

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



OCTOBER 11, 2020

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
October 11, 2020
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proper 23

Prelude: My All to Thee

Janet Rand, 1943

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: You have been called to the banquet.
All: This is the feast.
One: You have been summoned to the wedding.
All: So great is God's steadfast love for us.
One: From the streets and the byways, God has invited us.
All: We have come to the banquet that has no end.
Alleluia! Amen.

Opening Hymn: "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

No. 145

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Holy God, you set before us every day
a bounty of good things.
Bring us to your feasting table,
hungry for your Word,
eager to rebuild the cities you have made,
and ready to receive strangers
so that we celebrate at all times and in all places
the peace which is life in you. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

Let us come before the throne of God,
the mercy seat,
with all of our humanity,
open to the peace of promised forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

You invite us to your feast, O God,
and we do not come.
You beg us to give thanks for life,
and we fail in our thanksgiving.

(continued on next page)

Prayer of Confession *(continued)*

You have made for us a wonderful earth,
and we neglect the gift.
Forgive us for what we have done
and for abandoning the pathway you desire for us.
Be our guide and conscience.
Turn our feet and hands to your will,
that all we do might give glory to you. 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.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe in 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

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 pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

P. 652 in the New Testament

O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.
Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

(continued on next page)

First Scripture Reading *(continued)*

For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.
On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Organ Anthem: These Are Thy Glorious Works

Van Denman Thompson, 1962

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

P. 24 in the New Testament

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.
“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Sermon: Love and Judgment

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 22:13: Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn: "Jesus Lover of My Soul"

(back of Bulletin)

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *(unison)*

God of compassion and generous love,
we give you thanks for the riches of Earth,
which sustain our lives and
which you have created for our joy. **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

A Brief Statement 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: "Lord, We Have Come at Your Invitation"

No. 516

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: Postlude in G

Arthur W. Marchant

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

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Rejoice ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.

At last the march shall end,
The wearied ones shall rest,
The pilgrims find their Father's house,
Jerusalem the blest.

Yes, on through life's long path,
Still chanting as ye go;
From youth to age, by night and day,
In gladness and in woe.

Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
More than all in Thee I find:
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy name;
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

Lord, we have come at Your own invitation,
Chosen by You, to be counted your friends;
Yours is the strength that sustains dedication,
Ours a commitment we know never ends.

When, at Your table, each time of returning,
Vows are renewed and our courage restored:
May we increasingly glory in learning
All that it means to accept You as Lord.

Here, at Your table, confirm our intention,
Give it Your seal of forgiveness and grace;
Teach us to serve without pride or pretension,
Lord, in Your Kingdom, whatever our place.



Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Kathryn Amsler | Gloria Aouelle | Leonard “Mac” McCameron | Kathleen McCameron |
| Roland Merrill | Sarah Waldrop | Ruth Williams | |
| 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

Balance is often described as a condition in which different elements are equal or in the correct proportions. The rocks on our Bulletin cover today are balanced because the weight and position of each of them on either side of the point of the vertical rock puts each rock in equal tension with the gravitational force that pulls upon both of them.

Whether balanced or not, there is also an inescapable tension between God’s love which redeems us and God’s judgment which has the power to condemn us. As Christians, we must live with this tension, knowing that God’s judgment for others is not for us to determine and praying that God’s judgment for us will be merciful. The Good News is that all of us (“both good and bad;” Matt. 22:10) are promised a seat at God’s heavenly banquet when, repenting of our sin, we respond in love, obedience, and service to God’s loving invitation made manifest in Jesus Christ.

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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