



# First Presbyterian Church

at the heart of Anaheim

**September 24, 2023**





\*You are invited to stand as you are able.

**PRELUDE**                      *Amazing Grace*    arr. Gordon Young

**CHORAL INTROIT**              *All The Earth Doth Worship Thee, God*              Everett Titcomb

**WELCOME & RESPONSE**      *Come to the Table of Grace*

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We often invoke the idea of "grace" when we say a blessing over our meals.

**We know that grace is at the heart of our faith.**

We "say grace," but do we always share grace with others?

**We need reminders that we are all human.**

We thank God for another opportunity to make room at the table for others.

**We give thanks for such a large table!**

**\*HYMN 298**                      *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*    In Babilone

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;

There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind;

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;

And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

[Open both palms upward in the sign language for "give"]

**We thank you, Creator God, that you formed every one of us, giving us your image — an inexhaustible space for grace. Forgive us for the ways we seek to limit that image and confine your grace. Restore us by your grace.**

[Place your hands together in the sign for “to be with.”]

**We thank you, Sustainer God, that you are here with us and call us to open fully to forgiveness. Forgive us when we close ourselves off by deciding we are not deserving or another is not deserving of your grace.**

[Bring your hands close to your face, in the sign for “prayer.” & feel your breath on your hands]

**We thank you, God, for breathing into us the breath of life. Even when we have turned away, you have remained with us, close as breath. Help us to have a deep compassion for ourselves and others that even we cannot understand, offering the breath of life however and wherever we can.**

**ANTHEM**

*Good Tidings to the Meek*

Randall Thompson

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** *As We Gather At Your Table*

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
Help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story ‘til we claim it as our own; Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love’s victory known.

**SCRIPTURE**

Philippians 1: 21-30 and Matthew 20:1-16 (Message Translation)

**SERMON**

*God’s Potluck of Grace*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Ephesians 2:1-6, from The Message

**t wasn’t so long ago that we were mired in that old stagnant life of sin.**

**We let the world, which doesn’t know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. We filled our lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat.**

**It’s a wonder God didn’t lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, God embraced us. God took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. God did all this on God’s own, with no help from us! Then God picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah.**

**We give thanks to God for a love like that!**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER**

### **RESPONSE**            *At This Table*

At this table we lift our voices in prayer. At this table we seek your peace.

At this table we know you have drawn near. At this table we find release.

**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.**

### **\*HYMN NO 280**            *Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound) that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come:

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures

He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

## **BENEDICTION**

### **CHORAL BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**            *Lord of All Gentleness*

arr. Margrethe Hokanson

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

The Rev. Kim Skilling- Pastor

Dr. David Hughes - Music Director

Carol Hughes - Organist/Pianist

Anaheim Readers Theater

Abbott Hatch & Richard Ramich – Sound and Video

# Announcements

## Worship Notes

Hearing assistance devices are available at the tech table (or ask a greeter).

For our Children: Worship activity bags are available from the greeters and we have a "Prayground", located at the front right of the Sanctuary. Nursery care is available for children up to age 6.



## Coffee Fellowship

Every Sunday in the courtyard, following the Worship Service.

## THIS WEEK

### **Zoom Bible Study on September 27, 2023**

Wednesdays at 10am

All are invited to join to join us online: Zoom.us

Meeting ID: 608 966 196 Passcode: 5352176

### **Chancel Choir Practice, Thursdays at 7pm and Sundays at 9:30 am**

Speak with Dr. Hughes for more details.

## Mark your Calendars

### **September 24, 2023 Lunch Bunch**

Anyone who wishes is invited to join in going out to lunch following worship.

This month we plan to return to California Baja Mexican Restaurant that is located in the Vons Shopping center on Lincoln.

### **September 26, 2023 Gathering of Spirits**

Join us at 5:45 pm at Windsor Browns for a time when our spirits encounter God's Spirit in spirited discussion on wide ranging topics.

**October 1, 2023**

**World Communion Sunday**

10:30am during Sunday Service

**October 7, 2023**

**Blessing of the Animals**

In partnership with Citi Paws

122 W Broadway

12:00pm-2:00pm

**October 8, 2023**

**Flu Shot Clinic**

Please note the new time: 11am to 3 pm.

Free vaccinations will be available through Hoag' for anyone age 10 or older.

**October 14, 2023**     **Visio Divina Prayer Workshop**

10:30am- 11:30am in the Church Library

This class will be led by Christine Lee Smith, a professional photographer and spiritual director. Donations for the class will be donated to the church for Sanctuary improvements.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please continue to prayer for Dave Lopez (Alan Lopez' brother) as his body adjusts to his heart transplant.

Please pray for those in treatment for cancer: John Harb (Kendall Schubert's father), Matthew Williams (Jack and Geri Baird's grandson), Catherine Morris, Bill Anderson (Bruce Anderson's Brother)

Please pray for those on hospice: Patricia Carl

Please continue to pray for the health of: Dave Lopez (Alan Lopez' brother), Harvey Taylor, Dave Lopez, , Mellody Anderson, Norma Leichtweis, Daline Goode & Family (Mellody Anderson's cousin), Esther Fieldhouse, Luca ( son of Christina Cuddy's friend), Carol Talbot, Wanda Reynolds.

#### **WAYS TO GIVE**

**Donations can be mailed to: First Presbyterian Church 310 W Broadway, Anaheim, CA 92805.  
or Give online at [www.anaheimfirstpres.org](http://www.anaheimfirstpres.org)**