

WELCOME ALL  
TO  
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE



SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church  
September 6, 2020  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Proper 18

Prelude: "Communion"

*Reginald W. Martin, 1949*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Listen! The Lord calls out to us, offering life!  
All: **Teach, lead, turn us to your ways, O God.**  
One: Walk in the paths of God's commandments with delight.  
All: **Teach, lead, turn us to your ways, O God.**  
**With our whole heart, we will turn to you and live!**

Opening Hymn: "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

No. 478

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

From the beginning until now, loving God,  
we have turned away from you,  
following lesser ways,  
pursuing a lesser life  
than the life offered to us in Christ.  
Yet you will not abandon us.  
You call out, warning and wooing us  
to turn, to return to you.  
Even when we fall away  
from brothers and sisters in the church,  
you remain present with us.  
Help us to love as you love—  
wholeheartedly—  
until we are reconciled to you  
and to our neighbor.  
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

Our sins weigh us down,  
and we struggle to live in freedom and joy.  
When we turn and return to the God who loves us,  
God finds pleasure.  
We turn now, confessing our sins against God and neighbor.

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

**From evil, even when it masquerades as good,  
Merciful God, deliver us.  
From selfishness and vain desires,  
Merciful God, deliver us.  
From irresponsible behaviors, quarreling,  
and jealousy,  
Merciful God, deliver us.  
From hurtful disagreements and  
irreconcilable differences,  
Merciful God, deliver us.  
Turn us away from the death sin inflicts.  
Lead us into the abundant life Christ brings.  
Forgive us, we pray,  
and teach us to forgive,  
through 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**

Laying aside the works of darkness,  
we live in the light of Christ.  
Gathered in Christ's name,  
surely he is among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
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**

Awaken our hearts and minds to your Word, O God.  
Give us understanding so that  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
we are able to do all that you command for love's sake.  
Gathered in Christ's name,  
gathered around the Word,  
we pray. **Amen.**

**First Scripture Reading:** Psalm 119:33-40

P. 567 in the Old Testament

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,  
and I will observe it to the end.  
Give me understanding, that I may keep your law  
and observe it with my whole heart.  
Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for I delight in it.  
Turn my heart to your decrees,  
and not to selfish gain.  
Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;  
give me life in your ways.  
Confirm to your servant your promise,  
which is for those who fear you.  
Turn away the disgrace that I dread,  
for your ordinances are good.  
See, I have longed for your precepts;  
in your righteousness give me life.

**Second Scripture Reading:** Matthew 18:15-20

P. 20 in the New Testament

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

**Sermon:** “The Rule of Christ”

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 18:15: “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone.”

*Silence and stillness*

**Congregational Hymn:** “Let Us Break Bread Together”

No. 513

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:** (*unison*)

**God of our salvation,  
we know what time it is—  
time to wake from sleep  
and to turn from selfishness.  
We offer now our time,  
our talents, and our resources  
to be used for your good purposes  
and all for love's sake.  
Through Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.**

**Doxology** (*singing in unison*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here 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**

**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:

*Genevan Psalter, 1551*

**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.

*(continued on next page)*

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:** "Love Devine, All Loves Excelling"

No. 376

### **Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude:** "Postlude in C Minor"

*John Troutman, 1985*

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

### **Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven**

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To His feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore His praises sing:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor  
To his people in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like He tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hand He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him:  
You behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

### **Let Us Break Bread Together**

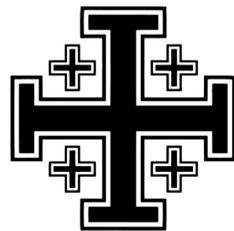
Let us break bread together on our knees;  
Let us break bread together on our knees.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
Let us drink wine together on our knees.

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
Let us praise God together on our knees.

### **Refrain**

When I fall on my knees,  
With my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.



★ ★ ★  
H A P P Y  
**LABOR DAY**



**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.

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.

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.

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.

In the United States, the first Monday in September is designated as Labor Day, which is dedicated to celebrating the social and economic achievements of American workers and their contributions to our country's welfare and prosperity.

For the dignity of labor who, whether beginning their careers, advancing their careers, or retired from their careers, we offer this prayer of praise and celebration:

Creating God,  
You made the heavens and the earth  
and your work was Good and we praise you.  
May we continue your good work through our own labor—  
helping to create your kingdom on earth as in heaven.

We pray on this Labor Day for all those who work.  
Whether in the school, the factory, the mines, the armed services,  
the business office, government or on the farm,  
may all workers carry themselves with honor,  
know the respect of their managers,  
be kept safe from harm, and be well paid for hard work  
so that they might provide for their family and loved ones.

Today we also pray for those who are unemployed or underemployed.  
Help us as a nation to continue to provide for those  
who are suffering from unemployment  
so that they do not lose hearth and home.

May all the labors of our lives benefit your creation  
so that we might be co-creators of your world  
filled with peace and enough for all. Amen

*You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;  
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.  
- Psalm 128:2*



**Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests**

<b>Kathryn Amsler</b>	<b>Gloria Aouelle</b>	<b>Ruth Ann Barnard</b>	<b>Roxanna Hauschild</b>
<b>Leonard “Mac” McCameron</b>	<b>Roland Merrill</b>	<b>Rickey Ramseur</b>	<b>Sarah Waldrop</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

**Notes from the Pastor and Choirmaster**

As our Bulletin cover emphasizes communion, our Congregational Hymn continues the theme with “Let Us Break Bread Together.” The tune for this hymn finds its origin in an African-American spiritual. Originally, the spiritual was used as a gathering song for secret religious meetings held before sunrise by slaves in Virginia. The spiritual was used in the place of drums and horns which, beginning in 1676, slaves were forbidden to use as a means for gathering. Sometime after the Civil War, the spiritual became a hymn for use by all Christians during Holy Communion.

In this midst of the current pandemic, we adjust our worship practices at home as we participate in the Lord’s Supper, using such bread and liquids as we have on hand for an occasion that is always solemn, yet always joyful. Even as the current pandemic prevents us from worshipping collectively, and even as slaves in America were once prevented from worshipping in public, somehow we find a way to celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior as we expectantly await his return in grace and glory.

**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