

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
September 20, 2020
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proper 20

Prelude: Praise Ye the Father

Charles Gounod

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Whether we embrace God's call in our lives
or try to avoid it,

All: **God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love .**

One: Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable
or bring hardship,

All: **God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
We praise God's name forever and ever!**

Opening Hymn: "To God Be the Glory"

No. 485

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Generous God,
you come to us again and again,
no matter how late it is in the day
or in our lives.

Calling to us, gathering us in,
you give us your good work to do,
daily bread, and boundless grace.

Increase in us a generous spirit
so that we may do your work with joy
alongside others whom you also love.

Align us with your ways
and help us receive your gifts of justice and mercy
as good news.

In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

Because we do not always live our lives
in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ,
we confess before God and one another
our sins and shortcomings.
In repentance,
let us turn toward God's grace and mercy.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**God of abundant goodness,
we confess that we want your grace for ourselves
but often wish punishment or exclusion on others.
We judge the efforts and motives of others
while ignoring the faults of our own.
Forgive us, we pray,
when we let jealousy overtake us.
Forgive us, we pray,
when we are petty even in the presence
of your generosity.
Forgive us, we pray,
when we feel slighted by you.
May we ask once again for your mercy?
Will you help us to be more merciful toward one another?
We pray in the name of Christ Jesus,
by whose grace we are saved. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison (*singing in unison*)

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

Assurance of Pardon

God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving,
grace beyond our ability to earn it.
God has granted us the blessing of believing in Christ;
therefore we will live as grateful and forgiven people!
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

Gracious God,
your Word surprises,
challenges, upsets,
and overturns
our way of seeing and thinking.
Come and find us today
wherever we are,
however we are.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
cause that which is withering in us to blossom
and that which is exacting in us to broaden
until we see as you see,
and thereby glimpse the kingdom you are bringing.
In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 145:1-8

P. 581 in the Old Testament

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.
They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Solo: "Come, Labor On"

Becky Richter

Jane L Borthwick, 1859/T. Noble, 1918

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

P.P. 21-22 in the New Testament

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.

(continued on next page)

Second Scripture Reading: *(continued)*

And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Sermon: Radical Grace

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 20:13: "I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you."

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision"

No. 339

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *(unison)*

**Almighty God,
we praise you with grateful hearts
for the many gifts we have received.
Use us and our gifts 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 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

Closing Hymn: "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

No. 388

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: Ricarcare

Girolamo Diruta



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

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done! So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, And opened the life-gate that all may go in.	Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; But purer, and higher, and greater will be Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
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Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done!

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

O Jesus, I Have Promised

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my friend,
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me!
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer
And shield my soul from sin.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

O let me hear Thee speaking,
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised
To all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory
There shall Thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Oh, give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.

Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler	Gloria Aouelle	Leonard “Mac” McCameron	Kathleen McCameron
Roland Merrill	Sarah Waldrop		
Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)	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

Bulletin Cover

An oil on panel painting by Rembrandt (1606-1669) appears on the cover of our Bulletin. Painted in 1637 and now darkened by dust and soot gathered over time, the work is entitled “Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard.” The original currently hangs in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In Scripture, the landowner directs his manager to pay the laborers, and perhaps that is the person whom Rembrandt has painted against the wall and under the window to the left of the painting. The artist’s focus, however, is clearly on the richly clothed landowner and the offended workers who grumble that they have paid unfairly. Behind those workers to the right of the painting appears another group of workers who seemingly rejoice in the radical grace they have received from the landowner.

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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