



**“VIRTUAL” WORSHIP SERVICES
ON
FACEBOOK/FPCOFVICTORIA:
TRINITY SUNDAY
JUNE 7, 2020**

We will celebrate Trinity Sunday, together with the Lord’s Supper, during our worship service for Sunday, June 7, 2020. Please be prepared to take communion from wherever you may be watching us on the FPC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/fpcovictoria/>). A bread of any sort is suitable, including crackers, tortillas, etc.; any sort of fruit juice would be appropriate, as would wine or even water.

Our Scripture readings for Trinity Sunday are: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; and Matthew 28:16-20. The sermon title is “God Is with Us.” You can obtain a copy of the Bulletin here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2019-06-07-Bulletin-communionPDF.pdf>

Trinity Sunday is celebrated in the “Western church” on the first Sunday following Pentecost. In the “Eastern” or “Orthodox” church, however, the occasion is known as Holy Trinity Day and is celebrated on the Sunday which falls eight weeks after Easter. Regardless of when the occasion is marked, it is always apt and fitting for Christians to reflect on the miraculous ways in which God manifests his love to his creation. Perhaps even more so in these times of quarantine, social isolation, and loneliness, it is well for us to remember that God, in all his manifestations-- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-- is always with us, is always our guide and companion in this life and the next.



DID YOU ENJOY OUR RED SANCTUARY LAST SUNDAY?

Sometimes “virtual” just isn’t good enough! Last week, Robert Wyatt, Becky Richter, and your Pastor had the Sanctuary all to ourselves as we prepared FPC’s worship service for Pentecost, and we were so disappointed that others could not enjoy in person, as we did, the beauty of the Chancel and the lovely altar. It is also a shame that our virtual transmissions cannot capture the splendor of our new organ when Robert plays it-- with all its richness and depth of sound.

Still, we hope you enjoyed the worship service-- with the “red of Pentecost” accenting the Chancel. We have the always artistic Linda Patterson (FPC’s de facto “interior decorator”!) to thank for the lovely flower arrangements on the altar. We are grateful to Becky as well, who took the time to rehearse and then perform her solo for an audience she could not see.

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

**MATH QUIZ:
WHAT DOES 100 MINUS 1 EQUAL?**

ANSWER: Mrs. Mooney’s birthday this year, on Sunday, June 14th! Breaking with tradition, we have permission to announce this lovely lady’s age so that all may be aware of this wonderful day for someone who is so special to us all.

Curse this pandemic! Otherwise, we would have cake and ice cream in Fellowship Hall and a big blow-out celebration to rejoice in the vigor and vitality of this much-loved matriarch of First Presbyterian Church of Victoria. Since we cannot do that, however, we are going to alert Mrs. Mooney to look out her front window (and to warn the neighbors!) on **Sunday morning, June 14th, between 11:30 a.m. and noon**, as those of us who are able will drive by her house, honk our horns, waive, shout, and express our joy for the life of this fine woman.

Just pretend that you are going to drive by her house “after church”-- just like any “normal” Sunday. Bring balloons or signs, if you wish, but please no food or gifts, as we want Mrs. Mooney to stay safe inside and out of harm’s way. This is Mrs. Moonie’s address, where you can send cards, honk your horn, or do both to let her know that she is loved by her family at FPC:

Mrs. Marie Mooney
117 Tradewind
Victoria, Texas 77904



WHAT A SHAME: NO VBS THIS SUMMER!

Our Vacation Bible School leaders and volunteers have come to the disappointing but understandable conclusion that the wisest and safest course to take this Summer is to cancel our plans for this event with the young disciples in our community. Last year, over 40 students each day participated in our spectacular “Son Surf Beach Bash.” Don’t worry, however. Next year we will be back, bigger and better than ever!

CHRIST’ KITCHEN UPDATE

As a reminder, Francis Miller and I have agreed that whenever she anticipates a need for contributions of more desserts from church members to serve the hungry and the homeless at Christ’s Kitchen, she will let me know and I will make an announcement to that effect during the “Welcome and Announcements” portion of our worship services. This week we do not anticipate any such need, but there may be many opportunities to help in the future.

Meanwhile, willing volunteers are always welcome to help on Tuesday mornings (when FPC members are at Christ’s Kitchen in force) or on any weekday morning when you can. God always blesses those who remember the poor, the hungry, and the less fortunate among us.

CARES AND CONCERNS

We have recently mentioned Ruth Ann Barnard, who is recuperating from successful knee-replacement surgery, and Billy Ruddock, who recently experienced a painful fall. Current reports are that both of these dear folks are doing “as well as

can be expected"-- resting, recuperating, and getting better every day. Let us continue to pray for them and for all those for whom we have cares and concerns.

"JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED"

This familiar quote, often attributed Martin Luther King, Jr. but actually a long-standing historical precedent in the English and U.S legal systems, has been very much on your Pastor's mind during these passed several days (and nights) of social turmoil across our country. Even if the issue of social justice is politicized in the marketplace and at the polling booth, in the church the issue should not be politics but rather one of Gospel. Whether you are for "law and order" or stand with "burn, baby, burn," a Christian is called to consider justice, equality, and fairness in the context of Jesus' teachings.

Christ did not incite riots (although after the crucifixion and resurrection there would be riots about him). Without question, however, Christ embraced the impoverished, the oppressed, and the victims of injustice. Now is a good time for all of us to read the Sermon on the Mount once again (Matthew 5:3—7:27).

I invite every member and friend of our church, as Christians, to pray for the welfare and peace of our nation and to consider that, without justice, there can be neither. Here are some good words and sound reflections from the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency (for more, click on <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/it-is-a-righteous-and-holy-anger-that-sees-injustice-and-knows-that-it-is-wrong/>):

While the television and social media focus on the protests, nothing will change until we focus on the problem that evokes the response. Racism and white supremacy are sins. They go against the teachings of Jesus, who admonishes us to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves ... on these two commandments hang all the law and prophets (Matthew 22:34–40). Cornel West, an African American theologian and scholar, says, 'Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public.' ...

I know that many are angry and frustrated. It is a righteous and holy anger that sees injustice and knows that it is wrong. I invite us to let our righteous anger fuel our commitment to be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ, who loved the world and gave his life in serving others. I invite us to 'get in where we fit in' in our communities and do what we can to help our nation heal. ... [It is time to] let the cry

of Amos roar from our pulpits and pour into our streets: 'Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' (Amos 5:24).

**COPIES OF “THESE DAYS”
AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH OFFICE**

The April/May/June 2020 editions of “*These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*” have arrived in the Church Office. If you would like a copy, just phone us (361.575.2441) or email us (info@fpcovictoria.com), and we will gladly send you one immediately. Do not worry about the postage involved, by the way. We have received a generous contribution to our postage budget to help meet our mailing expenses as we try our best to stay in touch with the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church.

Also, if you are interested in online worship devotionals, there is none better than *The Presbyterian Outlook*. Investigate this timely, information, and spiritually motivating publication at: <https://pres-outlook.org/>. I particularly recommend the devotionals presented by Jill Duffield. If you enjoy this publication, you can sign up for a free “internet subscription” and receive the weekly editions by email.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim



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