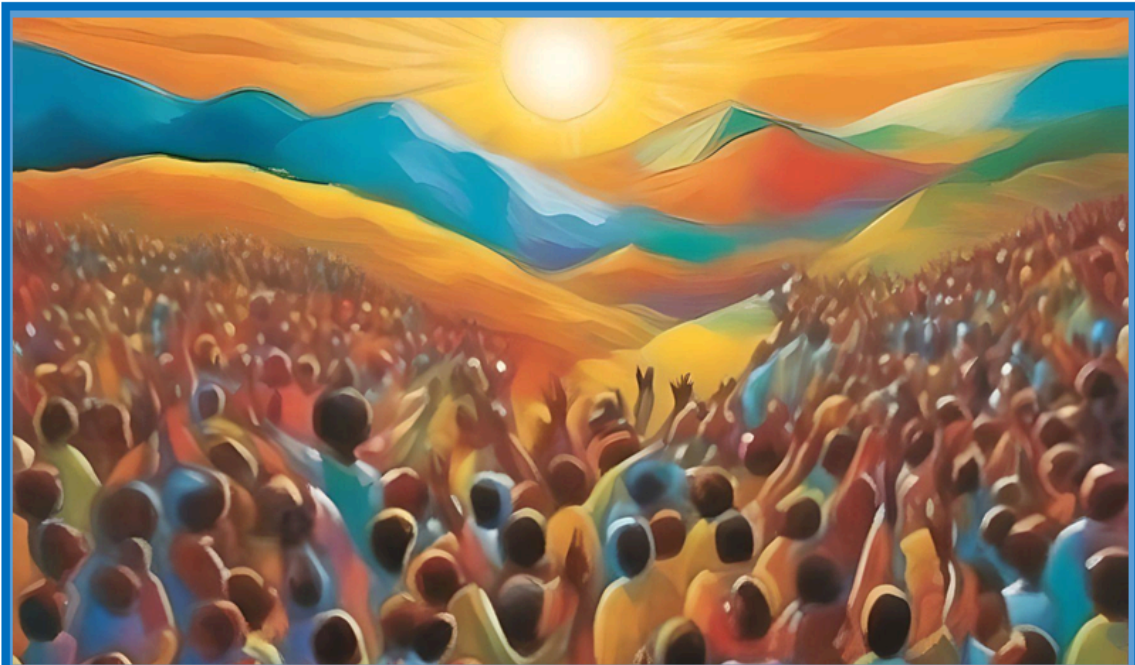


First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon

5th Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024



All the power-mongers are before him

- worshipping !

All the poor and powerless, too

- worshipping !

Along with those who never got it together

- worshipping !

Psalm 22: 29 The Message

"Great Gathering for Worship"

AI image created with Fotor by Joel Gossett

— ARTIST'S STATEMENT —

When I read The Message translation of today's scripture, what drew my attention was Psalm 22:29. What struck me about it is it matters not one's station in life when ALL are worshiping God. I believe the image captures this; you cannot tell the status of any of those in the picture who are worshiping. All will hear the good news! — *Joel Gossett*

— WELCOME —

Welcome | We are so glad you could join us today!

If you are a visitor, please stop by the welcome table for information about our church. Listening devices and large print bulletins are available from one of our ushers. Please let us know if there is any way we may support or pray for you.

Special Note for Families with Children

The nursery/toddler room in the narthex opens at 9:15am for children under the age of 4. Children ages 4 through 5th grade will be dismissed during the Passing of the Peace for Sunday school. Teachers will bring your children to the oak tree outside of the sanctuary at the end of the service.

Committee Quarterly Today

Mark your calendars to join us after service today in Richardson Hall for a discussion about the Community HousingWorks field trip. Some Session committees will be meeting afterwards, if desired. All are welcome to attend!

Cinco de Mayo Potluck This Friday

Please join us for yummy Mexican food and wonderful fellowship at this TBN Cinco de Mayo Potluck. **Date:** Friday, May 3 **Time:** 6pm **Where:** Home of Bob and Joellen Collins (2042 Monaco Court, El Cajon, CA 92019) If you didn't get an e-vite, e-mail Joellen collijo@cox.net or call her at 619-447-6329 for particulars. All church family and friends are invited! Kindly RSVP by May 1.

Bell Concert Next Sunday

Join us for our annual bell concert next Sunday at 12pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome!

