

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
September 27, 2020
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proper 21

John Prindle Scott, 1877-1932

Prelude: Repent Ye

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: At the name of Jesus every knee should bend
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.
All: **Glory to God. Amen .**

Opening Hymn: "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

No. 483

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Holy God,
all lives are yours,
and you do not seek the death of any sinner.
Renew our hearts,
refresh our spirits,
and help us walk in your holy way,
that we may welcome the impartiality of your judgment
and accept your all-embracing goodness;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

The Lord spoke through Ezekiel, saying,
Cast away from you all the transgressions
that you have committed against me,
and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.
Therefore, let us confess our sins before God
and one another.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Righteous God,
we confess that we have not lived as
your obedient children.
We have honored you with our words,
but we have denied you with our actions.

(continued on next page)

Prayer of Confession *(continued)*

**We have not pursued the mind of Christ,
who took the form of a servant,
for we have acted with selfish ambition.
We have put our interests before the
interests of others
and have not regarded them in humility.
Forgive us our arrogance,
awaken our hearts to sincere repentance,
and enable us to will and to work for
your good pleasure,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison *(singing in unison)*

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

Assurance of Pardon

Brothers and sisters,
God offers forgiveness of our sin
and abundant life to those who repent.
Turn, then, and live in Christ, our Lord.

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 Holy Spirit
give us the words of life,
that we may understand your way
and follow your truth,
in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

P.P. 784-785 in the Old Testament

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

(continued on next page)

First Scripture Reading: *(continued)*

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Congregational Hymn: “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

No. 551

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:23-32

P.P. 23-24 in the New Testament

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Sermon: By What Authority?

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 21:23: “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”

Silence and stillness

Prayer of Thanksgiving: (*unison*)

Almighty God,
we give you thanks and praise for your love shown to us
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Accept the offering of our lives in union
with Christ's offering for us,
and make us humble and obedient servants;
through Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty God,
now and 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 (Colossians 1:15-20)

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

Congregational Hymn: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

No. 466

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: Allegro

Genevan Psalter, 1551

Edwin M. Flauell, 1856

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

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 earth 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!

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home:
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God our Maker doth provide
For our wants to be supplied:
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field,
Fruit as praise to God we yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear:
Lord of harvest, grant that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,
And shall take the harvest home;
From each field shall in that day
All offenses purge away;
Give the angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
In God's garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come
To Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There forever purified,
In thy presence to abide:
Come, with all Thine angels, come,
Raise the glorious harvest home.



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)	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 engraving, entitled "The Parable of the Father and His Two Sons in the Vineyard," appears on our Bulletin cover. The piece is part of a larger portfolio of engravings, "The Story of Christ," created by the German artist, Georg [sic] Pencz (1500-1550). In addition to the fashions of the 16th Century on display, notice also the artist's monogram featured prominently in the upper center of the work. This and other works by Pencz are in the collection of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art ("The Met").

Although on one level this parable can be understood as the traditional moral imperative that "actions speak louder than words," in context Jesus also appears to be condemning hypocrisy among religious authorities and all others who would follow in his way. Our faith is spread not by the rules we make and the words we speak but rather by the actions we take and the deeds we do in response to God's love for us made manifest in the Risen Lord. Then and only does our true authority to evangelize flow from heaven rather than ourselves.

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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