



March 9, 2025 9:30am  
Lent

## Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for worship in the FPC Sanctuary and welcome to those of you who worship with us online.

Please visit the church's website to learn about activities and ministry opportunities.

Sign up for our Email Updates at [www.fpcsd.org](http://www.fpcsd.org)



**First Presbyterian Church**  
S A N D I E G O

320 Date Street, San Diego, CA 92101  
619-232-7513

## The Lord's Supper Instructions

We observe the Lord's Supper every week in worship. This communion meal is meant to unite us to Jesus Christ as well as each other. In it, we reaffirm the promises of our baptism and recommit ourselves to love and serve God and neighbor. We prepare to celebrate the Lord's Supper by putting our trust in Christ, confessing our sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another.

*While we are being served communion at the table, the pastor will bring both bread and cup to all who are seated and cannot come to the table.*

*If you would like to pray with someone, our elders are available during communion to pray with you. Please come to the front of the sanctuary where they are waiting for you.*

*At the end of all being served, a deacon will come to the table and take from the table some bread and cups and exit up the aisle.*

*Later that day and during the week the deacons will take these to our members who could not attend worship, thus extending the communion to all our members.*

If you are not a Christian, please consider using this communion time to pray with one of the following printed prayers:

### Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

*Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.*

### Prayer of Belief

*Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.*

# First Presbyterian Church of San Diego

## Worships God

by

Gathering around the Word

Hearing the Word

Responding to the Word

March 9, 2025, 9:30am

Lent

### Gathering Around the Word

#### Preparing for Worship with Prelude and Prayer

*As we assemble in Jesus' name, begin with a private prayer of preparation:*

Accomplish in us, O God,  
the work of your salvation,  
that we may show forth your glory in the world. Amen.

**Prelude**                      *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship, arr. Pethel*

#### Being Called to Worship

What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me?

**I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the LORD.

**I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the LORD—  
in your midst, Jerusalem.**

**Praise the LORD.**    *(Psalm 116:12-13,17-19)*

**Singing Our Praise**    *Because of Your Love*

*What Wondrous Love is This*    *(Hymn #85)*

#### Announcing the Gospel

Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn to the Lord your God; for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness.

Let us confess our sins together.

## Confessing our Sin

**Merciful Father,**

**Who in compassion for your sinful children  
sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world:**

**Grant us grace to feel and to lament our share  
in the evil which made it needful for Him to suffer  
and to die for our salvation.**

**Help us by self-denial, prayer, and meditation  
to prepare our hearts for deeper penitence and a better life.**

**And give us a true longing to be free from sin,  
through the deliverance worked by Jesus Christ our only Redeemer.**

*(silence for further individual confession)*

**Amen.**

## Declaring God's Pardon

Hear the good news:

Almighty God, who freely pardons all who repent and turn to him, now fulfills in every contrite heart the promise of redeeming grace; remitting all our sins, and cleansing us from an evil conscience; through the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Brothers and Sisters:

In Christ, your sins are forgiven. Know this and be at peace.

## Offering Our Lives in Gratitude

How shall we show our gratitude for such a salvation?

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

## Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(Children may come forward to the front pew for Telling the Story)*

## Hearing the Word

### Offering Our Prayers

### Telling the Story and Praying the Lord's Prayer

Paul in Ephesus

*Acts 19*

*(After this, children may leave for Kidz Worship)*

**Singing Our Praise**    *At Calvary's Cross, arr. Mary MacDonald*

### Praying for Illumination

### Reading the Word

Matthew 14:1-21

### Declaring the Word

Banquets

## Responding to the Word

### Presenting God's Tithes and Our Offerings

**Offering Our Music**    *Sheep May Safely Graze, arr. Riley*

### Affirming the Faith of the Church

Doctrine of Original Righteousness and Fall into Sin:  
How did God create humanity in original righteousness?

**Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.**

*(Genesis 1:26-27)*

### Sharing the Lord's Supper

*During Communion: Prayer Partners are stationed in front of the stage by the side aisles for Prayer. As you pass by you are invited to share your prayer needs and receive prayer and ministry. If you have asked to follow Jesus today, you are encouraged to pray with a Partner. If the Partners are busy, sit in a front pew and approach after another person has received prayer.*

### Singing Our Praise

*What A Beautiful Name*

### Receiving the Blessing and Being Sent

### Postlude

*When the Roll is Called up Yonder, arr. David Winkler*

## Servant Schedule

Liturgy: Riley McRae

Preaching: Jeff Myers

Offering our Prayers: Ben Cater

Offering our Music:

Westminster Choir Director: Rodney Girvin

Westminster Orchestra Director: Judith Thomas

Worship Leaders: Adam Michel, Lavina Woods

Piano: Pam Monroe

Trumpet: Jeff Allen

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*~There will be no Sunday Adult Education classes during Lent~*

**Lent Small Groups meet TODAY after the worship service.** Small groups will meet weekly during Lent for fellowship, prayer, and discussion of the sermons. Groups meet on Sundays after service from 11:00am-Noon through April 13. We encourage everyone to join a group for Lent.