Founder's Day

On Monday, May 6, our church will be 141 years old! You can read more about the history of FPCEC at the bottom of this page on our website: www.firstpres-elcajon.org/about.

~ Please see additional announcements at the back of your bulletin ~

— GATHERING —

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

From generation to generation, God names us and claims us.

Blessed be the Lord, our God

When we try to tell God what to do, Christ corrects us

And redirects us back onto the paths of life.

Let all who draw breath come back to the Lord.

From our earliest steps, the Spirit guides us

And sets before us the ways of life and death.

Let the faithful rejoice in the mysteries of our God.

From generation to generation, God names us and claims us.

Let heaven and earth praise God's holy name.

SONG: "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty

Early in the morning

our song shall rise to Thee

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty

God in three Persons, blessed trinity

Holy, holy, holy

all the saints adore thee

Casting down their golden crowns

around the glassy sea

Cherubim and seraphim

falling down before thee

Which wert, and art,

and evermore shall be

Holy, holy, holy though

the darkness hide Thee

Though the eye of sinfulness

Thy glory may not see

Only thou art holy,

there is none beside thee,

Perfect in power, in love, and purity

Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty,
All thy works shall praise Thy name

In earth and sky and sea

Holy, holy, holy,

Merciful and mighty

God in three Persons,

Blessed Trinity

PRAYER OF YEARNING

Speak truth to our hearts, O God.

Speak love to our lives,
**that we may remain in your love
and share your love joyously with others.**

Speak grace to our souls,
**that we may rest in your grace
and forgive others as we have been forgiven.**

Speak mercy to our world,
**that all the world may know your love
and find redemption in your grace.**

In hope and trust, we pray. **Amen.**

**Please take a moment for your personal prayers of confession.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

GLORIA PATRI

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.

ANTHEM: "CHRIST IS THE VINE" ~ *Marilyn and James Biery*

Refrain:

*Christ is the vine,
we are the branches;
growing in unity with
each new strand.
Christ is the vine,
we are the branches;
nurtured and pruned by the
Vinegrower's hand.*

*The vine which God is tending
is bursting with new life,
it's reach is never ending,
while pruned with sharpest knife.
It stretches to the sunshine with
yearning born of need,
and bears good fruit for new wine,
love born from tiny seed. (Refrain)*

*The vine was born in darkness and
from the earth it grew;
a rose pure in its starkness,
caressed by Spirit dew.
As Moses once saw branches with
holy brightness glow,
see our spreading branches through
all creation grow. (Refrain)*

*And we who twine together are
rooted in the Vine;
with love in Christ we gather, to
share the bread and wine.
In Christ we are abiding, we grow
with God's care
and spread this joyful tidings
ev'rywhere. (Refrain)*

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

PASSING THE PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you, **and also with you.**

**Children are dismissed to Sunday School.*

HYMN: "I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR"

I need thee every hour,
most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like thine
can peace afford.

Refrain:

I need thee, Oh I need thee,
every hour I need thee!
O bless me now,
my Savior I come to thee!

I need thee every hour,
stay thou near by;
Temptations lose their power
when thou art nigh.

(Refrain)

SCRIPTURE ~ JOHN 15:1-8 (NRSVUE)

Jesus the True Vine

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

HYMN: "I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR" ~ *cont'd*

I need thee every hour;
teach me thy will,
And thy rich promises
in me fulfill. *(Refrain)*

I need thee every hour,
most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed,
thou blessed Son. *(Refrain)*

— PROCLAIMING THE WORD —

SCRIPTURE: PSALM 22:25-31 (*The Message*)

²⁵⁻²⁶ Here in this great gathering for worship

I have discovered this praise-life.

And I'll do what I promised right here

in front of the God-worshippers.

Down-and-outers sit at GOD's table

and eat their fill.

Everyone on the hunt for God

is here, praising him.

“Live it up, from head to toe.

Don't ever quit!”

²⁷⁻²⁸ From the four corners of the earth

people are coming to their senses,

are running back to GOD.

Long-lost families

are falling on their faces before him.

GOD has taken charge;

from now on he has the last word.

²⁹ All the power-mongers are before him

—worshiping!

All the poor and powerless, too

—worshiping!

Along with those who never got it together

—worshiping!

