



March 23, 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



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 23, 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:

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me,
for a troubled and broken heart you will not despise. Amen.

Prelude *What Wondrous Love is This, arr. Brent Roberts*

Being Called to Worship

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing to the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise.

**All the earth worships you;
they sing praises to you,
sing praises to your name.**

(Psalm 66:1-2,4)

Singing Our Praise *Great Things*

At the Cross

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 on Trial

Acts 22-23

(After this, children may leave for Kidz Worship)

Singing Our Praise

Gather at the Mercy Tree, arr. Lee Dengler

Praying for Illumination

Reading the Word

Matthew 15:1-20

Declaring the Word

A Heart of Worship

Responding to the Word

Presenting God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offering Our Music *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded, arr. Don Hart*

Affirming the Faith of the Church

Doctrine of Original Righteousness and Fall into Sin:

Did God create people wicked and perverse?

No. God created them good and in his own image, that is, in true righteousness and holiness, so that they might truly know God their creator, love him with all their heart, and live with God in eternal happiness, to praise and glorify him.

Then where does this corrupt human nature come from?

The fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise. This fall has so poisoned our nature that we are all conceived and born in a sinful condition.

But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined toward all evil?

Yes, unless we are born again by the Spirit of God.

(The Heidelberg Catechism)

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

Build My Life

Receiving the Blessing and Being Sent

Postlude

Overture of Praise, arr. Keith Christopher

Servant Schedule

Liturgy: Riley McRae

Preaching: Jeff Myers

Offering our Prayers: Melanie Krogman

Offering our Music:

Westminster Choir Director: Rodney Girvin

Westminster Orchestra Director: Judith Thomas

Worship Leader: Elizabeth Rico, Mary San Agustin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Congregational Meeting TODAY in the West Room, following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on approving the purchase of 1767 2nd Ave.

Lent Small Groups meet TODAY after the Congregational Meeting. Small groups 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. To register for the group please go to: 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

Nursery Help Needed on Easter Sunday morning! Easter is always one of our biggest services. We need extra volunteers in our Nursery! Can you help us out and volunteer? Please contact Peggy Gross: peggy.gross@fpcsd.org.

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, 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!

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.

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 13th 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) or Peggy Gross (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. 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 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 or Janice Raymond 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 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) 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) 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) 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@gcthomas.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 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	\$219,656
Offering March 21:	\$20,555	\$234,131



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.

Lenten Small Group - Matthew Discussion

#3

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 15:1-20

1. What in this passage are you noticing for the first time?
2. What is behind the Pharisees' and scribes' question in verse 2? Are they concerned about the spread of germs?
3. Jesus calls the Pharisees and scribes "hypocrites" (v. 7). What hypocrisy are they guilty of?
4. Read Jesus' quote from Isaiah in verse 8-9. Lips that honor without a genuine heart is what the Lord calls "vain/empty worship". Is this a phenomenon that you've experienced in your own life? How do you recognize vain worship? How has Jesus been a help to you in it?
5. Jesus shows in this passage that "pure/full" worship issues from a "pure heart". But his words also convict the sin in the heart of every human being. Read Jeremiah 17:9-10 & 31:33-34. How have your own attempts to make yourself pure before God failed? How has Jesus succeeded in cleansing your heart?

At the end of your time or as homework, read next week's sermon passage: Matthew 15:21-31.

6. On first reading, how does this passage surprise you?

Haven't joined a Lenten Small Group? Hop in! Groups meet through late March from 11:00am in the following locations:

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

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.

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



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



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

