from slumber

All: Tune our hearts to sing your praise!

Opening Hymn

All Our Hope

Chorus

God of love, inspire us

Move us if we stay

God of hope, keep showing us

The life, the truth, the way

Verse 1

There is hope for us, the imperfect ones

From a God who loves and draws us in

There is life over death, there is new born breath

Resurrection pow'r that lives within

All our hope, all our hope is them **Chorus**

Verse 2

There's an open door for the weak and poor

All the lost and broken hearts who gather here

By a father's strength and a mother's grace

All will find their way past shame and fear

All our peace, all our peace is here **Chorus**

Verse 3

There's a holy breath working through our mess
All our wrongs cannot restrain the life it gives
There is hope of grace, new with every day
Sin is lost where love is found and darkness ends
God gave life so that we may live **Chorus**

~Bringing our Whole Selves in Worship~

Call to Reconciliation:

Eleanor Lawrence

One: We long for reconciliation in our world but we know that we don't get far without first admitting the wrongdoing we find in ourselves and our world. Let us bring our honesty to God as we ask for deep healing and lasting peace.

All: Gracious God, the sins in our world 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.

(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

Eleanor Lawrence

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

God of the Sparrow #22 vs. 1,3,4

Verse 1

God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

Verse 3

God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

Verse 4

God of the hungry
God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

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 Psalms Psalm 119: 105-112 Pg. 962 **Eleanor Lawrence**
Reading from the Early Church Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 Pg.1516 **Rev. Ashley L**

Sermon The Inefficiency of Unconditional Grace **Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec**

~Responding in Faith~

Prayer Song

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying #469

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

One: God of grace **All: Hear our prayer.**

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

O God in Whom All Life Begins #308

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 us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace;
Deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.

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.

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.

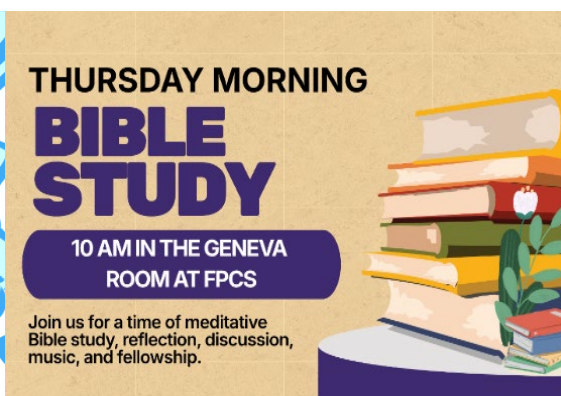
Benediction
Choral Amen

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

Postlude Meredith Willson: Till There Was You, from The Music Man **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 quietly.)

Announcements



Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers!

Setup/Cleanup

July 12: Carol/Gretchen

July 19: Jane

July 26: Jane, Gretchen

Worship Assistants

July 12: Eleanor Lawrence

July 19: Bill Alessio

July 26: Gretchen Loudon

Sunday School Volunteers

July 12: Autumn Alessio

July 19: Cynthia Allison

July 26: Sylvia Cavanaugh



Weekly Meetings:

Monday Book Study at 7pm on Zoom

Bible Study at 10am on Thursdays

Scholarships Announced By Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that 5 scholarships have been awarded this year.

- Matt Boga, who is a member of Reality Church, is attending Phoenix Seminary in pursuit of a Doctor of Ministry.
- Chase Hanker, Tola Eloy's grandson, is attending the University of Nevada – Reno and majoring in Criminal Justice.
- Ryan Hanker, Tola Eloy's grandson, is Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and majoring in Recreation and Tourism.
- William Buckley, Helen Mar's grandson and Bill and Tamara Buckley's son, is attending Stanislaus State and majoring in Business Administration.
- Jayden Roider, Earl and Kim Roider's grandson, is attending CSU Long Beach and majoring in Cinematic Arts.

Prayer Requests

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

- Prayers of encouragement, strength, and healing for Marilyn's cousin Bill as he undergoes treatment for prostate cancer.
- Pastor Ashley asked for prayers for the victims of the Venezuela earthquakes and the miracles of still finding people alive. Pray for people who lost loved ones, homes, jobs, everything, and also prayers for the volunteers who are still providing food, shelter and assistance for this great tragedy. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is raising funds to help those who have suffered such great loss. Contact the office see how to help.
- Craig asked for prayers of healing for his wife, Denise, who had surgery this week for her arm.
- Cheryl asked for prayers for her friends Diego and Neiza from Columbia who are suffering from great physical pain that is leaving them unable to work.
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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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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 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.

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