

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Stockton, CA

MAY 10, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU
ORPHANED; I AM COMING
TO YOU. IN A LITTLE WHILE
THE WORLD WILL NO
LONGER SEE ME, BUT YOU
WILL SEE ME; BECAUSE I
LIVE, YOU ALSO WILL LIVE.

John 14:18-19



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*

Sixth Sunday in Lent

May 10, 2026

~Gathering the Family of God~

Prelude Tommaso Giordani: Caro mio ben **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: God of grace and peace, in Jesus Christ you stand among us,

All: Our assurance of healing, hope, and joy in our fearful, wounded world.

One: Living God, in Jesus Christ we have seen the marks of your saving love

All: Help us open our eyes to recognize your presence with us, our risen Savior

One: Once again, let us lift up our heads and meet the eyes of our Good Shepherd who calms our troubled hearts and fills them with peace.

All: Jesus our Messiah is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Opening Hymn

Womb of Life and Source of Being #3 vs. 1-3

Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart,

In your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start

We, your children, gather 'round you, at the table you prepare.

Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care.

Word in flesh, our brother Jesus, born to bring us second birth,

You have come to stand beside us, knowing weakness, knowing earth

Priest who shares our human struggles, life of life and death of death,

Risen Christ, come stand among us, send the Spirit by your breath.

Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend

When our memory fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend.

Labor with us; aid the birthing of the new world yet to be,

Free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity.

~Bringing our Whole Selves in Worship~

Call to Reconciliation:

Eleanor Lawrence

One: We have celebrated Easter with flowers and eggs which represent new life and hope. Let us continue join with creation in the process of rebirth, by dying to sin and rising to new life in the footsteps of the risen Christ.

All: Jesus, your resurrection invites us to hope for more than the sin we find in our own lives and in the patterns and structures of this world. We long for what is wrong to be made right. We yearn for lives marked by reconciliation and peace and joy. So we bring you our broken hearts and regrets, the mistakes that keep us up at night and the wounds that keep us living in a defensive posture. We place into your hands the hurts and injustice of our world. We ask for healing for when we have been mistreated or hurt, and the courage to stop the cycle of retaliation. Spirit of God, bid us to rise as we follow Jesus from the grave into this new day our Creator has made. (Moment for silent reflection)

Proclamation of Forgiveness and Hope

Eleanor Lawrence

One: Jesus is risen! Let us lift our heads to find and embody the new life springing up all around.

All: Like grass which springs up from charred earth and all kinds of resilient life which adapts to their environments, we claim our place in God's good creation, continually crafted by God's grace. Hallelujah!

Passing of the Peace

One:: When the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples who were terrified behind locked doors, he greeted them with the words "Peace be with you!" May our voices echo with that greeting as we share the grace we have received. Friends old and new, May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you!

All: And also with you

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

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 Open the Eyes of My Heart

#452

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see you, I want to see you

(2x)

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory

Pour out your power and love and we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy I want to see you

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

Eleanor Lawrence

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 Gospels

John 14:15-21

Eleanor Lawrence

One: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Reading from the Early Church

1 Peter 3:13-22

Rev. Ashley L.Skrabec

One: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Quiet Liberation of a Clear Conscience

Rev. Ashley

~Responding in Faith~

Prayer Song When We are Living

#822 vs. 1,3,4

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus
And when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God

Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain
When sending beauty or in love's embrace
Whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God

Across this whole world, we shall always find
Those who are crying with no peace of mind,
But when we help them, or when we feed them
We belong to God, we belong to God

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

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

Mother's Day 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

#607

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

~Going Forth to Love and Serve the Lord~

Sending Hymn

God of the Women

*To the tune of Be Thou My Vision

Written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth
Give us their courage to live in your truth.*

*God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —
May we give freely as they did before.*

*God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" —
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.*

*God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day — May we so gladly proclaim you today.*

Benediction

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

Choral Amen

Postlude

Antonin Dvorak: Songs My Mother Taught Me **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

Church Meetings

This Week:

May 11 Spiritual Growth Committee 4 pm Zoom
Monday – May 11th Monday Evening Refresh 7 pm on Zoom
May 12 Presbyterian Women 12:30 pm
Thursday – May 14th Bible Study 10 pm at FPCS

This Month:

May 17 Pastor Ashley's 40th Birthday Celebration/Potluck 12:30 pm
May 19 Hospitality Committee 10 am
May 20 Finance, Building, and Grounds Committee 9:30 pm
May 24 Worship Assistant Meeting following worship

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers!

Hospitality after Worship Setup/Cleanup

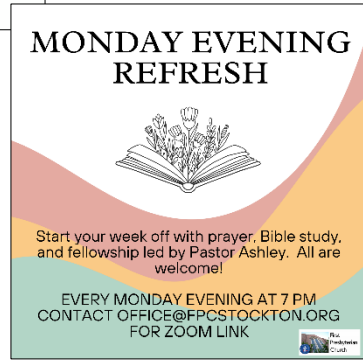
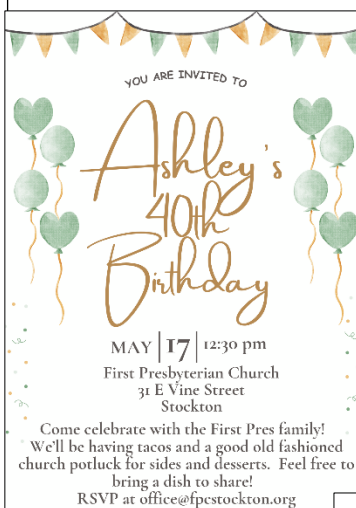
May 10: Carol, Gretchen, Marilyn F.
May 17: Birthday Celebration!

Worship Assistants

May 10 - Eleanor Lawrence
May 17 - Bill Alessio
May 24 - Gail Herron
May 31 - Carol Dietrich

Sunday School Volunteers

May 10—Autumn Alessio
May 17—Yeji Cha
May 26—Kimberlee Roider



Prayer Requests

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

- Dylan requested prayer for safety and recovery for his cousin Oliver who has been living on the street. We pray for Oliver and for the whole family.
- Princess shared the joy of being back in worship after an illness confining her to a wheelchair. We rejoice with her and pray for continued healing.
- Shalise requested prayers for her house and all who live there, and for those who run the house.
- Prayers for our friend Holly who has resigned her position as office manager due to health concerns. Prayers for peace and healing, and for her family.
- Sung-Eun shared that his son Sol will be turning 9 on May 4th and gave thanks for Sol and for his mother Yeji.
- Charlie asks for prayers for his partner Michael. He was admitted to the hospital for surgical intervention for his diabetic foot ulcers and had another debridement surgery on Friday 5/8/26 Prayers for peace, comfort, and healing.
- Rosalie asked for prayers for peace and comfort for her and family and friends of her friend Kathy who just heard that her cancer has returned and has spread. Prayers for healing, and God's mercy and peace on all involved as they cope with this sad news.
- Sheryl celebrated her daughter Shelia's birthday and asked for prayers for her as she works hard to help take care of others.
- Charlie requests prayers for Shane Humphrey as his cousin Mercedes has finally made the transition from this life to the next . Prayers for strength comfort and peace during this time of extraordinary grief.
- Prayers also for Nicole, who has agreed to work part time in our office while we search for a new office manager. Prayers for Nicole, the Personnel Committee and our church.
- Radi asked for prayers for her son Sid, who is home from the hospital and needs continued healing for the tumor in his lungs and his overall health.

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**

31 E. Vine St.
Stockton, CA 95202
209-465-2653

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 Louden and Janet Sepiol

Committee Chairs

Gretchen Louden - 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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