

SENDING

*Hymn "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" Hymnal #250

*Blessing

*Congregational Response "O God of Every Nation" (Sung to Lancashire)
*Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.*

*Postlude

Serving Today

Greeter

Liturgist

Coffee Host

Welcome Table

Greg Wier

Paula Carmack

Jill Gustafson

Sue Razzaia

Staff

Pastor

Director of Music Ministry

Interim Preschool Director

Spiritual Director

Office Administrator

Media Technician

Custodian

Sexton

Rev. Dr. Sam Codington

Joe Rodriguez

Meghan Stubbs

Mary Elva Smith

James Kelly

Stephen Dichiera

Agustin Urueta

Robin Craig

Visitor Information

5075 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92115

Tel: 619-582-8480, E-mail office@fpsd.org

Office Hours are Monday - Thursday, 9-12 and 1-4

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Faith Presbyterian Church

A family of Christ, welcoming all, worshiping God,
growing in the Spirit and joyously serving others.

Inclusive • Nurturing • Justice-Seeking



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sam Codington

Please rise in body or spirit, where you see an asterisk. *

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

MARCH 17, 2024 9:30 AM

GATHERING

Music for Meditation

Welcome and Opening Prayer

*Gathering Song "We Are One in the Bond of Love"
*We are one in the bond of love;
We are one in the bond of love.
We have joined our spirits with the Spirit of God;
We are one in the bond of love.
Let us sing now, every one;
Let us feel His love begun.
Let us join our hands, that the world will know;
We are one in the bond of love.*

Choral Introit "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place" D. Akers

Invitation to Worship

Paula Carmack

Leader: The Kingdom of God approaches us in small and ordinary ways,

All: in ways we often do not notice.

Leader: The kingdom of God invites us to marvel and wonder,

All: to let curiosity and compassion lead us into deeper understanding,

Leader: to perceive and witness seemingly small and ordinary moments as ripe
with possibility,

All: like children witnessing wild blackberries and fields of dandelions, as
precious treasure to be shared among friends.

Leader: Come, let us express gratitude and hope in the One, who calls us into
the Kingdom of God.

***Hymn**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Hymnal #14

Invitation to Confession

Leader: We are often carrying heavy burdens that wither our spirit and distort our vision. We join in a prayer of confession to lay down those burdens and to awaken to the presence of God in our lives. Come, let us join in a prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession

All: God of community, you desire to create belonging and beauty in a world so often defined by separation and cynicism. Jesus taught in parables to awaken our imaginations and to invite us to see the Kingdom of God growing in the world. The Kingdom of God is like two enemies caring for each other with compassion, like a wedding banquet with the poor sitting in the places of honor, like an estranged son embraced by his father, and like a mustard seed growing into a magnificent tree with enough shade for everyone. We confess that we often want your Kingdom to be more like our kingdoms, defined by violence and control. We confess that our imaginations are often ruled by fear. Forgive us, God of grace. Free us from fear. Lead us with your Holy Spirit to see and to live into the Kingdom of God. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: By the power at work within us, God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.

All: To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

***Response** *“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”* Hymnal #582

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. (3x)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

PROCLAIMING

Choral Anthem

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

G. Martin

Sermon on the Steps

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson (NRSV)

Luke 18:15-17

Leader: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us,

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Like Children”

Rev. Dr. Sam Codrington

RESPONDING

***Hymn**

“I Danced in the Morning”

Hymnal #157

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (Please sing)

Renew 177

Our Father which 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.

Offertory

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

***Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

All: God of community, you desire to fill our lives with your love and for us to be channels of your love in the world, until your love breaks through every barrier and creates belonging across every region. Inspire us with your Holy Spirit. Clarify our hearts. Help us to be attentive to the small moments in our lives that are ripe with possibility. Use who we are and what we have for your Kingdom, we pray, amen.