³⁰⁻³¹ Our children and their children

will get in on this

As the word is passed along

from parent to child.

Babies not yet conceived

will hear the good news—

that God does what he says.

SERMON: “Don't Ever Quit”

— RESPONDING —

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ~ *Declaration of Faith 10.1*

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus
God kept his promises.

All that we can ever hope for was present in Christ.

But the work of God in Christ is not over.

God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen.

The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence
that supports us when lesser hopes fail us.

In Christ God gives hope

for a new heaven and earth,

certainty of victory over death,

assurance of mercy and judgment beyond death.

This hope gives us courage for the present struggle. Amen.

SONG: “ALL THE POOR AND POWERLESS”

All the poor and powerless,
and all the lost and lonely;
and all the thieves will
come confess

And know that you are holy,
and know that you are holy

And all will sing out, hallelujah,
and we will cry out, hallelujah

All the hearts who are content,
And all who feel unworthy
And all who hurt with nothing left

Will know that you are holy

And all will sing out, hallelujah,
And we will cry out, hallelujah
(repeat)

Shout it, go on and scream it
from the mountains,
go on and tell it to the masses,
that he is God (4x)

And we will sing out, hallelujah,
and we will cry out, hallelujah
And we will sing out, hallelujah

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

English

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.

Spanish

Padre nuestro que
estás en los cielos
Santificado sea tu
Nombre Venga tu reino
Hágase tu voluntad En la
tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy el pan
de este día
y perdona nuestras deudas
como nosotros perdonamos
nuestros deudores y no nos
dejes caer en la tentación sino
que líbranos del malo.
Porque tuyo es el reino y el
poder y la gloria por siempre.
Amen.

Arabic

أَبَانَا الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ
لِيَتَقَدَّسَ اسْمُكَ
لِيَأْتِ مَلْكُوتُكَ
لِتَكُنْ مَشِيئَتُكَ
كَمَا فِي السَّمَاءِ كَذَلِكَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ
اعطنا خبزنا كفافنا اليوم
واغفر لنا خطايانا
كما نحن ايضا نغفر لمن اخطا اليانا
وَلَا تُدْخِلْنَا فِي التَّجْرِبَةِ
لَكِنْ نَجِّنَا مِنَ الشَّرِّ
لَأَنَّ لَكَ الْمُلْكَ وَالْقُوَّةَ وَالْمَجْدَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ
أَمِينَ

— SENDING —

SONG: "HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD"

Cuan grande es Dios, cantale,
(How great is our God, sing with me)
Cuan grande es Dios
y todos lo veran,
(How great is our God, and all will see)
Cuan grande es Dios
(How great is our God)
How great is our God, sing with me,
How great is our God,
How great, how great is our God
The splendor of the King,
clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice,
all the earth rejoice
He wraps himself in light
and darkness tries to hide

And trembles at his voice,
and trembles at his voice
How great is our God,
sing with me,
How great is our God,
How great, how great is our God
And age to age he stands,
and time is in his hands
Beginning and the end,
beginning and the end
The Godhead three in one,
Father, Spirit, Son
The Lion and the Lamb,
the Lion and the Lamb

Cuan grande es Dios, cantale,
(How great is our God, sing with me)
Cuan grande es Dios
y todos lo veran,
(How great is our God, and all will see)
Cuan grande es Dios
(How great is our God)
How great is our God,
how great is our God,
How great, how great is our God

Name above all names
worthy of all praise,
My heart will sing,

how great is our God
Name above all names
worthy of all praise,
My heart will sing,
how great is our God

How great is our God,
how great is our God,
How great, how great is our God
(Repeat)

BENEDICTION

— THANK YOU —

USHERS | Theresa Fox and Anthony Goodman

LEADERS & LITURGIST | Joel Gossett, Vivian Malak, Dennis McKinley and
Nancy Williams

SLIDES | Jocelyn Fischer

FLOWERS | Richard and Michelle Blackman offer flowers in celebration of their 56th
anniversary on the 27th.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP | Please join us after worship in Richardson Hall; hosted by the
Congregational Connections Committee.

