

Welcome All
to
Sunday Worship Service



MAY 17, 2020

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
May 17, 2020
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Prelude: "The Love of God"

Allen James, 1953

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Bless the Lord, O people, sing!

All: **Let the sound of praise ring out.**

One: Come and hear what the Lord has done,

All: **the Lord who has made everything!**

Opening Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

No. 260

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Loving God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
help us to choose life in you,
that we may keep the commandments of Jesus,
follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit,
and witness to the hope that is within us,
sharing Christ's love in the world. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

Sister and brothers,
God not only asks us to repent,
but also assures us of forgiveness.
Therefore, let us confess our sins
to the one who is steadfast love.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Loving God,
we do not always keep your commandments;
we fail to love you;
our conscience is not clear.
Wash us in the water of life
that we may live again
through the grace and mercy of Jesus,
our resurrected Savior. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison (*singing in unison*)

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

Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and brothers,
God forgives, restores, and strengthens us
through the risen Christ.
Know that you are forgiven
and be at peace.
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

Come Holy Spirit, our helper and advocate:
Open our hearts and minds this day,
entice us with your presence.
Spark us with a word of life—
a message that we may share with others
as we seek to live a life shaped by Christ's love.
All this we ask in the name of God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 66:8-20

P.P. 528-529 in the Old Testament

Bless our God, O peoples,
let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living,
and has not let our feet slip.
For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the net;
you laid burdens on our backs;
you let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

(continued on next page)

First Scripture Reading: *continued*

I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
I will pay you my vows,
those that my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.
Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.
I cried aloud to him,
and he was extolled with my tongue.
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.
But truly God has listened;
he has given heed to the words of my prayer.
Blessed be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.

Congregational Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Second Scripture Reading: John 14:15-21

P. 109 in the New Testament

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.
"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Sermon: Living a Life Shaped by Love

Rev. Jim DeMent

John 14:15: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

No. 263

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 and Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *(singing in unison)*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: "Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart"

No. 145



We have reproduced below the lyrics of the hymns that Robert Wyatt will be playing for this "Virtual Worship Service." All the hymns below are either in the public domain or have been reproduced, under license, from *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville: 1990). We encourage you to read and sing along at home, as Robert plays the hymns he has selected with comfort, hope, strength, and courage in, now, the Season of Eastertide. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1
Verse 2

Verse 3
Verse 4

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
From age to age the same;
And He must win the battle.

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill,
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

(continued on next page)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling *(continued)*

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish; but nought changeth Thee.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praises we would render, O help us to see
’Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.

At last the march shall end;
The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims found their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest.

Yes, on through life's long path,
Still chanting as ye go;
From youth to age, by night and day,
In gladness and in woe.

Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!



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)	Julianna 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

Choirmaster’s Notes

The single most powerful hymn of the Protestant Reformation Movement was Martin Luther’s “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” based on Psalm 46. This hymn became the battle cry of the people, a great source of strength and inspiration, including among those who were martyred for their convictions.

One of the most important benefits of the Reformation Movement was the rediscovery of congregational singing-- the absence of which we cannot even begin to imagine in modern times. Luther had strong convictions about the use and power of sacred music, which he once expressed this way, “If any man despises music ... for him I have no liking; for music is a gift and grace of God, and not an invention of people. Thus it drives out the devil and makes people cheerful. Then one forgets all wrath, impurity and other devices.” May you be cheerful as you sing our hymns chosen for this worship service!

Clergy, Music, and Administration

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

Office Hours

Monday — Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
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