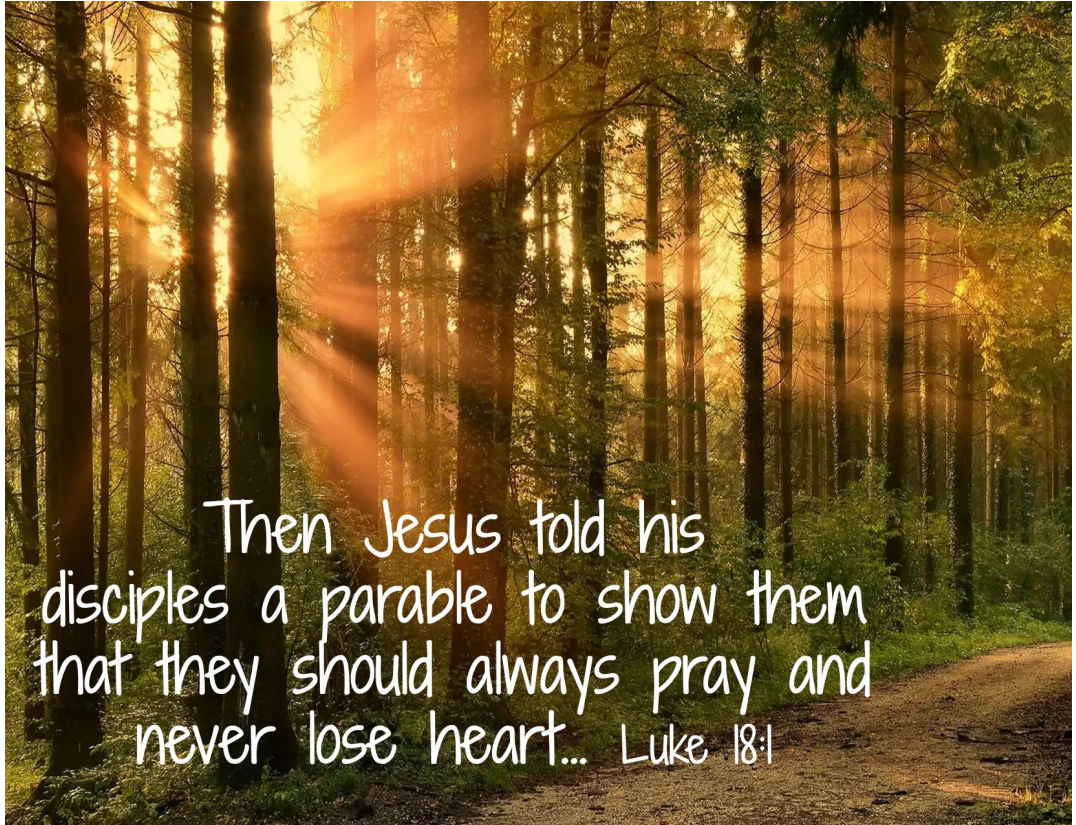


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Stockton, CA**

October 19, 2025 - 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 **J.S. Bach: Prelude in C Major, WTC Book I Young** **DIEGO B.**
(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 L. Skrabec

One: One: This is the day the Lord has made

All: We will rejoice and be glad in it

One: Jesus said: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens

All: And I will give you rest.

One: Beloved of God, let us remember the source of our hope

All: We are seen, loved, forgiven, and called by our Redeemer Jesus Christ

One: Amen, let us worship together.

OPENING HYMN **O God, You Are My God (Step by Step)** **# 743**
(All are invited to stand in body or spirit.)

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways.

And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Gretchen Loudon

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: God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world to reveal your love for all people. And yet, often our eyes are so used to the dark that we have a hard time trusting that you really came to love, forgive, and redeem us. Awaken our hope to find again the truth that sets us free. Jesus our peace, teach us again what it means to love God and our neighbor. In your great mercy, cleanse us of our sin and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that we may live in Your light. 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: God sent Christ not to condemn us, but to save us. Let those who have been set free by the mercy of Jesus proclaim with joy that we are free indeed!