**Grief Share Support Group – Sundays through April 18 in the Goodwin Annex at 11:00am.** For more information, contact Bob Stermon at: [rstermon1@gmail.com](mailto:rstermon1@gmail.com). To register for the group please go to: [griefshare.org/findagroup](http://griefshare.org/findagroup).

## Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

A Cry Room/Nursing Room is available with Livestream of our service in our Prayer Room. You may exit out of the door to the right of the pulpit and continue straight into the room.

### *Infants and Preschoolers*

- "The Nest" (0-4 yrs old) opens at 9:15am and continues through the 11:00a-12:00pm education hour.
- Follow signs from the back of the Sanctuary to The Nest

### *Elementary Students*

#### 9:30am

- Children attend worship with their parents in the Sanctuary
- During "Passing the Peace" they move to the front pew for the Children's Story
- After the Children's Story, students attend "Kidz Worship"- a Bible time for K-5th graders.
- They are returned to their parents in the Sanctuary before Communion

#### 11:00am-Noon

- "The Flock" (K-5th grade) meets in the Geneva Room in the Christian Education Building
- Children study the Bible, memorize scripture, play games and visit the Memory Store
- Follow signs to The Flock

**Lenten Choir:** You are invited to join Westminster Choir for the Lenten season. Minimal time commitment, no Thursday rehearsals. Simply show up to the Choir Room at 8:30am any Sunday during Lent (beginning on March 9th), we will learn the music together and present it during our 9:30am Worship. Make new connections, build new friendships. No experience necessary, all are welcome!

**The Congregational Meeting has been rescheduled to Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> in the West Room, following the worship service.** The purpose of this meeting is to vote on approving the purchase of 1767 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. We've been given more information about the property that requires additional prayer and investigation. Please be in prayer for our congregation to walk in God's will as we prepare to vote.

**Moved recently or have a new email address?      New to us?      Need Prayer?**



Please complete our Connect Card by scanning the QR code. Any updates to your contact information are appreciated. You can also use the following link:  
<https://fpcsd.churchcenter.com/people/forms/429881>

If you want us to pray for you or someone you know, please fill out the **Prayer Request on the Connect Card**. We have a team of dedicated people who would be honored to pray with you. If you are interested in joining our Prayer Team by receiving our weekly Prayer List, please contact: [office@fpcsd.org](mailto:office@fpcsd.org).

**City Tree 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala: Color Fiesta Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup>.** City Tree Christian School invites you to the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala, A Color Fiesta. It will be at **Deck 655, 655 W. Broadway from 5pm-10pm**. Dress saturated in your favorite color or wear all the bright colors at once! Enjoy music, dancing, and both live and silent auctions while a taco truck provides a delicious array of fiesta favorites. Proceeds from ticket sales and donations through the sweepstakes and auctions will go towards enhancing our children's special activities in the arts, music, and sciences. Please join us for a night of support and celebration at this year's Festive and Colorful City Tree Gala. Register at <https://fpcsd.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2718608>

**Amor 2025 April 4-7** Come build a house in Mexico with us! Every year, we take a team to build for a family in need through Amor Ministries. All are welcome to join, but you must have a valid passport! Register at <https://fpcsd.churchcenter.com/registrations>.

#### **Holy Week Schedule:**

- **Palm Sunday** April 13<sup>th</sup> Service at 9:30am Sanctuary
- **Good Friday** April 18, Tenebrae Service, Mark Hayes' Requiem, 7pm Sanctuary
- **Holy Saturday** April 19, a tribute to John Coltrane, Archie & Archtones, 4:00pm Chapel
- **Easter Sunday**, April 20, Service at 9:30am Sanctuary

**Women's Retreat May 2-4 Mission San Luis Rey Oceanside.** The Women's Retreat will be May 2-4, 2025, at the beautiful Mission San Luis Rey. Registration is now open and will close on April 2nd. Our speaker this year is Dr. Laurie Brenner, Senior Pastor at West Seattle Presbyterian Church. She will lead us in *Radical Hospitality - Ways to Welcome Like Jesus*. Registration is now open!  
<https://fpcsd.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2716232>.

**VBS - Vacation Bible School *Egypt - Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace*. 9am-Noon, June 23-27.** Join us for Egypt-Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace. In Vacation Bible School the Bible comes to life right before your eyes! God's Word comes alive as families enjoy traditional Bible-times customs, occupations, food, and even games. Sign up today!  
<https://fpcsd.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2790494>

**Forest Home Summer Camp Elementary and Youth. July 6-11.** Each part of our programming is intentionally designed to challenge students to engage more deeply with one another and Christ. This is a safe place where kids will learn about their great God through age-appropriate teaching, engaging worship, and time outdoors in His Creation.

