

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service

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matthew 18:22

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
September 13, 2020
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proper 19

Prelude: O Lord, Master of All

Rex Koury, 1996

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: People of God, bless the LORD,
All: **bleSS God's holy name.**
One: For as the heavens are high above the earth ;
All: **so great is God's steadfast love for us.**

Opening Hymn: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

No. 356

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

God, our source and our salvation,
in love you made us and by love you have redeemed us.
Make your love for us bear fruit in our forgiveness of others,
that in this life we may know your all-embracing compassion
and in the world to come receive the everlasting joy of
fellowship you share with your son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

Confident in God's love, let us confess our struggle with the power of sin.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Loving God,
we confess that we have failed to live in harmony
with our sisters and brothers.
We have been self-righteous in our attitudes,
closed minded in our beliefs,
and judgmental in our opinions.
We have shunned those whose ways
we do not understand,
and we have despised those who do not
endorse our convictions.
Forgive our sins of discord and deceit,
and heal our divisiveness and quarreling.
Help us to be charitable in our regard for others
that we may dwell in peace with Christ
who is Lord of all. 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, the Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

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

Holy Spirit, as your word is read and preached,
pass among your gathered people,
opening minds to increase our understanding,
opening hearts to bind us together in your love.
In Jesus name we ask it. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Romans 14:1-12

P. 163 in the New Testament

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Organ Anthem: Eternal Life

*A Prayer by St. Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226/
Olive Dungan, 1949*

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

P. 18 in the New Testament

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Sermon: The Forgiveness

Rev. Bette Burris

Matthew 18:21-22: Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn: “Though I May Speak”

No. 335

Prayer of Thanksgiving: (*unison*)

**Almighty God,
receive these gifts that we offer with grateful hearts
and use us for your ministry in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Doxology (*singing in unison*)

Genevan Psalter, 1551

**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

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. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us in the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" 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.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: "Live into Hope"

No. 379

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face

Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625



A Brief Statement of Faith

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 3

Verse 2

Verse 4

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet;
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

Though I May Speak

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love;
My words are vain;
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love
Guide every deed;
By this we worship and are freed.

Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given
By love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Live into Hope

Live into hope of captives freed,
Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
The year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope the blind shall see
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear--
A vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty,
The right to speak the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread,
To hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.

Organ Anthem

Eternal Life

A Prayer by St. Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226/ Olive Dungan, 194

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, joy

O Divine Master, grant that I may
Not so much seek to be consoled as to console
To be understood, as to understand
To be loved, as to love
For it is in giving that we receive
And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it's in dying that we are born to Eternal Life
Amen

Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler	Gloria Aouelle	Ruth Ann Barnard	Roxanna Hauschild
Leonard "Mac" McCameron	Roland Merrill	Rickey Ramseur	Sarah Waldrop
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

Bulletin Cover

Our Bulletin cover contains the word “forgive” 32 times, as if a school child had been obligated to stay after school to write the word a sufficient number of times so as never to forget. Various translations of the Bible report Jesus’ answer to Peter’s question (“How often shall I forgive?”) as seventy-seven times (New Revised Standard Version) or seventy times seven [429] (King James Version).

This is another Biblical instance, however, when Jesus is speaking figuratively, not literally. In “Jesus math,” the answer to Peter’s question is: as often as it takes never to forget to do so.

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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