

WELCOME ALL
TO
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE



AUGUST 2, 2020

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
August 2, 2020
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proper 13

Prelude: “How Wonderful Is Thy Name”

E.L. Ashford, 1908

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: The Lord gives food in due season.

All: **God satisfies the desire of every living thing.**

Opening Hymn: “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

No. 483

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the Word of his kingdom.
Renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

The promise of our faith is this:
for all who call out in truth, God is near.
Therefore let us honestly confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of justice and mercy,
we admit that we are not always free of deceit.
We are fooled by the false promises of the world
into pursuing things that do not truly nourish us.
Hear our cry and save us, dear God,
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

Here is good news for everyone:
God is gracious, merciful, abounding in steadfast love,
and gives us forgiveness and grace.
We do not have to earn it with sacrifice
because it is a free gift from a generous God!
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

Providing God,
by your Holy Spirit
feed us with your Word,
that we might be filled
with the bread of life. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

P. 581 in the Old 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.
The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.
The LORD is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.
The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.

(continued on next page)

First Scripture Reading: (*continued*)

The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:13-21

P.P. 16 in the New Testament

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Sermon: "Compassion"

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 14:14: When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

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

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.

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

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

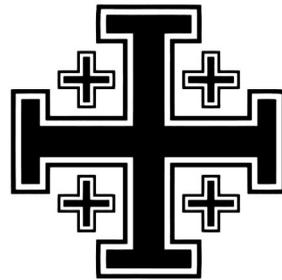
Closing Hymn: "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

No. 329

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

No. 145



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

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Sing praise to God, who reigns above,
The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love,
The God of our salvation;
With healing balm my soul is filled,
And every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath made,
God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of God's might,
Lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,
But through all grief distressing,
An ever present help and stay,
Our peace, and joy, and blessing;
As with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

Thus all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud Thy praises
That all may hear the grateful song
My voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
Both soul and body take your part:
To God all praise and glory!

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.

Unresting, unhasting, 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.

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.

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

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Break Thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee, O living Word!

Bless Thou the truth, Dear Lord, now unto me,
As Thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

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.

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.

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

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.

Choirmaster's Notes

The lyrics to “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” were composed by Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), a Scottish Free Church minister born in Aberdeen and educated at the Universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh. Smith served congregations in London, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. Perhaps his highest tribute came when he was elected moderator of the General Assembly in 1893 for the church's 50th Jubilee celebration.

This hymn is the only one of Smith's several volumes of poetry that remains in common use. Set to the tune of a familiar Welsh folk melody, the original version of Smith's hymn appeared in Smith's *Hymns of Christ and the Christian Life* (1867). After a number of revisions, the four-stanza version was included in the influential *The English Hymnal* (1906), assuring its fame to the present day.

The obvious scriptural foundation for the first stanza of the hymn is I Timothy 1:17: "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever" (KJV). Throughout the hymn, the central metaphor of light suggests the transcendence of the One who was known as I AM. Stanza one refers to this One as "light inaccessible hid from our eyes." In stanza two the metaphor is elaborated by describing the Holy One as "silent as light." Stanza four has two references to light: "thou dwellest in light" and "'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee."

As remote as our God may seem in the “inaccessible” light in which he “dwellest,” this familiar, poetic, deeply spiritual hymn draws us close to him with joy and praise.



Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler	Gloria Aouelle	Claire Heger	Leonard “Mac” McCameron
Jack McKenzie	Roland Merrill	Rickey Ramseur	Suzanne Salinas
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)
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

While some claim to discern a “divine numerology” in Holy Scripture, others understand the use of numbers in Holy Scripture to be symbolic, a familiar allusion among a community of believers, or an aid to story-telling. Unquestionably, familiar numbers appear repeatedly in the Bible, but whether or not they are of divine significance is for the reader to decide. “Forty days and forty nights,” for example, appears almost a dozen times in the Bible, mostly notably in the Flood Story (Genesis 7:4) and in the Temptation of Christ (Matthew 4:2).

In today’s reading from the Feeding of the Five Thousand, the total of 5 loaves and 2 fish (namely, 7) is said by some to represent wholeness or perfection. The 12 baskets of left-over food may easily be compared to the 12 disciples or to the 12 Tribes of Israel. The number 5,000 appears occasionally in the Old Testament, but more interestingly, all four of the Gospel-writers when describing the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes number the crowd at “about 5,000 men,” with Matthew adding almost as an afterthought, “besides women and children.”

Clergy, Music, and Administration

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

Office Hours

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