All: In Jesus Christ we are liberated from sin and rooted in heaven's justice and peace, no matter what storms we face. Hallelujah!

Passing of the Peace

Gretchen Louden

One: The peace of Christ strengthens us to live each day in hope and compassion, knowing that the well of God's love will never run dry. It is this peace that we seek to share in this moment, through our words and heartfelt welcome of each other. May the peace of Christ be with you all!

All: And also with you

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

Children's Message and Blessing

Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec

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 There is a Longing in Our Hearts #470 vs. 1,2 **(All are invited to stand in body or spirit)**

Refrain: There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts, for love we only find in you, our God

V1: For justice, for freedom, for mercy, hear our prayer. In sorrow, in grief, be near,
hear our prayer, o God

V2: For wisdom, for courage, for comfort, hear our prayer. In weakness, in fear, be
near, hear our prayer, o God

~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 Hebrew Scriptures Jeremiah 31:31-34 Gretchen Louden

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

Reading from the Gospels

Luke 18:1-8

Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

MESSAGE

Heart Maintenance

Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec

PRAYER SONG

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

#465

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

- V1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!
- V2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
- V3. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer! Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

~GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD~

SENDING HYMN

How Great Thou Art

#625

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

V1. O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art!
How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee: How great thou are! How great thou art!

V2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees, when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: **Refrain**

V3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin: **Refrain**

V4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" **Refrain**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ashley L. 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 silently.)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be No Coffee Hour today.

Church Meetings in October:

Sunday - October 19, 2025

After Worship - Trunk or Treat
Planning/Information Meeting

Monday - October 20, 2025

7:00pm - Weekly Prayer Meeting
(Zoom)

Tuesday - October 21, 2025

10:00am - Hospitality Committee
Meeting

Wednesday - October 22, 2025

2:00pm -3:00pm Food Pantry
(Gym)

Thursday - October 23, 2025

10:00am - Bible Study
(Geneva Room)

Tuesday - November 4, 2025

12:30 pm- Presbyterian Women

December 21-27

Family Promise

Coffee hour and Potluck Schedule

(set up, clean up)

- ♦ October 19 - Jane K./ Marilyn F.



If interested, sign-up sheets are available in the office or see Pastor Ashley.

Thank you!

REQUESTED PRAYERS

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

Please pray for:

- Marilyn Lloyd requests prayers of healing for her sister Nancy, after fractures caused by a fall.
- Sheryl shared a joy that Lee's foot is healed.
- Shalise requests prayers for those who have lost their jobs in the Government Shutdown and for a second job and health for herself.
- Sheryl shared a joy that her daughter is blessed to have a stable job and asked for prayers that all goes well.
- Prayers for peace and safety for all of the hostages and prisoners exchanged as part of the ceasefire in Gaza.
- Prayers of comfort for all who were affected by the earthquake in the Philippines, and strength for those helping.
- Shalise asked for prayer for her son and his father and to be able to see her son soon. She also asked for prayers for peace and harmony all over the world during these troubled times.
- Mara shared a joy that her friend Sophia (who has been helping us with the food pantry) and her daughter Katalia came to church today with her.
- Radi asked for prayers for her son Sid as he continues to heal. Radi also asked for prayers for healing after her fall, and for strength to prevent any more falls.
- Sylvia announced that Frances has moved to another care facility. She is now at the Clearwater Health Center at [1517 Knickerbocker Dr. Stockton 95210](#). Frances requests continued prayers for healing, comfort and peace.
- Mary Lou Hover request prayer as she deals with rough moments due to her pain of arthritis. Praying for healing and comfort.
- Prayers for Gretchen's family as they grieve the loss of her brother-in-law who passed suddenly.
- 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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or on YouTube at [@FirstPresbyterianStockton](#)

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 Loudon -	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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