

# First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon

7th Sunday of Easter ~ Ascension Sunday

May 12, 2024



“Gnarled Oak”

photograph by Heidi McKinley

for Psalm 1

## — ARTIST’S STATEMENT —

God charts the trail you take and you are here, right now. This trail has brought you to the Word of God. Like a river, it provides many blessings, making you resilient and strong. Like a gnarled one hundred-year-old oak tree, you will not live without troubles, but you will always have shade and fresh fruit for yourself and all of those around you. This beautiful oak tree can be found in Mission Trails Park, near the dam, less than five minutes up the Oak Canyon Trail. — Heidi McKinley

## — 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.

### **Today: Ascension Sunday**

After the resurrection, Jesus visited with the disciples for 40 days and then ascended and rejoined the Father in heaven. In light of this, Ascension Sunday is the 7th Sunday of Easter when we celebrate the ascension of Jesus.

### **Next Week: Pentecost Sunday (*Remember to wear red!*)**

Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter Sunday. The term Pentecost comes from Greek meaning “fiftieth”. The Day of Pentecost is the climax of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, celebrating as it does the gift of the Spirit to the body of Christ — the church.

### **Interested in Becoming a Church Member?**

Want to become a member? Have questions about our vision and values? If so, we would love to know if you could participate in a membership class after church on Sunday, May 26 or Sunday, July 14. Contact the office at [office@firstpres-elcajon.org](mailto:office@firstpres-elcajon.org) or 619-442-2583 to let us know!

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

# — GATHERING —

## PRELUDE: “IN EVERYTHING”

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are those who follow paths of righteousness.

**We take delight in the wisdom of God.**

Happy are those who reach out to those in need.

**We find delight in the love of God.**

Happy are those who are grounded in God’s Word.

**We draw delight in the presence of God.**

### SONG: “GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS”

Great is Thy faithfulness,  
O God my Father  
There is no shadow  
of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not,  
Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been,  
Thou forever wilt be

*Chorus*

Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning  
new mercies I see  
All I have needed

Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness,  
Lord unto me  
Summer and winter,  
and springtime and harvest  
Sun, moon and stars  
in their courses above  
Join with all nature  
in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness,  
mercy and love

*Chorus*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We delight in your law, O God, but we don’t always follow your ways.

**You call us, but we get distracted and busy taking care of other things.**

Remind us, Holy One, that you are the source of our flourishing.

**You are the living water by which we have been planted.**

Focus us on you, your Word, and all that your Spirit provides.

**Forgive our neglect. Forgive our unfaithfulness.**

Shower us with your mercy,

**that we may know your forgiveness and your grace.**

Guide our steps,  
**that we may follow you more closely.**  
Draw us ever closer to you and to one another,  
**that we might live in your love and share it with the world.**  
In your mercy and grace 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: “JESUS SHALL REIGN WHERE’ER THE SUN”**

### ***Presbyterian Hymnal #423***

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run,  
His kingdom stretch from  
shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and  
wane no more.*

*To Him shall endless  
prayer be made,  
And praises throng to  
crown His head;  
His name, like sweet  
perfume shall rise  
With every morning sacrifice.*

*People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on His love  
with sweetest song,  
And infant voices*

*shall proclaim  
Their early blessings  
on His name.  
Blessings abound  
where'er He reigns;  
The prisoners leap  
to lose their chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who suffer  
want are blessed.*

*Let every creature  
rise and bring  
Peculiar honors  
to our King;  
Angels descend with  
songs again,  
And earth repeat,  
the loud amen!*

## **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.*

## **SONG: “ALL AROUND”**

*Refrain (4x):*

All around, all around

Everywhere I look Your love is all around

Let the nations sing let the people shout

Let Your kingdom come pour your spirit out

*Refrain (4x)*

## **READING: “The Wide Spectrum of Mothering” ~ Amy Young**

To those who gave birth this year to their first child — we celebrate with you

To those who lost a child this year – we mourn with you

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day

and wear the badge of food stains — we appreciate you

To those who experienced loss this year through miscarriage,

failed adoptions, or running away — we mourn with you

To those who walk the hard path of infertility,

fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment — we walk with you.

Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms — we need you

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children — we celebrate with you

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children — we sit with you

To those who lost their mothers this year — we grieve with you

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother — we acknowledge

your experience

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood — we are better for having you in our midst

To those who have aborted children - we remember them and you on this day

To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children — we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for it to be

To those who step-parent — we walk with you on these complex paths

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that dream is not to be — we grieve with you

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year — we grieve and rejoice with you

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising — we anticipate with you

This Mother's Day, we walk with you.

Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst.

We remember you.

### **SONG: "ALL AROUND"**

All around, all around,  
everywhere I look

Your love is all around

*(Repeat 3x)*

### **GOSPEL CHANTED ~ JOHN 17:6-13 (NRSVUE)**

<sup>6</sup>“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.

<sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.

