

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Gardena

March 7, 2010
Communion Sunday
Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome to this Worship Celebration!

Today you are one of us. Please join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after the service. We invite everyone to sign our attendance pad when it is passed. You may request a prayer by completing a Prayer Request Card in the pew. Fill it out and drop it in the offering plate and your prayer will be read aloud by the pastor during the prayers of the people. She reads the reason for the request if you write it down. If you include an address on your request, we will send a card to that person to let him or her know they were prayed for today. We offer the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month. All who call Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior are welcome to take communion.

We especially welcome those of you who are new, and would love to hear what your experience has been worshipping here, as well as what you are seeking spiritually in a church home. If you wish to connect with a Christian community, we welcome you exactly as you are, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey.



Silent Meditation:

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Eph. 4:32

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

PRELUDE

“Communion”

Charles Gounod
Arr. by Lani Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Rev. Donna Lee Merz

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sallie Cuaresma

*SONG OF PRAISE

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Hymnal #482

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Sallie Cuaresma

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, that we may become instruments of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

ONE: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: Our Lord said, “My peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.”

This peace surpasses all comfort and hope the world can give.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

***RESPONSE**

2026 Halle, Halle, Halleluja

Hal-le, Hal-le, Hal - le - lu - ja! Hal-le, Hal-le, Hal -
le - lu - ja! Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal - le -
lu - ja! Hal - le - lu - ja! Hal - le - lu - ja!

WORDS: Trad. Caribbean
MUSIC: Trad. Caribbean

HALLE, HALLE
Irregular

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Donna Lee Merz

The ushers will distribute our friendship pads. Please print your name to let us know that you are here.

PSALM (Responsive)

Psalm 63:1-8

Sallie Cuaresma

ONE: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

ALL: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

ONE: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

ALL: So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

ONE: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

ALL: when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

ONE: for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

ALL: My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-9

Rev. Donna Lee Merz

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for God has glorified you. Seek the LORD while God may be found, call upon God while God is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that God may have mercy on them, and to our God, for God will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Rev. Donna Lee Merz

OFFERING

The ushers will pass among us to receive our money and prayer requests.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“How Deep the Father's Love for Us”

“Worship Singers”

Words & music by Stuart Townsend

***OFFERING RESPONSE**

“The Doxology”

Hymnal #592

**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.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Sallie Cuaresma

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Rev. Donna Lee Merz

***COMMUNION HYMN**

“Come to the Table”

(see insert)

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

Holy Holy

Please see insert

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

When the pastor invites us, we come forward in two lines, down the center aisle to a communion station. We take a piece of bread and dip it in the grape juice, eat and return to our seat by the side aisle. If you are unable to come forward, signal an elder and that elder will serve you at your seat.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Donna Lee Merz

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.

***SONG OF PRAISE**

“Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

Hymnal #423

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Donna Lee Merz

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“The Lord Bless and Keep You”

The Lord bless and keep you

The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious, gracious

The Lord bless and keep you

The Lord lift his countenance on you and give peace, give you peace

Shalom, Shalom. Amen, Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

William M. Runyan, Arr. by Frederick Swann

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING: *Please pray for the Gifts of Women in the Church; for South Africa; for the Synod of Alaska-Northwest; and for the presbyteries of Alaska in Alaska, Central Washington and North Puget Sound in Washington, and the Inland Northwest in Idaho and Washington.*

Church Families: *Fred & Carolyn Hamilton, Faith Harder*

Flame of Unity: *Bel Air Presbyterian Church*

Flower Dedication: *Sallie Cuaresma – Birthday blessing for Jack*

Liturgist: *Sallie Cuaresma*

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

TODAY, SUNDAY, March 7th, 2010

8:45 am Adult Sunday School (FR)
10:00 am Worship Service (S)
11:00 am Anointed Word Ministry (FR)
11:30 am Western Presbyterian Church (S)
2:00 pm Comunidad Cristiana (S)

MONDAY, March 8th, 2010

Office Assistant – Position Open
10:00 am Sewing (FR)
5:00-8:00 pm Art Class (FH)

TUESDAY, March 9th, 2010

Office Assistants – Pat Nelson
6:00-7:00 am Western Presbyterian (FR)
3:30 pm Presbytery meets at Calvary Wilmington

WEDNESDAY, March 10th, 2010

Office Assistant-- Pat Nelson
6:00-7:00 am Western Presbyterian (FR)
5:00 pm Young Champions Self Defense (FH)
6:30 pm-9:30 pm Comunidad Cristiana (S)

THURSDAY, March 11th, 2010

Office Assistant-- Phyllis Linton
6:00-7:00 am Western Presbyterian (FR)
9:15 am Women of the Bible (FR)
4:00-6:00 pm Choir Practice (MR)

FRIDAY, March 12th, 2010

6:00-7:00 am Western Presbyterian (FR)
6:30 pm Sports Fellowship (FH)
Preschool Yard Sale set-up in the Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY, March 13th, 2010

7:00–1:00 pm Preschool Yard Sale

Codes:

S ~ Sanctuary *NAMP ~ Native American Ministry Project*
FH ~ Fellowship Hall
FR ~ Fireside Room
MR ~ Lois Taylor Music Room

**First Presbyterian Church of Gardena
Presbyterian Church (USA)**

1957 W. Redondo Beach Blvd.
Gardena, CA 90247-3623
Mon - Fri 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Telephone: 1-310-329-6381
Fax: 1-310-329-6389

Email Address: fpcgardena@SBCGlobal.net
Preschool Telephone: 1-310-329-4030

STAFF

Pastor *The Rev. Donna Lee Merz*
Office Manager.....
Organist / Choir Director *Hae-ja Kim*
Treasurer..... *Doug Rozendal*
Finance Committee..... *Tom Crowe,*
Doris Sims
Clerk of Session..... *Winona Cuaresma*
Office Assistants..... *Rae Sharer, Phyllis Linton,*
Pat Nelson
Child Care Provider..... *Jessica Maldonado*
Session: *Sallie Cuaresma, Winona Cuaresma,*
Irene Maldonado, Ray Mohl, and Irma Reinboth.

Deacons: *Caroline Blancia, Lee Burger, Tae Shozuya, Phyllis Linton, Jessica Maldonado, Zafar Malik, Bonnie Mohl, Alicia Rodriguez.*

***Come and serve Christ through our ministry teams.
To be involved, contact the church office.***

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Arthur French III