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

The Circle Players Present “Old Time Radio Show 2”

Richardson Hall will be the stage as The Circle Players presents “Old Time Radio Show 2.” There will be staged readings of original radio scripts from the Golden Age of Radio, including “A Comedy of Danger” – the first play written exclusively for radio. Readings of “Fibber McGee and Molly” and “Father Knows Best” will also be performed. Plus, a Foley artist will give a live demonstration of how sound effects are made for radio, TV, and movies. Performances will be Saturday, May 18 at 6:30pm & Sunday, May 19 at 1:30pm. Admission is \$15 and includes refreshments. Tickets will be on sale after church beginning today. For more info. call 619-588-5348 or email thecircleplayers@gmail.com.

Penny Turk Scholarship Applications

This \$500 scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors and undergraduate college students who have been or are currently active in our church. A flier with application instructions is located in the narthex. Letters are due by May 31 in the church office or given to Wanda Feldner.

Volunteer to Help with Food Distribution with Welcome Ministries

Welcome Ministries is looking for a few people to pick up the truck from St. Alban’s Episcopal Church on Tuesdays at 7am, take it to pick up food at the San Diego Food Bank, and bring it back to St. Alban’s for the 9am food distribution program on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Training provided. If interested or have questions, contact Carlos correabernier@firstpres-elcajon.org.

Protein Pack Items Needed

We are welcoming more protein bars/drinks, packaged meats, packaged fruit/fruit snacks and nuts for protein packs for our unsheltered neighbors. You may drop off items into the shopping cart in the narthex.

Prayer Chain

Have a prayer request? Place it in the prayer box in the narthex and it will be forwarded to our prayer chain. Have something to celebrate? Fill out a gratitude card — *we want to rejoice with you!*

Join Our Weekly E-blast

Our weekly email contains sermon reflection questions, announcements, and additional ways of connecting, sign up on our website or send an email to office@firstpres-elcajon.org.

2024 Sign Up Flower Calendar Is Here!

Check your calendars to get your name on the Flower Chart to reserve your memories for 2024! Sign up on the patio, or contact Ginny Wisley 619.337.6444 or ginny-beth@att.net.

— WEEK AT-A-GLANCE —

Monday, April 29

6:30pm - Circle Players Rehearsal (*Richardson Hall*)

Tuesday, April 30

10:00am - Making Art/Making Conversation (*Thomson Hall*)

Wednesday, May 1

12:00pm - Skeptics & Seekers Class (*Thomson Hall*)

3:00pm - Prayer on the Circle (*Zoom*)

6:00pm - Jubilation Bells Rehearsal (*Bailey Hall*)

7:00pm - Celebration Bells Rehearsal (*Bailey Hall*)

Thursday, May 2

10:00am - Girlfriends Ministry Board (*Thomson Hall*)

4:00pm - Kidz Klub (*Campus*)

6:00pm - Worship Team Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

Friday, May 3

6:00pm - TBN Cinco de Mayo Party (off site)

6:30pm - Bridge Group (*Bailey Hall*)

Saturday, May 4

9:00am - Centering Prayer (*Bailey Hall*)

Sunday, May 5

8:15am - Choir Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

8:30am - Worship Team Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

9:30am - Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)

12:00pm - Bell Concert (*Sanctuary*)

Our Mission

Connecting people to Jesus and each other.

Our Vision

To be a spiritually healthy church that reaches out to its congregation, community, and beyond through music, fellowship, and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Our Values

Spiritual Growth ~ Service ~ Compassion ~ Community

Staff & Contact Information

Rev. Kim Dawsey-Richardson // *Pastor* // pastorkim@firstpres-elcajon.org

Dr. Carlos Correa Bernier // *Director of Spiritual Formation* //
correabernier@firstpres-elcajon.org

Cindy Graham // *Director of Outreach and Operations* //
outreachandoperations@firstpres-elcajon.org

Linsey Wildey // *Administrative Assistant* // office@firstpres-elcajon.org

Megan Benjamin // *Director of Worship Arts* // worshipteam@firstpres-elcajon.org

Kathleen Bright // *Choir Director* // choir@firstpres-elcajon.org

Philip Hatcher // *Accompanist* // accompanist@firstpres-elcajon.org

Will Cain // *Media Coordinator* // will.media@firstpres-elcajon.org

Alex Ramirez // *Audio* // alex.audiotech@firstpres-elcajon.org

Carina Coronel // *Child Care Provider* // c.coronal@firstpres-elcajon.org



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EL CAJON
500 Farragut Circle, El Cajon, CA 92020
619-442-2583 www.firstpres-elcajon.org