

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



AUGUST 16, 2020

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
August 16, 2020
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proper 15

Prelude: Toccata in E Minor

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: My house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples, says the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Opening Hymn: "In Christ There Is No East or West"

No. 439

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Almighty God,
whose compassion embraces everyone,
gather the outcast and the lost,
heal the wounds of fear and distrust,
and make us a community of reconciliation
that we may embody your merciful love
and rejoice in your astounding grace
in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

God declares:
Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.
Confident in our deliverance,
let us confess our sins before
God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy God,
we confess we have not been obedient
to your will for us.
We have sought justice for ourselves
but neglected justice for others.

(continued on next page)

Prayer of Confession *(continued)*

**We have insisted on our rights
but have not lived rightly in our relationships.
We have desired mercy for our sins,
but we have not offered mercy to those
who have sinned against us.
By the power of your Holy Spirit
free us from the prison of our disobedience.
Help us to love as you have loved us
that our lives may testify to your abounding grace
though Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison *(singing in unison)*

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

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus is Lord!
Friends, the gifts and the calling
of God are irrevocable.
Receive the gift of forgiveness
and share that gift with others,
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Gloria Patri *(singing in unison)*

**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 of Illumination

Lord,
by the power of your Spirit
give us your words of life
that our faith may increase and our hearts
be made whole. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 67

P. 529 in the Old Testament

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Congregational Hymn: “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

No. 298

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

P. 17 in the New Testament

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Sermon: The Pushy Woman

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 15:23: “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn: “Lift High the Cross”

No. 371

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *(unison)*

Eternal God,
creator of the world
and giver of all good,
we thank you for the earth, our home,
and for the gift of life.

We praise you for your love in Jesus Christ,
who came to heal this broken world,
who died rejected on the cross,
and rose triumphant from the dead.
Because he lives, we live to praise you, our God forever. Amen.

Doxology *(singing in unison)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures her below;
Praise Him above, all heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

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 the Lord's Prayer

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: The Prince of Denmark's March

Genevan Psalter, 1551

Clarke

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

In Christ There Is No East or West

In Christ there is no east or west,
In him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord
Close binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples in the faith,
Whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
Are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
In him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.

There Is a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's Word;
And our lives reflect thanksgiving
For the goodness of our Lord.

Lift High the Cross

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally.

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on their brow the seal of Christ who died.

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory.

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.



First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas
welcomes
Ms. Muriel Margaret Cotman
as she assists us in our
Ministry of Music.

Muriel is now a sophomore at Victoria College, Texas,
where she has been awarded an academic scholarship to study music.

A young woman after our own heart,
Muriel is a student member of the
Presbyterian Association of Musicians
as well as of the National College of Musicians Piano Guild and
a collegiate member of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

We are delighted and appreciative that Muriel
can play for us during our worship services
for August 9, 16, and 27, 2020, while Robert
Wyatt, our faithful Choirmaster, enjoys a well
deserved 3-week vacation.

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)
Billy Ruddock (Prior FPC Member)	John & Jere Swoboda (Prior FPC Members)	Eugenia (Jean) Whitaker (Mother of Robert Whitaker)	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

The practice of dogs gathering underneath their masters’ tables to catch falling crumbs is an image as old as antiquity and, for many, as fresh as last night’s supper. In today’s Scripture reading from the Matthew, Jesus refers allegorically to the message he brings to the lost sheep of the house of Israel as “children’s food” which should not be thrown “to the dogs.” “Dogs” (in Greek, *κύνας*) was a pejorative term describing all who were not Israelites, that is, those who, like the pushy Canaanite woman, were Gentiles (in Greek, *ἔθνη*, which is pronounced “ethnie” and is the origin of our word “ethnic”).

Jesus appears to soften the insult, however, by using the word for small dogs or house dogs (in Greek, *κυνάριοις*). In her reply, the Canaanite woman reminds Jesus that even house dogs may catch the crumbs from their masters’ table. Jesus, impressed by the Canaanite woman’s faith, cures her daughter without even seeing her. After the Resurrection, Jesus instructs his disciples to make disciples of *all* nations (in Greek, the same word as “Gentiles”: *ἔθνη*), baptizing them in name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ... (Matt. 28:19). Christ’s salvation knows no distinction among his creation, and all are welcome to sit at God’s table as equals.

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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