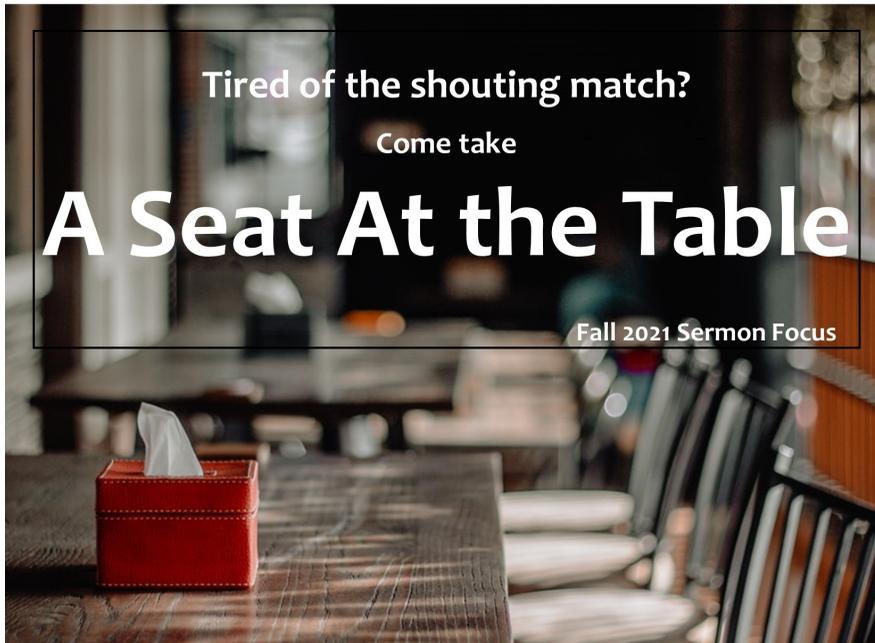


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Stockton, CA**

**September 26, 2021—9:30 a.m.**



**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON YOUTUBE  
Go to the Church's Website.  
Click on Ministries and Worship.  
Use the YouTube link  
to find today's worship service**

~GATHERING THE FAMILY OF GOD~

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE HISTORIC CHURCH BELL

INTROIT

Temple Choir

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ashley Love

CALL TO WORSHIP—PSALM 124

Pastor Ashley

*One: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side— let Israel now say —*

**All: if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,**

*One: then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;*

**All: then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters.**

*One: Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.*

**All: We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.**

*One: Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.*

**\*GATHERING HYMN**      *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*      # 475

- V.1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!
- V.2. Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
- V.3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

## **CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

Gail Herron

*One: Friends, let us trust Jesus Christ with our need for forgiveness and reconciliation with God, ourselves, and each other. The Savior who bore the cross for our sake will surely not turn us away.*

**All: God of mercy, you remind us in scripture through your servant James that wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or insincerity. But when we are hurt or frustrated or having to work through conflict about something that is important to us, it is so hard to choose peace, mercy, and sincerity. Jesus Christ, Lion of Judah and Lamb of God, show us how to hold onto what is sacred in our desire for truth and a better world, while letting go of that which traps us in cycles of bitterness and hatred, pulling our focus from your presence. Forgive us our sins and show us how we might live in your freedom and produce good fruit as we engage with those with whom we disagree. In the strong and merciful name of Christ we pray.**

## **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**

Gail Herron

*One: Beloved of God, hear the good news of the gospel.*

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Hallelujah!**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Gail Herron

*One: Having received such an amazing gift of grace and peace in Jesus Christ, let us share it with each other. May the peace of our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.*

**All: And also with you.**

*One: Let's share the peace of Christ with each other, with a wave or a text or any greeting that is available to us.*

## **CHILDREN'S CHECK IN**

## **ANTHEM**

Temple Choir

~HEARING GOD'S WORD~

**PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD**

Gail Herron

*One: Holy Spirit, open our minds, hearts, and spirits to hear what you would speak to us today. Amen.*

**READING FROM THE EARLY CHURCH**

James 5:13-20

Gail Herron

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

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 9:38-50

Pastor Ashley

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

**MESSAGE**

*A Seat at the Table—Pray Without Ceasing*

Pastor Ashley

**REFLECTION SONG**

*We Fall down*

#368

We fall down; we lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus: the greatness of mercy and love, at the feet of Jesus. And we cry holy, holy, holy. And we cry holy, holy, holy. And we cry holy, holy, holy is the Lamb.