~Summer Camp at Wild Rock for **elementary students** is a five-day camp specifically designed for students entering 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade, in the Fall 2025. To sign up:

<https://fpcsd.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2786384>.

~Summer Camp at Forest Home for **youth** is the place to be for an unforgettable weekend for 6th-12th grade students! To sign up for youth:

<https://fpcsd.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2790955>

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Coffee Fellowship.** Stop in the Assembly Room after service for coffee and fellowship. This is a great time to catch up with friends and make new ones.

**Monday/Friday Women's Bible Study.** "You can understand every book of the Bible. Even this one." Join Bible teacher Jen Wilkin in this six-week Bible study experience on Revelation. Mondays 3:15pm Goodwin Annex and Fridays 8:30am West Room. Contact Suzy Walls ([walls.suzy@gmail.com](mailto:walls.suzy@gmail.com)) or Peggy Gross ([peggy.gross@fpcsd.org](mailto:peggy.gross@fpcsd.org)) for more information.

**Joy of Living Women's Bible Study.** We are studying the first 26 chapters of Genesis followed by the book of Job. We meet every Tuesday 9:30-11:30am for prayer, fellowship and in-depth Bible study. We conclude our study in mid-May 2025. We meet weekly and have a Zoom option for those who cannot join us in-person. For information, please contact [pegbaker@pacbell.net](mailto:pegbaker@pacbell.net). Register online at: <https://fpcsd.churchcenter.com/registrations>

**Downtown Playdate.** Meets every Tuesday from 10am-Noon in the Scout Room. Connect with other parents and caregivers of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Contact [peggy.gross@fpcsd.org](mailto:peggy.gross@fpcsd.org) for more information.

**Men's Lunch Break Bible Study.** Meeting Thursdays 11:30am-12:45pm via Zoom. To join, register at <https://fpcsd.churchcenter.com/registrations>

**Thursday Women's Zoom Bible Study.** Meets weekly 9:30-11am via Zoom. Contact Sharon Laabs [slaabs@spice-weasel.com](mailto:slaabs@spice-weasel.com) or Janice Raymond [jransmar@gmail.com](mailto:jransmar@gmail.com) to join or with questions.

**Parenting and Pizza Church.** Meets weekly on Thursdays in the West Room, the Scout Room and Courtyard. 6pm-7:30pm Contact [peggy.gross@fpcsd.org](mailto:peggy.gross@fpcsd.org) for more information.

**Press In Youth** is a vibrant place for students in 6th-12th grade to learn about God, play wacky games, eat junk food, and make friends! Our mission is for students to press into God and press into their purpose. We meet in room 307, every Sunday after church (11am-12pm), and on Thursday nights during Parenting (6-7:30pm). Come join in on the craziness! To get involved, reach out to Elizabeth ([elizabeth.rico@fpcsd.org](mailto:elizabeth.rico@fpcsd.org)) or follow us on Instagram: @pressinyouth.

**First Pres Young Adults** is a community of individuals aged 18-30ish who have fun together! We meet every first Friday of the month at 6pm for our **new** young adults service followed by an open time of fellowship and games. We also gather for small group every Sunday after church in room 106 (Elizabeth's office). To get involved, reach out to Elizabeth ([elizabeth.rico@fpcsd.org](mailto:elizabeth.rico@fpcsd.org)) or follow our Instagram: @firstpressdya.



**Prayer.** Join us on Wednesdays in person in the Prayer Room 12-12:30pm. We pray for the world, our nation, city, and church family. Contact Pastor Jeff ([jeff.myers@fpcsd.org](mailto:jeff.myers@fpcsd.org)) for more information.

**Westminster Orchestra.** Do you play an orchestra instrument? Our ensemble is especially looking for a few more people who play violin, viola, cello or string bass. We're a group of dedicated volunteer musicians who rehearse Wednesdays from 6:00–8:00 pm and play during Sunday morning services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Enjoy friendship, camaraderie, and the joy of worship through music. Intermediate skill level or higher is encouraged. Contact: Judith Thomas at [judith@gctomas.com](mailto:judith@gctomas.com)

**Westminster Choir.** If you love to sing and want to use your talent to serve, consider joining the Westminster Choir. Our choir is comprised of passionate individuals who share a love of music and a desire to worship through song. We rehearse regularly on Thursday evenings and sing on Sundays for our service. We also perform for special services and events. Contact Rodney Girvin [rodney.girvin@fpcsd.org](mailto:rodney.girvin@fpcsd.org) for more details.

