

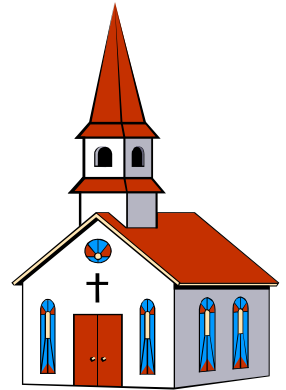
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Gardena

July 24, 2011
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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:

God of mercy, grant that the Word you speak this day may take root in our hearts, and bear fruit to your honor and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

PRELUDE

“Melody”

Robert Schumann (1810 -1856)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Donna Lee Merz

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Stephen Tonsong

*SONG OF PRAISE

“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!”

Hymnal #476

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Stephen Tonsong

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Donna Lee Merz

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

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 105:1-11, 42b

Stephen Tonsong

ONE: O give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name,
make known God's deeds among the peoples.

ALL: Sing to God, sing praises to God; tell of all God's wonderful works.

ONE: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

ALL: Seek the LORD and God's strength; seek God's presence continually.

ONE: Remember the wonderful works God has done,

ALL: God's miracles, and the judgments God uttered,

ONE: O offspring of God's servant Abraham, children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

ALL: This is the LORD our God; God's judgments are in all the earth.

ONE: God is mindful of God's covenant forever,

of the word that God commanded, for a thousand generations,

ALL: the covenant that God made with Abraham, God's sworn promise to Isaac,

ONE: which God confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

ALL: saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan

as your portion for an inheritance." and Abraham, his servant.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Rev. Donna Lee Merz

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that

was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Donna Lee Merz

***HYMN**

"Seek Ye First"

Hymnal #333

OFFERING

Rev. Donna Lee Merz

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"As Tenderly As A Father"
"Worship Singers"

Words and Music by
John Shepherd

***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**

Stephen Tonsong

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**

"Be Thou My Vision"

Hymnal #339

***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

"Humnus"

Alexander Von Fielitz (1860 -1930)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING: *Please pray for Metropolitan Urban Ministry; and for the countries of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Hungary, France, Romania, and the Ukraine.*

Church Families: *Bonnie & Chester Reniff, Doris Sims*

Flame of Unity: *First Presbyterian Church of Gardena*

Flower Dedication: *Cecil & Elsie Davison – In memory of son, Eric.*

Liturgist: *Stephen Tonsong*

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

TODAY, SUNDAY, July 24th, 2011

- 8:45 am Adult Sunday School (FR)
- 10:00 am Worship Service (S)
- 11:00 am Anointed Word Ministry (FR)
- 11:30 am Deacons Meeting (MR)
- 2:00 pm Comunidad Cristiana (S)

MONDAY, July 25th, 2011

- Office Assistant – Position Open*
- 5:00-8:00 pm Art Class (FH)

TUESDAY, July 26th, 2011

- Office Assistant – Position Open*

WEDNESDAY, July 27th, 2011

- Office Assistant—Sallie Cuaresma*
- 5:00 pm Young Champions Self Defense (FH)
- 6:30 pm-9:30 pm Comunidad Cristiana (S) (FR)

THURSDAY, July 28th, 2011

- Office Assistant– Phyllis Linton*
- 4:00-6:00 pm Choir Practice (MR)

FRIDAY, July 29th, 2011

- Office Assistant – Pat Nelson*
- 6:30 pm-9:30 pm Comunidad Cristiana (S) (FR)

SATURDAY, July 30th, 2011

Codes:
S ~ Sanctuary NAMC ~ Native American Ministry Council
FH ~ Fellowship Hall
FR ~ Fireside Room
MR ~ Lois Taylor Music Room

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

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Preschool Telephone: 1-310-329-4030
Website: www.fpcgardena.org

STAFF

- Pastor** *The Rev. Donna Lee Merz*
- Office Manager**.....
- Organist / Choir Director** *Hae-ja Kim*
- Treasurer**..... *Doug Rozendal*
- Preschool Director** *Shari Keating*
- Clerk of Session**..... *Winona Cuaresma*
- Office Assistants**..... *Phyllis Linton, Pat Nelson, Sallie Cuaresma*
- Child Care Provider**..... *Jessica Maldonado*
- Session:** *Winona Cuaresma, Robert Maldonado, Ray Mohl, Mary Obasi, and Irma Reinboth.*

Deacons: *Caroline Blancia, Tae Shozuya, Phyllis Linton, Jessica Maldonado, Zafar Malik, Bonnie Mohl, Pat Nelson, Alicia Rodriguez and Flo Tachibana.*

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

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Arthur French III