## **— PROCLAIMING THE WORD —**

### **SCRIPTURE: PSALM 1 (NRSVUE)**

*The Two Ways*

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked  
or take the path that sinners tread

or sit in the seat of scoffers,  
<sup>2</sup>but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

<sup>4</sup>The wicked are not so  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,

<sup>6</sup>for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **SERMON: “They Are Like Trees”**

### **— RESPONDING —**

## **SONG: “CANOPY”**

*Refrain (4x):*

May we dwell in your tent, O Lord

*Verse (2x):*

Harbored by brooding wings,

held in the wide mercy

Under your canopy of love

*Refrain (4x)*

*Verse (2x)*

## **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 مَلَكُوتُكَ  
لِيَكُنْ مَشِيئَتُكَ  
كَمَا فِي السَّمَاءِ كَذَلِكَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ  
اعْطِنَا خُبْزَنَا كَمَا نَحْنُ الْيَوْمَ  
وَاعْفِرْ لَنَا خَطَايَانَا  
كَمَا نَحْنُ أَيْضًا نَعْفِرُ لِمَنْ أَخْطَأَ إِلَيْنَا  
وَلَا تُنْجِلْنَا فِي التَّجْرِبَةِ  
لَكِنْ نَجِّنَا مِنَ الشَّرِّ بِرَبِّ  
لَأَنَّ لَكَ الْمُلْكَ وَالْقُوَّةَ وَالْمَجْدَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ  
أَمِينَ

## The Words of Institution

### — SENDING —

## SONG: "I SHALL NOT BE MOVED"

Glory hallelujah,  
I shall not be moved  
Anchored in Jehovah,  
I shall not be moved  
Just like a tree planted  
by the water,  
shall not be moved  
In his love abiding,  
I shall not be moved  
And in him confiding,  
I shall not be moved  
Just like a tree planted  
by the water  
I shall not be moved

### Chorus

I shall not, I shall not be moved,  
I shall not, I shall not be moved  
Just like a tree planted by the water,  
I shall not be moved  
Though all hell assail me,  
I shall not be moved  
Jesus will not fail me,  
I shall not be moved  
Just like a tree planted  
by the water  
I shall not be moved



Though the tempest rages  
I shall not be moved  
On the rock of ages,  
I shall not be moved  
Just like a tree planted  
by the water,  
I shall not be moved

*Chorus*

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **— THANK YOU —**

**USHERS** | Anthony Goodman and Ginny Wisley

**YOUNG AT HEART** | Mari Miyares-Piper

**LITURGIST** | Peter Marx

**SLIDES** | Jocelyn Fischer

**FLOWERS** | Anthony and Ann Goodman in celebration of their upcoming 1st anniversary on May 20th!

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

### **— ANNOUNCEMENTS —**

#### **Next Weekend: 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 next Saturday, May 18 at 6:30pm & Sunday, May 19 at 1:30pm. Admission is \$15 and includes refreshments. Ticket reservations may be made via email [thecircleplayers@gmail.com](mailto:thecircleplayers@gmail.com).

#### **Compassionate Connection Class**

One of God's greatest commandments is to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Do you ever wonder why this is so hard for us? Why do certain choices that others make upset us

so much? What gets in the way of being our best selves, even with loved ones and our church family? Mari Miyares-Piper and Rev. Ev Lundgren will be facilitating a 6-week class for increasing compassionate connection in our relationship with ourselves and others through teaching the basic fundamentals of nonviolent (or compassionate) communication skills. Unless noted, all classes will meet in Richardson Hall. Class dates: Sundays: June 2, 9 (Youth Center), 16, 30, July 7 & 14. For more information email [mari.miyares-piper@firstpres-elcajon.org](mailto:mari.miyares-piper@firstpres-elcajon.org).

### **Funding Forward: A Pathway to More Sustainable Models for Ministry**

Join a small group of church leaders and congregants as we discover new opportunities for church funding while we deepen our connection with God and our community. This learning experience provides the tools and insights needed to move beyond the constant worry about finances to listen to God's voice more clearly. We will explore innovative solutions to creating financially sustainable ministry models. The course consists of a series of videos and activities that we will participate in, sometimes alone and sometimes together. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Cindy Graham ([outreachandoperations@firstpres-elcajon.org](mailto:outreachandoperations@firstpres-elcajon.org))

### **Girlfriends**

Ladies, it's that time again for the Girlfriends' Spring Tea! Save the Date: Saturday, June 15th. We have a wonderful time planned for you, with local actress Eileen Bowman-Sylwestrzak as our guest speaker. Tickets are \$30 each and will go on sale on May 19th!

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

### **Condolences**

It is with great sadness we share that Eileen Bessent passed away Friday, May 3. Please keep her family in your prayers. Memorial details will be forthcoming.

## **Remembrance**

Tomorrow, May 13, is what would have been Bep and Harold Stier's 45th wedding anniversary. We continue to hold Bep in our prayers as she continues in the grief process.

## **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, May 13**

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

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

## **Tuesday, May 14**

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

## **Wednesday, May 15**

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 16**

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

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

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

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

## **Saturday, May 18**

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

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

## **Sunday, May 19**

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

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

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

1:30pm - Circle Players Show (*Richardson 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)

**Dr. Carlos Correa Bernier** // *Director of Spiritual Formation* //  
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**Cindy Graham** // *Director of Outreach and Operations* //  
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**Megan Benjamin** // *Director of Worship Arts* // [worshipteam@firstpres-elcajon.org](mailto:worshipteam@firstpres-elcajon.org)

**Kathleen Bright** // *Choir Director* // [choir@firstpres-elcajon.org](mailto:choir@firstpres-elcajon.org)

**Philip Hatcher** // *Accompanist* // [accompanist@firstpres-elcajon.org](mailto:accompanist@firstpres-elcajon.org)

**Will Cain** // *Media Coordinator* // [will.media@firstpres-elcajon.org](mailto:will.media@firstpres-elcajon.org)

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