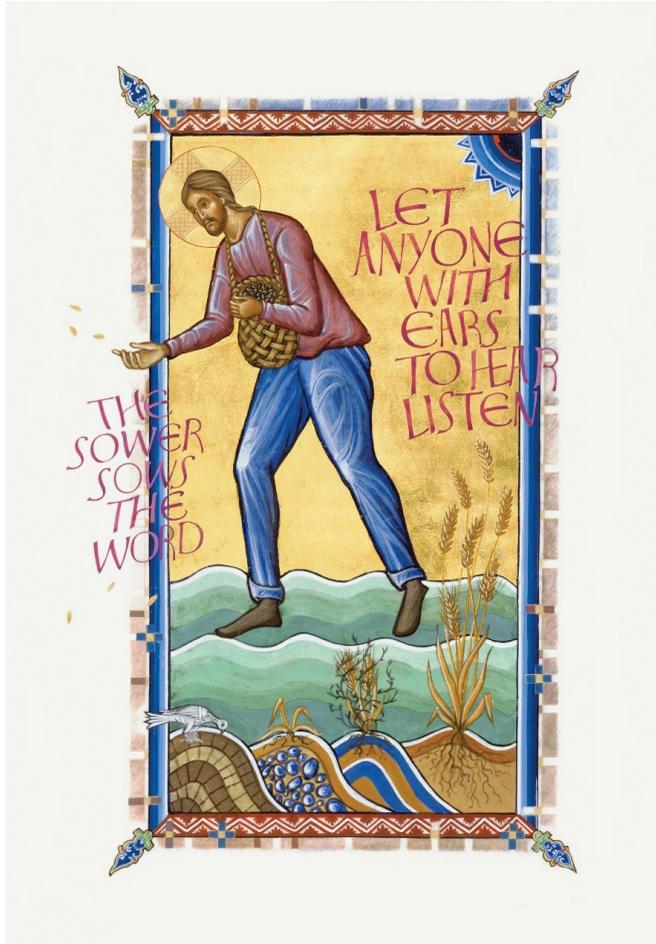


# Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



JULY 12, 2020

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

WWW.FPCOFVICTORIA.ORG

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church  
July 12, 2020  
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Proper 10

**Prelude:** "We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

*Johann Schulz, 1800/arr. Robert J. Hughes, 1983*

### Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship

One: God's creation delights and astonishes.  
All: **Let the people pause and wonder!**  
One: God, the Creator, has made it all.  
All: **Let all creation shout and sing! Alleluia!**

**Opening Hymn:** "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

No. 288

### Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

You opened your mouth and uttered a word  
and creation sprang forth in abundance.  
Let us open our mouths in praise,  
that we may bear fruit in every season  
and be satisfied by your goodness,  
for you, O God, are the source of all growth;  
your grace abounds forever. Amen.

### Invitation to Confession

In Christ there is no condemnation,  
for perfect love casts out sin.  
Let us confess our sins to God.

### Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Faithful God, your word falls on  
hardened ground  
when our worldly anxiety and  
attachment to riches  
crowd out your place in our lives.  
Forgive our frail and human ways  
and cultivate in us a spirit of trust and faithfulness,  
for you are our hope for deliverance. Amen.

**Kyrie Eleison** (*singing in unison*)

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

**Assurance of Pardon**

Brothers and sisters,  
when deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,  
God forgives our transgressions.  
Be at peace, for God restores and strengthens you  
and waters your soul in its parched and hardened places.  
Happy are those who come into God's courts,  
for you shall be satisfied with the goodness of God  
and rejoice in the holiness of God's temple.  
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**

God, the seed of your word goes out and  
does not return empty  
but flourishes that for which it was sent.  
By your Spirit, open our minds to  
your word this day,  
that we might walk according to your ways;  
for the sake of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen**

**First Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 55:10-13

P. 686 in the Old Testament

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;

*(continued on next page)*

**First Scripture Reading:** (continued)

the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

**Second Scripture Reading:** Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23

P.P. 13-14 in the New Testament

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

**Sermon:** The Parable of the Soils

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 13:3: And he told them many things in parables ...

