

# First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon

## 4th Sunday of Easter

*April 21, 2024*



I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me.

**Psalm 23**

photograph by Ginny Wisley

## — ARTIST'S STATEMENT —

Ireland is where God reaches out to me the most through His stillness, beauty, overall Creations and Colors. The photo was taken in the Black Valley of the Gap of Dunloe, in County Kerry, Ireland. The lone sheep, knowing that his Shepherd, though not seen, is near, is protected as he eats in the valley, near the still water of the River Loe.

Sheep don't always herd together, but rather know that they are safe within their areas, just as we are safe within our Shepherd's area of Love. The sheep in Ireland are painted with a special paint to identify them to the other ranchers/shepherds in the area, as opposed to having physical fences to divide the range areas. The paint washes out during the shearing process and doesn't harm the wool. — *Ginny Wisley*

## — 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 Next Sunday!**

Mark your calendars to join us after service next 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!

### **Cinco de Mayo Potluck**

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](mailto: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**

The Bell Concert will be happening in the sanctuary on Sunday, May 5. 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](http://www.firstpres-elcajon.org/about).

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

## — GATHERING —

### PRELUDE: “WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD”

I see trees of green, red roses too  
I see them bloom for me and you  
And I think to myself  
What a wonderful world  
The colors of the rainbow  
so pretty in the sky  
And also on their faces  
of people going by  
I see friends shaking hands,

saying, “How do you do?”  
They’re really saying I love you  
I hear babies cry, I watch them grow  
They’ll learn much more  
than I’ll ever know  
And I think to myself what a  
wonderful world  
And I think to myself what a  
wonderful world

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Church, where do you see God?

**We see God in the wide reach of sky,  
in the towering height of mountains,  
in the depths of the sea,  
and in the vividness of flowers.**

Church, where else do you see God?

**We see God in early morning sunrises,  
in the quiet after a snow,  
in the reaching of rivers and tributaries,  
and in the stars that light the night.**

And in your seeing, what do you know?

**We know that God is here,  
and we know that God is good.**

Let us worship the God of creation!

**Let us worship our with-us God.**

### SONG: “JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE”

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee  
God of glory, Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like  
flower before Thee  
Hail thee as the Son above

Joy in my soul  
Joy in my soul

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee  
God of glory, Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flowers  
before Thee  
Hail thee as the Son above

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness  
Drive the dark of doubt away  
Giver of immortal gladness  
Fill us with the light of day

Joy in my soul  
Joy in my soul

All Your works with  
joy surround Thee  
Earth and heaven reflect Your rays  
Stars and angels sing around Thee  
Center of unbroken praise

Field and forest, vale and mountain  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Praising You eternally

Joy in my soul, Joy in my soul  
Joy in my soul, Joy in my soul

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shepherding God, maker of heaven and earth:

**We have lost our way.**

You instructed us to care for creation,  
**and we have done the opposite.**

You give us us abundant blessings  
and offer us rest in the safety of green pastures,  
**yet we take your care for granted  
and complain of not having enough.**

Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's generosity,  
**forgive us.**

Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted,  
**have mercy upon us.**

Where we have become estranged  
from the creatures with whom we share this planet,  
**grant us your peace.**

Fill our hearts with compassion for your world,  
and show us where we can make a difference.  
**May your goodness and mercy flow through us,  
as we receive and share your love.**

In the name of Jesus Christ,

And for the sake of the new creation, 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: “THE KING OF LOVE FOREVER MY SHEPHERD IS” ~ R. Lee**

## **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: “ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING”**

All creatures of our God and King  
Lift up your voice and with us sing  
O praise Him! Alleluia  
Thou burning sun with golden beam  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam  
O praise Him, O praise Him  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless  
And worship Him in humbleness  
O praise Him, Alleluia  
Praise praise the Father,  
praise the Son  
And praise the Spirit three in One  
O praise Him, O praise Him  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **POEM: “MESSENGER” ~ *written by Mary Oliver***

My work is loving the world.  
Here the sunflowers, there the  
hummingbird—  
    equal seekers of sweetness.  
Here the quickening yeast; there the  
blue plums.  
Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.  
Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?  
Am I no longer young, and still not half-  
perfect? Let me  
    keep my mind on what matters,  
which is my work,  
which is mostly standing still and  
learning to be  
    astonished.

The phoebe, the delphinium.  
The sheep in the pasture, and the  
pasture.  
Which is mostly rejoicing, since all the  
ingredients are here,  
which is gratitude, to be given a mind  
and a heart  
    and these body-clothes,  
a mouth with which to give shouts of joy  
    to the moth and the wren, to the  
sleepy dug-up clam,  
telling them all, over and over, how it is  
    that we live forever.