**Parking.** We have extra parking available at the San Diego Rescue Mission on Sundays and special events. If you don't mind walking a couple of blocks, please consider parking in their First Avenue lot. The address is: **1840 First Avenue.** From the church, proceed west along Elm Street to First Avenue. Turn right and make an immediate left into the lot. We have people there to assist before and after service.

### Giving Information

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Offering needed:	\$19,231	\$181,194
Offering March 7:	\$29,032	\$205,821



You can give online by scanning this QR code.

**We are Hiring!** The Assistant to the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries will support the Director in the planning, coordination, and implementation of ministry programs and activities for youth (grades 6-12) and young adults (ages 18-30) at First Presbyterian Church of San Diego. This position will assist with administrative tasks, volunteer coordination, event preparation, and communication with youth, young adults, and volunteers. The role is designed for a part-time, flexible schedule, requiring 10-15 hours per week. The Assistant will help to foster an environment where youth and young adults are invited to grow in their faith and become fully devoted followers of Jesus. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Elizabeth Rico at [elizabeth.rico@fpcsd.org](mailto:elizabeth.rico@fpcsd.org).

## Lenten Small Group - Matthew Discussion #1

### As a small group, read and discuss the following.

Begin your time in prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to inspire the hearing of his word—to plant the truth of Jesus in the hearts of his disciples.

*Read Matthew 14:1-21*

1. What in this passage are you noticing for the first time?
2. In the story of Herod's birthday banquet, what clues reveal his values? What is important to him in this moment? How can you tell?
3. Jesus, in a way different from Herod, is a king at a banquet. How is his character distinguished from Herod's?
4. Bible Surfing! Read Ezekiel 18:5-9 & James 2:14-17. In these verses, we hear God's perfect standard for righteousness. How has God been gracious to you in your failures? How is he teaching you to live with this compassion toward others?
5. What abundance has Jesus given you, materially or immaterially? Jesus tells his disciples, "You give them something to eat." How might Jesus be calling you to share the abundance he's given you?

*At the end of your time or as homework, read next week's sermon passage: Matthew 14:22-36.*

6. What new information does this story give us about who Jesus is?

### **Haven't joined a Lenten Small Group? We're just getting going! Hop in! Groups meet on Sunday through April 13<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00am in the following locations:**

Tom Carnes ([roseway@cox.net](mailto:roseway@cox.net)) Riley's office  
Ben & Anne Cater ([loscaters@msn.com](mailto:loscaters@msn.com)) Bride's Room  
Sara Delgado ([sara.delgado@citytree.org](mailto:sara.delgado@citytree.org)) West Tower  
Steve & Lorrie Faivre ([steven.faivre@gmail.com](mailto:steven.faivre@gmail.com)) Assembly Room  
Kathy Fleming & Peter Tucker ([kfleming02@yahoo.com](mailto:kfleming02@yahoo.com)) 311  
Pam Monroe & Jeff Myers ([pamelamonroe@cox.net](mailto:pamelamonroe@cox.net)) Scout Room  
Ben Montoya ([benamontoya@gmail.com](mailto:benamontoya@gmail.com)) West Room  
Josh Reyes ([joshmreyes@gmail.com](mailto:joshmreyes@gmail.com)) 312  
Elizabeth Rico – Young Adults ([elizabeth.rico@fpcsd.org](mailto:elizabeth.rico@fpcsd.org)) 106

**Don't know where you're going? Exit the sanctuary to the right and head across the breezeway to the Welcome Center. They'll show you the way!**

## FPC Vision

As the body of Christ, we exist to foster a community of belonging in an environment of deep spiritual growth, walking together in word and deed.

## FPC MINISTRIES



Our **FPC Mission Partners** share the good news of God's love with people around the world. Please pray for them throughout the year as they come alongside people in the difficult places where God has called them, in San Diego and beyond. Pray that we will all learn more about what it means to make mission our life's purpose and the purpose of the church. Read about our mission partners and see how you can pray, give, and go where God calls. For more info contact us at [www.fpcsd.org/missions](http://www.fpcsd.org/missions)



**City Tree Christian School**, an outreach ministry of First Presbyterian Church of San Diego, is dedicated to academic excellence integrated with the teachings of Jesus Christ found in the Bible. Children will excel academically, be good citizens, and know God when provided educational experiences, needed care and protection in a loving Christian environment. Founded in 1976, City Tree began as a preschool and has grown to now serve infants through 8th grade. [www.citytree.org](http://www.citytree.org)



**Ladle Fellowship**, a ministry of FPC since 1983, lovingly addresses the needs of the poor and those experiencing homelessness. We serve meals and provide clothing for those in need on Sundays at 2:00pm. Our San Diego Street Choir rehearses each week and our medical ministry, Street Corner Care, provides medical care for the poor and individuals suffering on the streets.

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