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**TIME OF PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: Our 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.**

~GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD~

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

#465

- V.1 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 don't carry everything to God in prayer!
- V.2. 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!
- V.3. 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.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL AMEN**

**\*POSTLUDE**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Worship service will return to 10:30am on Sunday, October 3rd.**

Please join us for **Coffee Hour via Zoom** this Sunday at 11:30am. The meeting ID number is 885 6468 4370 or you can call in using the number 669-900-9128 and put in the meeting ID number just like a conference call. See your email for a clickable link. *Because our service time is returning to 10:30am next Sunday, there will be a time change and new logon information for the Coffee Hour on October 3rd.*

We hope you can join us for the mid-week **Prayer Gathering** in Callistro Park. Thursdays at 10am. Bring your mask and a chair.

Our Presbytery sent \$10,000 from the Presbytery's designated Disaster Relief Fund to those who were displaced and/or lost homes in the Dixie Fire. This depleted that fund. Now the Caldor fire has threatened 23,000 people. The Presbytery is asking for contributions in order to restore the designated Disaster Relief fund to be able to respond to future needs. Checks (with Disaster Relief Fund in the memo line) may be written to NCCPresbytery and mailed to  
North Central California Presbytery  
9983 Folsom Blvd  
Sacramento, 95827

**Continuing our Conversation about Safety: Preventing Gun Violence** on October 10th, following worship, light lunch will be provided.

**Lectionary October 3rd:**

Job 1:1; 2:1-10 and Psalm 26 ~ Genesis 2:18-24 and Psalm 8 ~  
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 ~ Mark 10:2-16

## REQUESTED PRAYERS

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

- ◆ Prayers of thankfulness that Joy Panzer is recuperating at Meadowood following her car accident.
- ◆ Prayers for Marilyn Vaughn's work colleague, Pam, whose husband was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer.
- ◆ Prayers for Kathy White who is coping with moderate depression.
- ◆ We pray for healing for Gretchen Louden's friend, Hamish, who is in need of open heart surgery and prayers for a family member who has pancreatic cancer and is recovering from major surgery.
- ◆ Prayers for Donna Hammel's brother, Don Hereford, who is recovering from hip surgery.
- ◆ Prayers for Eleanor Lawrence's friends Susanne and Paul, whose son Drew is in the hospital.
- ◆ Prayers for the Vaughns' sons' Pastor's wife, Jane Pool, and her family. She was in an auto accident.
- ◆ Prayers of thankfulness that Sylvia Cavanaugh's son, Corey, is now home and on the road to recovery.
- ◆ Prayers for Charlie Briggs for recovery after a concussion.
- ◆ Prayers for healing for Cecelia Muller's son Frank Avenal who is hospitalized.
- ◆ Prayers for relief from hand pain for Cecelia Muller.
- ◆ We ask for healing and restoration for all those who face medical challenges, especially COVID-19 and the after effects of the virus:
  - Kim Roider's cousin whose Parkinson's disease is progressing.
  - Gretchen Louden's friend Judy, after an additional recent seizure
  - Michelle Thompson, Cynthia Allison's sister's daughter-in-law, who had cancer surgery, could not tolerate chemo, and is now waiting to see if the tumor returns.
- ◆ Mara Duffy requests prayer for David Washburn for health reasons
- ◆ Prayers for those who are unsheltered. Prayers for those who do not have access to vaccines or to urgent medical care. Prayers for those who wait.
- Prayers of joy for those who have given gifts of time, talent, and treasure to reflect God's love and care.

## First Presbyterian Church of Stockton

31 E. Vine St.

Stockton, CA 95202

209-465-2653

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm

[www.fpcstockton.org](http://www.fpcstockton.org)

Email: [office@fpcstockton.org](mailto:office@fpcstockton.org)

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<http://fpcstockton.org/videos/>

## Church Staff

### **Ministers:**

Clerk of Session

Office Manager:

Custodian:

Bookkeeper:

Music Team:

Nursery Attendant:

Pastor:

### **All the members of the Church**

Elder Kathy White

Suzi Treganza

Victor Naranjo

Cindy Chan

John Vaughn

Ethan Albala

Kelly Coffey

Rev. Ashley M. Love

*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.

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