

First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024



welcome

at home

at last

The Wall That Heals
El Cajon 2024
photograph by Theresa Fox

— ARTIST’S STATEMENT —

The victories of sinners are temporary; deliver us, Lord, from past distresses. Fellow Vietnam veterans stand in silence and respect, remembering this life-altering time at The Wall That Heals. — *Theresa Fox*



— 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.

Next Committee Quarterly

Mark your calendars to join us after service on Sunday, April 28 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!

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

— GATHERING —

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord hears us when we call:

Come, let us put our trust in God.

The Lord fills our hearts with gladness:

Come, let us sing God's praises with shouts of joy!

The Lord grants peace to our weary souls:

Come, let us rest by the quiet waters of God's grace.

SONG: "MY FEET ARE ON THE ROCK"

I can see the clouds roll in

I can feel the winds they try to shake me

I will not be moved

My feet are on the rock

I can feel the waters rise

I can hear the howling lies that haunt me

Fear won't hold me now

My feet are on the rock

Chorus

When I feel my hope about to break

I will cling to Your unchanging grace

Let the waters come and the earth give way

I'll be dancing in the rain

My feet are on the rock

I can see the morning light

I can feel the joy on the horizon

Here my faith is found

I stand on solid ground

Chorus

On Christ the solid rock I stand

All other ground is sinking sand

So stomp your feet and clap your hands

Our feet are on the rock *(repeat 2x)*

Chorus (x2)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Risen Christ, we are often troubled by many things.

Yet you are more powerful than all that attacks us from within and beyond.

You reveal yourself to us again and again that we might know you and find help.

You pull us out of our shame and isolation and into restored relationships and community.

So we call on you this morning to help clear our souls of the demons that afflict us.

We confess our doubt, anger, overindulgence, greed, hatred, and self-loathing.

We confess our resistance to your healing and judgments against others.

Too often we sort who is in and who is out, and ignore what torments human siblings.

Forgive us when we fall short to receive and show the depth of your love.

Help us to find and offer peace, rest, and safety in you.

Renew us and make us whole.

In resurrection hope we pray, Amen.

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

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

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: "LEAD ME, LORD" ~ S. Wesley

*Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.*

*For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
that makest me dwell in safety.*

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: "JESUS, THE VERY THOUGHT OF THEE"

Presbyterian Hymnal #310

Jesus, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,
Nor can the mind recall
A sweeter sound than Thy blest name,
O Savior of us all.

SCRIPTURE: PSALM 4 (NRSVUE)

¹ Answer me when I call, my righteous God!
You gave me room when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

² How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?
How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?

³ But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.

⁴ When you are disturbed, do not sin;
ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

⁵ Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶ There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!
Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"

⁷ You have put gladness in my heart
more than when their grain and wine abound.

⁸ I will both lie down and sleep in peace,
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN: "JESUS, THE VERY THOUGHT OF THEE" ~ *cont'd*

O hope of every contrite heart.
O joy of all the meek,
To those who fall,
how kind Thou art!
How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find?
Ah, this no tongue nor
pen can show;
The love of Jesus, what it is
None but His loved ones know

— PROCLAIMING THE WORD —

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: MARK 5:1-20 (*New Living Translation*)

So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. ⁴ Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones.

⁶ When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. ⁷ With a shriek, he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don’t torture me!” ⁸ For Jesus had already said to the spirit, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit.”

⁹ Then Jesus demanded, “What is your name?” And he replied, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man.” ¹⁰ Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place.

¹¹ There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. ¹² “Send us into those pigs,” the spirits begged. “Let us enter them.”

¹³ So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

¹⁴ The herdsmen fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. ¹⁶ Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. ¹⁷ And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone.

¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹ But Jesus said, “No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been.” ²⁰ So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: “The Transforming Day of the Living Dead”

— RESPONDING —

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

SONG: “GREAT ARE YOU LORD”

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
And great are You, Lord

Chorus

It’s your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It’s your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
to You only
Great are You Lord

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
And great are You, Lord

Chorus

And all the earth
will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry,
these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord (x3)

Chorus (x2)

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
لِيَتَكُنْ مَشِيئَتُكَ
كَمَا فِي السَّمَاءِ كَذَلِكَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ
اعطنا خبزنا كفافنا اليوم
واغفر لنا خطايانا
كما نحن ايضا نغفر لمن اخطا اليانا
وَلَا تُنْذِلْنَا فِي التَّجْرِبَةِ
لَكِنْ نَجِّنَا مِنَ الشَّرِّ
لَأَنَّ لَكَ الْمُلْكَ وَالْقُوَّةَ وَالْمَجْدَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ
أَمِينَ

— SENDING —

SONG: "FROM THIS VALLEY"

Oh the desert dreams a river,
that will run down to the sea
Like my heart longs for an ocean
to wash down over me

Chorus

Oh won't you take me
from this valley
to that mountain high above
Oh I will pray, pray, pray
till I see your smiling face
I will pray, pray, pray
to the one I love

Oh the outcast dreams
of acceptance,
Just to find pure love's embrace

Like an orphan longs
for their mother
may you hold me in your grace

Chorus

Oh the caged bird
dreams of a strong wind
that will flow beneath her wings
Like a voice longs for a melody,
oh Jesus carry me

Chorus

Oh I will pray, pray, pray
till I see your smiling face
I will pray, pray, pray
to the one I love (x2)

BENEDICTION

— THANK YOU —

USHERS | Anthony Goodman and Dan Saragusa

LEADERS & LITURGIST | Jeremy Kaercher, Everett Lundgren, and Ginny Wisley

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART | Joel Gossett

SLIDES | Gus Malak

LIVESTREAM | Jocelyn Fischer

FLOWERS | Judy Farrar offers flowers to wish *Happy Birthday* to Stephanie McDonald.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP | Please join us after worship under the oak tree; hosted by the Congregational Connections Committee.

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

Up & Coming

The Bell Concert will be happening in the sanctuary on Sunday, May 5. And, our church's Founder's Day is 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:

<https://www.firstpres-elcajon.org/about>

The Circle Players

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 and Sunday, May 19 at 1:30pm. Admission is \$15.00 and includes refreshments. Reservations can be made by calling 619-588-5348 or via email to thecircleplayers@gmail.com.

Listening Devices

Did you know that we have assistive listening devices available on Sunday mornings? People can use their own headsets or take advantage of ours. If you or someone you know could use hearing support, please contact an usher on Sunday.

Worship Participants

You may have observed many congregants taking part in our worship services — reciting poetry, reading scripture, dedicating the offering, and speaking prayers. Consider being a contributor! Contact Dennis McKinley (worship@firstpres-elcajon.org) for more information.

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.

Get a Nametag for Your Child!

In an effort to know each other's names, you can sign up your kids to receive a free name tag to wear on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in this, just write their name(s) on the white board by the welcome table on Sundays. Just a note that the first name tag is free; parent/guardian will need to pay for any replacement nametags.

Donate Your Old Eyeglasses, Cell Phones & Hearing Aids

Used eyeglasses, cell phones, and hearing aids are collected in the Lions Club Box in the narthex. Just ask an usher for assistance if needed. These items will be given to the El Cajon Valley Host Lions Club and then provided to people around the world who need eye glasses, hearing aids and/or cell phones. Please call Cathy and Keith Bailes if you have any questions: (619) 787-6173. Thank you so much for your donations.

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 15

1:00pm - Knit for Kids (*Thomson Hall*)

Tuesday, April 16

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

11:30am - Priscilla Circle (*Thomson Hall*)

Wednesday, April 17

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, April 18

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

4:30pm - Admin Committee (*Meeting Room 1*)

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

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

Saturday, April 20

8:00am - Presbytery of SD Latino Ministry (*Meeting Room 1/Courtyard*)

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

Sunday, April 21

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

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

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

***Note:** *The Orcas Island Community Church Youth Group will be utilizing the Youth Center as sleeping accommodations this week as they do service projects in San Diego during the day.*

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

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