

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Stockton, CA

August 2, 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 Antonin Dvorak, arr. William Fisher: Going Home **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: The feeding of the five thousand is a commonly read scripture that many of us have heard many times. Let's take some time to slow down and walk through the story again as we gather for worship this morning. Read with me verses 13-14 as we enter this story again. We pick up with Jesus and the disciples right after he has heard that John the Baptist was killed.

All: When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

One: We gather together today with all kinds of hunger- of mind, of body, of heart, and of spirit. Jesus' eyes of compassion still find us, and his power to heal still covers us in grace and hope.

All: Let us worship the one who is Emmanuel, God with us!

Opening Hymn

Look Who Gathers At Christ's Table #506 vs. 1,2,4

Verse 1

Look who gathers at Christ's table! Hear the stories
that they bring. Some are weeping; some are laughing;
some have songs they want to sing. Others ask why they're
invited, burdened by the wrong they've done. Christ insists they
all are welcome. There is room for everyone.

Verse 2

Clouds of light surround the table; ancient followers
appear, saints confessing how they wrestled
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Peter tells of his denying
Christ was ever in his sight; Paul relates his
fruitless efforts to obliterate the light

Verse 4

Bring your joy and bring your sadness, and prepare to
be surprised by the host whose hands are wounded,
who will open wide your eyes when he blesses bread and
breaks it—truth and manna from above! - and then passes
wine that wakens in your heart the taste of love.

~Bringing our Whole Selves in Worship~

Call to Reconciliation:

Gail Herron

One: Continuing with Matthew 14:15, we read, "As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.' 'We only have five loaves of bread and two fish,' they answered." Join with me as we lift our hearts in confession.

All: God of eternal, abundant grace, so often we look upon our circumstances and judge what is possible by what we can understand. We come to you with demands, sure that you must see our neighbors and the need in this world the same way that we do. We fall into only seeing each other or ourselves as burdens, and we fear that there will not be enough to go around. Sometimes this is based in real experiences of pain and desperation. Our world can be so harsh and unforgiving. But you, Jesus, are not. Your compassion and love and justice do not run out. We do not know what you are capable of and could never guess the wonder we will witness at your hands. We want to be people living out of your abundance, letting go of a mindset of scarcity and fear. Give us courage to let go and trust you that we might witness the miracles you would bring in and through us. We turn toward you in expectation and surrender.

(Moment of silent reflection)

One: When the disciples looked in disbelief at their five loaves and two fish, Jesus said "Bring them here to me."

All: In Jesus's wisdom and grace, the imperfect offerings we bring become abundant blessing in God's hands. God's forgiveness and compassion are from everlasting to everlasting.

Passing of the Peace

Gail Herron

One: Before feeding the people, Jesus has them sit down on the grass. The chaos of thousands of people trying to get near to him has now become a picnic! Weary legs find rest, and just like in Psalm 23, Jesus makes his flock to lie down in a green pasture. May the peace of our Host Jesus 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

We Are Hungry

Verse 1

Lord, I want more of You, Living water, rain down on me.
Lord, I need more of You, Living Breath of life come and fill me up
(2x)

Chorus

We are hungry, we are hungry
We are hungry for more of You
We are thirsty, oh Jesus
We are thirsty for more of You

Verse 2

Lord I want more of you, Holy Spirit, rain down on me
Lord, I need more of you, Living Breath of Live come and fill me up
(repeat chorus)

Bridge

We lift our holy hands up, we want to touch You.
We lift our voices higher and higher and higher to You.
(repeat chorus)

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.

Communion Song

One Bread, One Body #530 vs. 1,3

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Verse 1

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.

Repeat Refrain

Verse 2

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.

Repeat Refrain

Verse 3

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all.

Repeat Refrain

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanks to God

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Reading from the Psalms Psalm 107:1-9 pg 947 **Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec**

Prayer Song

Come and Fill our Hearts #466

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

Alleluia!

Repeat

Joys and Concerns

The Lord's Prayer (in template)

(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 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly #509

Verse 1

All who hunger, gather gladly; Holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering, Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good

Verse 2

All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Verse 3

All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread
Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace we have been led
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Benediction
Choral Amen

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

Postlude **Claude Debussy: Arabesque #1**

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

UOP SERVICE DAY!
AUGUST 20TH
8:30am-12 pm
Volunteers needed! Come welcome and assist students as they work on projects around the church during UOP's Day of Service. Sign up so we know you'll be there!



Blessing of the Backpacks

⚡ August 9 during 11 am worship service

☀ All kids and families welcome!





Meetings This Month:

August 3 Family Promise Ports Game 5 pm

August 12 Food Pantry Distribution at 2 pm

August 9 Church Potluck "Salad Spectacular"

August 17 Spiritual Growth Committee 4 pm on Zoom

August 18 Hospitality Committee at 10 am

August 20 UOP Service Day 8:30 am to 12 pm

August 24 Session Meeting 10:30 am

August 26 Food Pantry Distribution at 2 pm

August 29 Native Core Overdose Awareness Event 11 am to 4 pm

Weekly:

Book Study at 7 pm on Zoom

Bible Study at 10 am Thursdays

Hospitality after Worship Setup/Cleanup

August 2: Sylvia/Marilyn

August 9: Carol/Marilyn

August 16: Jane/Marilyn

August 23: Sylvia/Marilyn

August 30: Jane

Worship Assistants

August 2 – Gail Herron

August 9 – Craig Holmes

August 16 – Doug and Cheryl Hunt

August 23 – Gretchen Loudon

August 30 – Kimberlee Roider

Sunday School Volunteers

August 2 – Tola Eley

August 9 – Kimberlee Roider

August 16 – Autumn Alessio

August 23 – Sylvia Cavanaugh

August 30 --

If you are interested in serving with Hospitality, as a Worship Assistant, or as a Sunday School Volunteer, please contact the Office.

Prayer Requests

The Church Office and members of the church receive several prayer

requests each week. Please pray for:

- Prayers for Charlie as he navigates possible new diagnoses and as he adjusts to additional accommodations for mobility and safety.
- Prayers for safety and a wonderful adventure for Gretchen as she travels in Tanzania.
- Sheryl requests prayers for her aunt who is going through Alzheimers.
- Shalise requests prayers for herself and for her son as he continues in a program.
- Mara requests prayers for those facing deportation to dangerous or unstable locations, especially those being deported to Haiti.
- Pastor Ashley asked for prayers for the people in Iran who are suffering from the war, and pray for peace everywhere.

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 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.