

WELCOME ALL
TO
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE



JULY 5, 2020

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proper 9

Prelude: "Give Me a Faith"

Charles Lee Reynolds/Robert Bitgood, 1947

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Come, all you who carry heavy burdens,
and Christ will give you rest.

All: **For he is gentle and humble in heart:
in him we find rest for our souls.**

Opening Hymn: "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"

No. 341

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Savior and Friend,
you call us to lay down our burdens
and find rest in a relationship with you.
Help us to learn from you
how to be gentle and humble of heart,
that our burdens may be light. Amen

Invitation to Confession

God upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.
Therefore let us confess our sin
with every confidence that we will be lifted up.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy One, we confess to you and to each other
that we are tired and weighed down
by the mistakes we have made,
even in our closest relationships
with our friends, our spouses, and our partners.
We give this burden to you,
mindful of Jesus' promise that
he will give us rest.
We trust in you. 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, hear the good news of our faith:
God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
showing compassion to all.
Forgiven and freed, let us rise up with joy
and 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

Comforting God,
by your Holy Spirit
lift the burdens from our souls
through the reading of your Word for us,
that we may learn how easy and joyful it is
to live in a loving relationship with you. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalms 145:8-14

P.581 in the New Testament

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The LORD is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.
All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,
to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
The LORD is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.
The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

P.P. 11-12 in the New Testament

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Sermon: Christian Generations

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 11:16: “But to what will I compare this generation?”

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn: “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

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.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ
that we may be one with all who share this feast,
united in ministry in every place.
As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Keep us faithful in your service
until Christ comes in final victory
and we shall feast with all your saints
in the joy of your eternal realm.

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: Holy and astounding God,
At this table, in this meal,
we have been met by Christ—
the reflection of your glory,
the imprint of your being.

All: **As we go from this place
may our lives be a joyful song,
proclaiming the good news
of your righteousness and peace
for all the world. Amen**

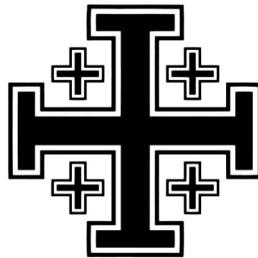
Closing Hymn: "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

No. 384

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

No. 281



Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
Oh, receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none;
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
More than all in Thee I find:
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the Fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine oceans depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O light followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

O joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust's life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to Thee,
I will ever sing to Thee.

Choirmaster's Notes

“Blessed Assurance” is one among over 8,000 hymn texts written by the blind poet and hymnist, Fanny Crosby (1820-1915). For a considerable period of time during her life, while under contract to a music publisher, Fanny wrote three new hymns each week.

Often the themes for her hymns were suggested by visiting ministers wishing to have a new song on a particular subject. At other times musician friends would first compose the music and then ask Fanny to write lyrics to accompany it. Such was the case for “Blessed Assurance.”

The music for the hymn was composed by Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1908), an amateur musician and wife of the founder of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. The story goes that Phoebe, Fanny’s close personal friend, played this melody for the blind poet and asked, “What does this tune say?” Fanny is said to have responded immediately, “Why, that says: ‘Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine ...’”

Countless congregations have since sung this beautiful hymn countless times as a source of joy and praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler	Gloria Aouelle	Ruth Ann Barnard	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)
Rev. Carroll Pickett (Assoc Pastor of FPC, 1961-67)	Billy Ruddock (Prior FPC Member)	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

Pastor’s Notes

Our Bulletin cover for today’s worship service is a glass mosaic on slate of a Celtic Cross. The work, by the contemporary poet and artist, Margaret Almon, is entitled, “River of Life Cross.” More of Ms. Almon’s artistry can be seen at <https://www.margaretalmon.com/>.

Legend has it that the Celtic Cross was introduced into Ireland, and hence to the Celtic peoples of Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, by Saint Patrick around the Seventh Century. Archeologically, however, it appears that the symbol of a cross enveloped by a circle existed among the Celts in pagan times. Regardless, the Celtic Cross has become loved, admired, and instantly recognized by Christians around the world.

Clergy, Music, and Administration

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

Office Hours

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