

Our Pledge of Allegiance
Revelation 13:1-18

Welcome, Guests!

Friends,

We are glad you are here with us and hope you sense God's presence in worship today. If there is any way we can be of help to you, don't hesitate to ask. Here are a few of the questions we often hear from our guests when they first visit:

- ~ **How long is the worship service here at Faith?** Our worship services typically run 60 to 70 minutes.
- ~ **How can I introduce myself?** We'd love to meet you after the service; don't hesitate to introduce yourself! Also, look for the "Introduce Yourself" button on our webpage at www.faithpresby.org. It's a great way to let the pastoral staff know who you are and how we might serve and welcome you.
- ~ **I have kids. Are they welcome here?** Absolutely! We love the sounds of children in the sanctuary. During the children's message in the service, kids up to 6th grade are invited to come up front to listen in. Having them stay with you to listen is also fine. After the children's message in the 9:00 service, children are invited down the hall to Room 2 for a special program with our children's staff.
- ~ **Are there classes for adults?** Yes. Right now all are classes are online. Listen for announcements on Sunday mornings for upcoming classes.
- ~ **What if I have trouble hearing the service?** If you have difficulty hearing, please ask one of our ushers for a personal receiver for the hearing impaired. Also, a T-Loop hearing-assist system is available in the back four pews on the right side of the sanctuary. Set your hearing aid to the "T" setting.
- ~ **How can I find out more information about Faith?** Feel free to speak to any of us and if we can't answer your questions, we'll find somebody who can. Our webpage is a great source of information: www.faithpresby.org. Also, *This Week @ Faith* is a weekly email that goes out on Mondays with information about upcoming opportunities and activities. Email Laura Anderson in our office at landerson@faithpresby.org if you'd like to be included on the email distribution list.
- ~ **What if I'm interested in exploring membership or deeper involvement at Faith?** If you'd like to know more about becoming a member at Faith, or want to understand how you can begin or continue to grow in your Christian faith, we encourage you to contact one of our pastors. You can call the church office at (916) 428-3439 or email one of our staff members. (Email addresses are available on our webpage and further down in this bulletin.) We'd love to meet you and find out how we can be of help.

Again, we are glad you are here with us today!

Grace and peace,

The People of Faith



Faith Presbyterian Church of Sacramento
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 2, 2021
Order of Worship

✠ *Those who are able, please stand.*

Prelude Eunice Aldrich

Lighting of the Christ Candles Margaret Houston (9:00); Abigail McMahon (11:00)

✠ **Call to Worship** Jeff Chapman

One: Christ is risen!

All: **He is risen indeed!**

✠ **Song of Praise** *Speak, O Lord*

Prayer of Confession Brett Shoemaker

Response to Confession *Stand in Your Love*

✠ **Declaration of Forgiveness**

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us pass the peace of Christ.

Welcome Brett Shoemaker

Moment for Ministry: Adult Formation Opportunities Alice Parente

Giving & Receiving of God's Tithes & Our Offerings Carolyn Kubish (9:00)

Jon Coupal (11:00)

Offertory Eunice Aldrich

✠ **Doxology** (literally, *Words to Glorify*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠ **Prayer of Dedication**

Children's Message

Jeff Chapman

Scripture Reading: Revelation 13:1-18

Carolyn Kubish (9:00); Jon Coupal (11:00)

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon

Jeff Chapman

Our Pledge of Allegiance

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

A Note to Parents: In our tradition children who have already been nurtured and instructed in the significance of the Lord's Supper are invited to participate fully in this sacrament. If you have questions about the participation of your children, please speak to one of our pastors.

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving & Eucharistic Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

✠**Hymn of Faith**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

✠**Benediction**

✠**Postlude**

Eunice Aldrich

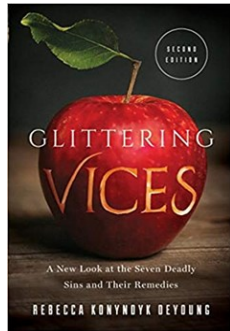
Following the service you are encouraged to greet one another outside on the patio.

The flowers this morning are given by Linda Olsen in gratitude to God for the blessing of her three recently arrived great-grandchildren—Brandon, Stella & Graham.

New Class Starts May 12

Glittering Vices: A New Look at the Seven Deadly Sins & Their Remedies

Journey with contemporary disciples and ancient Christian saints and sages alike as we explore the "seven deadly sins," or vices, and the ways that sin can entangle us. We will look at each of the vices in turn, together with the spiritual practices that mark our intentional openness to the Holy Spirit's work of creating the new self, complete with Christlike virtues. Please come with this promise in mind: The old self is old news; the new life of Christ in us is the good news! This study is designed to help us all become more faithful, joyful, and beautiful disciples.



All are welcome! Group meets eight Wednesday evenings, May 12 to June 30, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. Alice Parente facilitates; to register, please contact her at (916) 212-0803 or vsas77@earthlink.net. Purchasing the *second* edition of the book is recommended but not required (ISBN-13: 978-1587434402).

Upcoming Memorial Services

We hope you will join us, in person or online, as we gather to remember and celebrate the lives of these dear brothers in Christ:

Kent Kim	Today, May 2, 2:00 p.m.
Carroll Collier	Saturday, May 22, 11:00 a.m.