*Silence and stillness*

**Congregational Hymn:** "Breath on Me, Breath of God"

No. 316

**Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)

*from the Brief Statement of Faith of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

*(continued on next page)*

**Affirmation of Faith** *(continued)*

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**Closing Hymn:** "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

No. 324

**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude:** "We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

No. 560



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 after Pentecost. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1  
Verse 2

Verse 3  
Verse 4

**I Sing the Mighty Power of God**

I sing the almighty power of God  
That made the mountains rise;  
That spread the flowing seas abroad  
And built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained  
The sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at God's command,  
And all the stars obey.

There's not a plant or flower below  
But makes Thy glories known;  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
By order from Thy throne;  
While all that borrows life from Thee  
Is ever in Thy care,  
And everywhere that we can be,  
Thou, God, art present there.

I sing the goodness of the Lord  
That filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with a word  
And then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,  
Where'er I turn my eyes;  
If I survey the ground I tread,  
Or gaze upon the skies!

**Breath On Me, Breath of God**

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glow with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life  
Of Thine eternity.

**Open My Eyes, That I May See**

Open my eyes, that I may see  
Glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Open my ears, that I may hear  
Voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
Everything false will disappear.

**We Plow the Fields and Scatter**

We plow the fields and scatter  
The good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered  
By God's almighty hand;  
God sends the snow in winter,  
The warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes and the sunshine,  
And soft, refreshing rain.

You only are the Maker  
Of all things near and far;  
You paint the wayside flower,  
You light the evening star;  
The winds and waves obey You,  
By You the birds are fed;  
Much more to us, Your children,  
You give our daily bread.



Open my mouth, and let me bear  
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
Open my heart and let me prepare  
Love with Thy children thus to share.

**Refrain:**

Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my eyes/ears/heart,  
Illumine me, Spirit divine!

We thank you, then, Creator,  
For all things bright and good,  
The seed-time and the harvest,  
Our life, our health, our food;  
Accept the gifts we offer,  
For all Your love imparts,  
And what You most would welcome,  
Our humble, thankful hearts.

**Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests**

<b>Kathryn Amsler</b>	<b>Gloria Aouelle</b>	<b>Ruth Ann Barnard</b>	<b>Roxanna Hauschild</b>
<b>Claire Heger</b>	<b>Leonard "Mac" McCameron</b>	<b>Roland Merrill</b>	<b>Rickey Ramseur</b>
<b>Nathan Galvan</b> (Son of Leila Galvan)	<b>Angie Longoria</b> (Kids for Christ Parent)	<b>Julianna Longoria</b> (Kids for Christ Disciple)	<b>Samantha Skaggs</b> (Niece of Roxanna and Henry Hauschild)
<b>Billy Ruddock</b> (Prior FPC Member)	<b>John &amp; Jere Swoboda</b> (Prior FPC Members)	<b>Eugenia (Jean) Whitaker</b> (Mother of Robert Whitaker)	<b>Carol Wisdom</b> (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

**Bulletin Cover**

On the Bulletin cover is a contemporary icon crafted by Aidan Hart, with Donald Jackson and Sally Mae Joseph, c. 2002. Entitled "The Sower and the Seed," the icon is located at Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, the home of a Catholic monastery of the Order of Saint Benedict.

Although it may seem startling to see Jesus, the sower, in a plain shirt and blue jeans (familiar attire to any modern farmer), the artists have captured the essence of Jesus' parable with the four mounds of soil in the foreground: the path; the rocky soil; the thorny ground; and the fertile land. Moreover, notice that Jesus is sowing seeds from the woven basket around his neck so vigorously, so enthusiastically, so joyously, that he is literally breaking through the border of the icon! "The sower sows the word"-- everywhere!

**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  
361.575.2441  
info@fpcofvictoria.org