



February 23, 2025 9:30am  
Epiphany

## 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

February 23, 2025, 9:30am

Epiphany

### Gathering Around the Word

#### Preparing for Worship with Prelude and Prayer

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

Loving God,

We cannot live by bread alone,

but by every word that proceeds from your mouth.

Give us a hunger for your Word,

and in that food satisfy our daily need.

Amen.

#### Prelude

*Praise to the Lord, The Almighty  
/ Water Music by Handel, arr. Don Marsh*

#### Being Called to Worship

Sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things;  
his right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.

**The LORD has made his salvation known  
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.**

He has remembered his love  
and his faithfulness to Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.

**Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with music;  
make music to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and sound of singing,  
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—  
shout for joy before the LORD, the king.**

*(Psalm 98:1-6)*

## **Singing Our Praise**

*Lion and the Lamb*  
*Nearer, My God, to Thee*

## **Announcing the Gospel**

Hear the good news of the gospel:

Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed are those to whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. *(Psalm 32:1-2)*

Instead of deceiving ourselves, we confess our sins before God, who is rich in mercy.

## **Confessing our Sin**

**Merciful God,**

**In your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be.**

**Our sinful nature is prone to evil and slothful in good.**

**You alone know our shortcomings and offenses,**

**wandering from your ways,**

**wasting your gifts,**

**forgetting your love.**

**Have mercy upon us for how we have displeased you.**

*(silence for further individual confession)*

**Gracious God,**

**By your loving mercy,**

**teach us to hate our errors;**

**cleanse us from our secret faults;**

**forgive our sins.**

**Cause us to live in your light**

**and abide in your ways,**

**for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **Declaring God's Pardon**

Hear the good news:

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old has gone; behold, new things have come.

*(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

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?

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.**

*(Proverbs 3:5-6)*

## 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 and Silas in Prison

*Acts 16:22-34*

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

**Singing Our Praise     Arise, O God, and Shine, arr. Mack Wilberg**

### Praying for Illumination

### Reading the Word

Matthew 13:22-34

### Declaring the Word

Weeds, Seeds, and Leaven

## Responding to the Word

### Presenting God's Tithes and Our Offerings

### Offering Our Music

*Allegro assai from: Violin Concerto in E major,  
BWV 1042 – J.S. Bach*

### Affirming the Faith of the Church

Doctrine of Salvation by Grace through Faith:

What is "the righteousness that comes through faith"?

**But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the**

**glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:21-26)**

### **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**

*Greater Still*

### **Receiving the Blessing and Being Sent**

### **Postlude**

*The Trees of the Field, arr. Don Hart*

### **Servant Schedule**

Liturgy: Riley McRae and Lloyd Took

Children's Story: Abby Rogers

Preaching: Bogar Hernandez

Offering our Prayers: Dan Walls

Offering our Music:

Westminster Choir Director, Rodney Girvin

Westminster Orchestra Director, Judith Thomas

Point Loma Chamber Orchestra Director, Dr. Philip Tyler

Worship Leaders: Elizabeth Rico, Melody Rico, Tito Rico, Lavina Woods

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***The Congregational Meeting has been rescheduled from this Sunday to March 23rd, 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.***

**Today:** We warmly welcome the Point Loma Nazarene University Chamber Orchestra! This talented group, made up of both students and community members, rehearses twice a week on the main campus in Point Loma. Under the direction of Dr. Philip Tyler since 2001, the ensemble joins us twice a year, in fall and winter. Thank you, PLNU Chamber Orchestra, for blessing us with your presence today!

**Today: Ministry Fair Engage & Equip, West Room & Assembly Room.** Please join us for Engage & Equip after service in the West Room and Assembly Room. This is a wonderful opportunity to talk with leaders from our ministries and sign up to help as a volunteer. There will be representatives from all the ministry areas ready to engage with. There will be coffee and goodies too!

**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

**Lent Small Groups** We will have small groups meeting weekly during Lent for fellowship, prayer, and discussion of the sermons. **Groups will convene for the first time on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> after the worship service.** People will be able to choose their facilitator and then together the group will decide when and where to meet. Most groups choose to meet on Sundays after service from 11:00am-Noon in a room here at church. Groups meet from March 2 through April 13. We encourage everyone to join a group for Lent. *~There will be no Sunday Adult Education classes during Lent.*

**Missions: God at Work - Local Mission Service Days.** We have an opportunity coming up for you to serve at local missions. **Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> at the San Diego Rescue Mission.** For more information contact Ben Montoya [benamontoya@gmail.com](mailto:benamontoya@gmail.com).

To register to serve, go to: <https://fpcsd.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2749264>

**Ash Wednesday Gathering Service March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.** Save the date and join us for a combined service on Ash Wednesday as we begin the season of Lent together. We are partnering with Hope for San Diego along with downtown churches. You are invited to worship, reflect, and repent in a service that marks the start of this sacred time. Childcare will be available for 4 and under.

**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).

**Join the 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](mailto:judith@gcthomas.com)

**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>.

**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.

**Youth/Young Adults. Youth group** is a special place for students 6th-12<sup>th</sup> grade to come together, have fun, and learn about God! We meet in room 307 on Sunday mornings after service, and Thursday nights 6-7:30pm during Parenting Class. Our **Young Adults** community is a vibrant group of individuals aged 18-30ish. We meet regularly on Sundays immediately after service. For more information on either of these groups, contact Elizabeth at [elizabeth.rico@fpcsd.org](mailto:elizabeth.rico@fpcsd.org)

**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 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	\$142,732
Offering February 21:	\$23,684	\$163,196



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).

## 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)