Life Groups @ Faith

Life Groups are small groups (4-12) of people who meet weekly for Bible



study, prayer and community. These groups have been instrumental in fostering spiritual growth and building friendships for many here at Faith. Not a part of a Life Group? We'd love to tell you more. Contact Jeff Chapman at (916) 428-3439, ext. 101, or jchapman@faithpresby.org.

Kids & Youth, Save These Dates!

Vacation Bible School:

Calling all elementary-aged kids (and their parents)! Join us June 21-25 for Vacation Bible School. We will be having a grand adventure on the Rocky Railway, where we will discover how Jesus' power pulls us through. We are looking forward to a fantastic week of faith-building, mega-fun activities that are all designed to help us know Jesus more. See you on the railroad!



Westminster Woods Summer Camp:

We have received the fantastic news that camp at The Woods is ON this summer. The camp will provide detailed registration information to us soon, but in the meantime, they have confirmed the dates when we will go as a church: Thursday, July 8, to Wednesday, July 14. Mark your calendars!



Registration Now Open for the Men & Boys' Retreat

Registration is now open for the **Men and Boys' Retreat**, taking place at **Westminster Woods from June 11 to 13**. All men and boys from ages 5 to 105 are invited to



join us for this great weekend of learning, worship, fellowship, and play at The Woods, in the Sonoma redwoods.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are limited this year to 60 participants, so **early registration is strongly encouraged**. A retreat flyer is available on one of the narthex tables. You may register by filling out the registration form it contains and mailing it to the church with your check. You may also register via the church website. Go to https://faithpresby.org/?page_id=5736 and follow the link for online registration. Please remember that Faith has generous campership funds available to help make attending the retreat a possibility for anyone who wishes to go; speak confidentially with Pastor Jeff or Pastor Brett. See you at The Woods!

Message Notes

Our Pledge of Allegiance

Faith Presbyterian Church of Sacramento

“The Next Step”

A Resource for Life Groups and/or Personal Application

May 2, 2021

Revelation 13:1-18 (NRSV)

¹ And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads; and on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads were blasphemous names. ² And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And the dragon gave it his power and his throne and great authority. ³ One of its heads seemed to have received a death-blow, but its mortal wound had been healed. In amazement the whole earth followed the beast. ⁴ They worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?”

⁵ The beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. It was given authority over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸ and all the inhabitants of the earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slaughtered.

⁹ Let anyone who has an ear listen:

¹⁰ If you are to be taken captive,
into captivity you go;
if you kill with the sword,
with the sword you must be killed.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

¹¹ Then I saw another beast that rose out of the earth; it had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. ¹² It exercises all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and it makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound had been healed. ¹³ It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in the sight of all; ¹⁴ and by the signs that it is allowed to perform on behalf of the beast, it deceives the inhabitants of earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that had been wounded by the sword and yet lived; ¹⁵ and it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast so that the image of the beast could even speak and cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, ¹⁷ so that no one can buy or sell who does not have the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. ¹⁸ This calls for wisdom: let anyone with understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a person. Its number is six hundred sixty-six.

Questions for Life Groups or Personal Reflection

1. Read Revelation 13:1-18 again. What impression are you left with after reading this passage?
2. The first beast represents earthly governments which lure people, even Christians, to worship political power instead of worshipping God. What do verses 1-8 teach us about this beast?
3. The second beast represents religious people or communities which, knowingly or unknowingly, aide in turning the hearts of people to worship political power. What do verses 11-18 teach us about this beast?
4. Is there danger when people in the church say, "Any Christian, if he/she is a true Christian, must vote for _____ (fill in the candidate of your choice)." If so, what is the danger?
5. How does your nationality as an American and your allegiance to the United States of America fit in your Christian faith and your allegiance to Christ?
6. How are we to know when the government or politics have crossed the line and need to be resisted or disobeyed by followers of Christ?
7. Psalm 146:3-4 declares, "Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing." Does the Christian church in America these days generally believe this is true?
8. It's easy to listen to a message like this and come away thinking about all the ways other people need to change. Instead of doing that, look in the mirror and ask yourself what is one way you sense that Christ is challenging you to change when it comes to your ultimate allegiance?



Table to Table: A question for kids and adults to answer together.

Did God make governments and nations? Does he use them to do good things in the world? Do they always do what God wants them to do?

Prayers of the People

Pray for these Families of the Week: Gladys Watt ~ Skip Watt ~ Bill & Jill Welch ~ Minhsueh Weng; Luke Almaraz ~ Roger & Jane Wenzel; Elliot, Nathan

Prayers for Healing & Comfort:

Recovering at Home: Larry Freund, David Bilbo, Bob McCarroll, Lyle Grabowski, Lew Whitney, Jennifer Holden, Bill Frye, Carol Keller, Julene Leonard, James Estes, Joe Kahoiwai, Mary Patterson, Linda Jacobs, Alice Parente, Georgianne Becker

Prayers of Comfort: For Jennifer Holden and her family at the recent death of her sister, Nicole.

Prayer Chain: Email Alice Parente, vsas77@earthlink.net, to share a prayer concern or to join the prayer chain.

Suggested Scriptures for the Week, as we offer God at least 1% of our day (15 minutes or more) focused on His Word and prayer.

Monday: Eccles. 5 / Psalm 93
Tuesday: Eccles. 6 / Psalm 94
Wednesday: Eccles. 7 / Psalm 95
Thursday: Eccles. 8 / Psalm 96
Friday: Eccles. 9 / Psalm 97
Saturday: Eccles. 10 / Ps. 98
Sunday: Eccles. 11 / Ps. 99