**HYMN: “FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH” ~ *Presbyterian Hymnal* #473**

For the joy of ear and eye,  
For the heart and mind’s delight,  
For the mystic harmony  
Linking sense to sound and sight,

*Refrain*

Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild  
*(Refrain)*

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child  
Friends on earth, and friends above  
For all gentle thoughts and mild  
*(Refrain)*

— PROCLAIMING THE WORD —

**SCRIPTURE: “PSALM 23” ~ *see bulletin insert***

**SERMON: “Catching Our Breath in Creation”**

— RESPONDING —

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in a creating God  
**who delights in the Earth and calls it good.**  
We believe in the Holy Spirit  
**who moves through creation like a mighty rushing wind.**

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth

**who calmed the seas and told stories of mustard seeds, birds, and valleys.**

We believe that humanity is undeniably intertwined with creation,

**and that creation is undeniably intertwined with God.**

Therefore, we believe our faith calls us to care for creation:

**to plant flowers,**

**to speak tenderly to animals,**

**to thank the Earth for her bounty,**

**to clean the streams, to protect the forests,**

**and to live like we are standing on holy ground, because we are. Amen.**

## **SONG: "HOUSE OF GOD FOREVER"**

God is my shepherd

I won't be wanting,

I won't be wanting

He makes me rest,

In fields of green with quiet streams

Even though I walk through the

valley of death and dying

I will not fear, cause you are with me,

You are with me

Your shepherd's staff comforts me

You are my feast in the

presence of enemies

Surely goodness will follow me

Follow me, in the house of

God forever

God is my shepherd

I won't be wanting,

I won't be wanting

He makes me rest,

In fields of green with quiet streams

Even though I walk through the

valley of death and dying

I will not fear, cause you are with me,

You are with me

Your shepherd's staff comforts me

You are my feast in the

presence of enemies

Surely goodness will follow me

Follow me, in the house of

God forever

In the house of God forever

In the house of God forever

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

## BENEDICTION

## PROCESS OUTSIDE WITH SINGING

### Taize

Sing praises, all you peoples,  
sing praises to the Lord.  
Sing praises, all you peoples,  
sing praises to the Lord!

### He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

He's got the whole world in his  
hands *(Sing 3x)*  
He's got the whole  
world in his hands.  
He's got the wind and the  
rain in his hands *(Sing 3x)*  
He's got the whole  
world in his hands.

He's got the little tiny baby in his  
hands *(Sing 3x)*

He's got the whole  
world in his hands.

He's got you and me, sibling,  
in his hands *(Sing 3x)*

He's got the whole  
world in his hands.

He's got the oceans and the orcas, in  
his hands *(Sing 3x)*

He's got the whole  
world in his hands.

He's got everybody here in his hands  
*(Sing 3x)*

He's got the whole  
world in his hands.



## — THANK YOU —

**USHERS** | Theresa Fox and Anthony Goodman

**LEADERS & LITURGIST** | Vivian Malak, Dennis McKinley and Laurie Wood

**TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART** | Marsha Boring

**SLIDES** | Gus Malak

**LIVESTREAM** | Jocelyn Fischer

**FLOWERS** | Peggy Dow in loving memory of 54 years of friendship with Judy Dries who passed away in October 2023.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** | Please join us after worship under the oak tree; hosted by the Spanish Expression.

## — ANNOUNCEMENTS —

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Sharing Love Through Our Online Presence**

There are many ways we can connect with each other and share God’s love outside the church walls. One of those ways is through our online presence! Below are a few next steps you can take if willing:

**Youtube:** Subscribe, like and view our church services

**Instagram (firstpreselcajon) and Facebook:** Follow and like the church’s posts

**Share:** Send pictures of yourself and ministry happenings to [office@firstpres-elcajon.org](mailto:office@firstpres-elcajon.org) so we can celebrate and share the good things happening here!

### **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](mailto:correabernier@firstpres-elcajon.org).

### **Got Yarn?**

Our Knit for Kids group met on their usual second Monday in April and did "Spring Cleaning" to weed out yarns that were not suitable for our World Vision and MOM's items. Now, we need to replenish our supply. If you have skeins/balls of yarn that you won't be using/need, please consider donating them to the church.

### **Gratitudes**

Dear church family, we want to thank you so much for the cards, prayers, hugs, and total support you have given us during this sad time. We have felt completely upheld by the love and concern you have shown us as we grieve the loss of our Kelly. Thank you all who shared a part in her memorial service and the Deacon's for the wonderful luncheon. We are blessed by you all. — *Daryl and Wanda*

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:ginny-beth@att.net).

## — WEEK AT-A-GLANCE —

### **Monday, April 22**

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

### **Tuesday, April 23**

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

6:00pm - Session (*Thomson Hall*)

### **Wednesday, April 24**

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 25**

9:00am - Web Team Meeting (*Thomson Hall*)

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

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

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

### **Saturday, April 27**

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

10:00am - Clever Crafters (*Thomson Hall*)

### **Sunday, April 28**

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

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

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

11:00am - Committee Quarterly (*Richardson Hall*)

4:00pm - Girlfriends Book Club (*Bailey Hall*)

## **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](mailto:pastorkim@firstpres-elcajon.org)

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