

WELCOME ALL
TO
EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE



MAY 3, 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 2408 N. NAVARRO ST. | VICTORIA, TEXAS 77901

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
May 3, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Prelude: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Charles Gounod, 1818-1893

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Sisters and brothers, let us gather together
with glad and generous hearts.

All: For many signs and wonders are being done among us.

One: Let us break bread together and share our lives in common.

**All: Let us give what we can to all who have needs
so that all people, no matter who they are,
may regard us with good will.**

One: Let us devote ourselves to our prayers and to the gospel.

All: For in this way God will add to our numbers every day.

Opening Hymn: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

No. 387

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Good Shepherd,
you call us by name,
and we know your voice.
May the gate be opened,
so that we may come and go freely,
have life, and have it abundantly. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

Friends, in as much as God is our shepherd,
let us not fear,
but confess our sin that God may restore our souls.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy One, we confess to you and to one another
that we have not always followed Christ's example.
When we have been abused,
we have been abusive in return.
We have gone astray.
Lead us back into your fold
and guard our souls in Jesus' name. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison (*singing in unison*)

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, the promise of our faith is that
if we entrust ourselves to the One who judges justly,
we need not feel threatened,
for we will be returned to righteousness.
Having been brought back into the safety of God's fold,
let us share our peace with one another.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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, amen.**

Prayer for Illumination

Loving God,
we pray that your Holy Spirit will strengthen us
to be devoted to the teachings of your Word,
that through it we may hear your voice
and follow it into eternal life. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Acts 2:42-47 P.120 in the New Testament

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Congregational Hymn: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

No. 403

Second Scripture Reading: John 10:1-10

P. 103 in the New Testament

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Sermon: Christian Community

Rev. Jim DeMent

John 10:4: When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn: "Take My Life"

No. 391

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

It is truly right and just to give you thanks
in every time and in every place, almighty God.

We give you thanks for the gift of creation
and especially for the gift of our life.

We are grateful that you have made us in your image
and that you pardon us when we act
as though you have no authority over our lives.

We are grateful that you sustain us in your great love.

And so, with all your people,
with angels, archangels,
and with all the company of heaven
we praise and magnify your glorious name,
joining our voices in the eternal hymn:

SANCTUS (UNISON):

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ,
who was born of Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of the life that we know.
You anointed Jesus Christ with your Spirit
to preach good news to the poor,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
to give sight to the blind, and to liberate the oppressed,
proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor.
In his baptism, suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, and made a new covenant with us by water and the Spirit.

Remembering the grace of your Son Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine,
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming,
proclaiming the mystery of faith:

GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF FAITH (UNISON):

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your people
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
so that the bread we share and the cup we bless
will be for us the body and blood of Christ.

Make us one with Christ,
one with our neighbors,
and one in service to all the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lyrics from *The Presbyterian Hymnal*
(Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville: 1990)
Follow the verses in this order: Verse 1 Verse 3
Verse 2 Verse 4

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Gracious God, we give you thanks
that by the witness of your word
and the sharing of this meal
you have opened our hearts and eyes
to the presence of Christ among us.

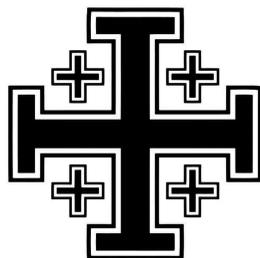
All: Now send us forth from this place
by the power of your Spirit
to tell this good news to the world:
The Lord has risen indeed! Amen.

Closing Hymn: "He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: "O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face"

Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625
harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906



Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee. .

Early let us seek Thy favor,
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

What A Friend We Have in Jesus

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer! .

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Take My Life

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose.
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done,
When, by thy grace, the victory's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Refrain:

He leadeth me, He leadeth me;
By His own hand He leadeth me:
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me. Amen

Pastor's Notes About the Bulletin Cover

Unlike cattle, that often need to be herded from behind and from the sides when not in their pens, sheep who are well acquainted with their shepherd will instead simply follow the shepherd wherever he leads. To achieve this result, however, the shepherd becomes known to his sheep, and each of his sheep is recognized by the shepherd. The shepherd is able to call each of his sheep by name, and the sheep will follow no one other than the shepherd whom they recognize and trust. Whenever a sheep strays from the flock, the shepherd will know which one is missing and will search to bring it back into the fold (Luke 15:1-7).

The parallel to the Christian community is obvious. Confirmed by sociologists, psychologists, and our own common sense, we know that fellowship and companionship are important to healthy lives. As Christians, we believe that this is as our Creator intended. Since we are the sheep of God's flock, we rejoice that he has sent us a teacher, a companion, a protector, and a redeemer for our community. In these difficult times of social isolation, let us remember that God has opened the gates of our lives and our communities so that his son, the Good Shepherd, may enter. Jesus knows our name, and we can trust, follow, and obey him. As we follow him in faith, he will lead us securely through this abundant life and into the abundant life everlasting.



Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler	Gloria Aouelle	Roxanna Hauschild	Claire Heger
Leonard “Mac” McCameron	Roland Merrill	Rickey Ramseur	
Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)	Angie Longoria (Kids for Christ Parent)	Julianne Longoria (Kids for Christ Disciple)	Samantha Skaggs (Niece of Roxanna and Henry Hauschild)
John & Jere Swoboda (Prior FPC Members)	Carol Wisdom (Daughter of Lea Lenz)		

**For caregiving concerns—please contact:
Jack Kleinecke (361. 212.3229); or Gayla Whitaker (361. 935.0950)**

FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

**All activities suspended,
pending further notice,
due to public health concerns.**

**FPC Victoria Servant Leadership
Session Members**

Jim DeMent, Moderator
 Jack Kleinecke, Clerk of Session
 Billy Leske, Building & Grounds
 Dawn Neel, Christian Education
 Linda Patterson, Worship
 Marsha Ricottilli, Asst. Clerk, Mission & Outreach
 Susan Salinas, Caregiving & Fellowship
 Jim Stokes, Finance
 Gayla Whitaker, Caregiving & Fellowship
 Bill Wilkinson, Personnel

Other

Paula Leske, Presbyterian Women
 Melissa Samudio, Presbyterian Day School
 Shelley Hartman, Dawn Neel, and Helen Resendez,
 Kids for Christ, Vacation Bible School



A Sermon Without Words

This picture, from beside our Fellowship Hall, preaches an Eastertide sermon without words. Easter after Easter, dear folks in our church arrange lilies on our altar, and after Easter is over, dear folks plant them around our church confident in God’s promise that new life will bloom. And so it has! As you walk up to the side doors of our church, be reminded that ours is a God of renewal, that spring follows winter, and that, in Christ, hope always defeats despair.

Clergy, Music, and Administration

Rev. Jim DeMent, Interim Pastor
 Robert Wyatt, Organist/Choirmaster
 Tasha Wolf, Office Administrator

Office Hours

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 info@fpcofvictoria.org