

Welcome All
to
Sunday Worship Service



OCTOBER 25, 2020

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
October 25, 2020
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proper 25

*For everyone's safety,
wear masks and maintain social
distancing at all times.*

Prelude: Come, Ye Blessed

John Prindle Scott, 1917

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you!

Call to Worship

One: Jesus said:
All: You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind,
and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.
On these two commandments hang
all of the law and the prophets.

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

God of creation,
you have made us to be nourished in your care
and you test us so that we will turn again and again
toward your gifts.
Show us how to love our neighbors and ourselves,
and teach us to delight in your law
so that we will know the way of gratitude and thanksgiving.
In the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn (*silently singing*): "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

No. 210

Invitation to Confession

Let us speak the truth about ourselves
to our neighbors and to God,
acknowledging what we have done
and what we have left undone.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Your holiness, O God, commands that we confess:
We have neither loved our neighbors as ourselves
nor honored ourselves as your beloved creation.
We have judged unjustly,
regarded others ungenerously,
profited at the losses of those near and distant,
borne grudges, desired vengeance,
and kept silence in the face of wrongdoing.
We long to live in accord with your desire
that your way of compassion, kindness, and honesty
will govern our hearts and minds,
turning us toward lives of peace.
Forgive us and lead us. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison (*silently singing*)

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

Assurance of Pardon

Brothers and sisters,
the Holy One who promises forgiveness to those
who seek the good
hears your confession.
As the crucified and risen child of God,
your Redeemer fully knows your sorrow
and your desire for reconciled relationships.
You are forgiven.
In that promise is the power to love your
neighbors and yourselves
as beloved of God who created all that exists.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Gloria Patri (*silently singing*)

**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

Living God, By the power of your Spirit,
help us so to hear your holy word
that we may truly understand;
that, understanding, we may believe;
and believing, we may follow
in faithfulness and obedience,
seeking your honor and glory in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 1

P. 489 in the Old Testament

Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Anthem: All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Psalm 100/Robert J. Hughes/Scottish Folk Tune

Duet by Linda Patterson and Becky Richter

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

P.25 in the New Testament

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet”?’

(continued on next page)

Second Scripture Reading *(continued)*

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Sermon: The Greatest Commandment

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 22:37-38: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment.

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn *(silently singing):* "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"

No. 357

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(unison)*

**Generous and life-giving God,
you made your people in your image,
sent your Son to be the face of your healing love
in our midst,
and promised through the Holy Spirit your
guidance and power.**

**We thank you for the ways in which your
people have cared for each of us.**

We thank you for the ability to give for the sake of others.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Doxology *(silently singing)*

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 *(silently singing):* "More Love to Thee, O Christ"

No. 359

Congregational Meeting

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: Praise His Name

L. Van Beethoven



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

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

O Master, let me walk with Thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only Thou canst give,
With Thee, O Master, let me live.

More Love to Thee

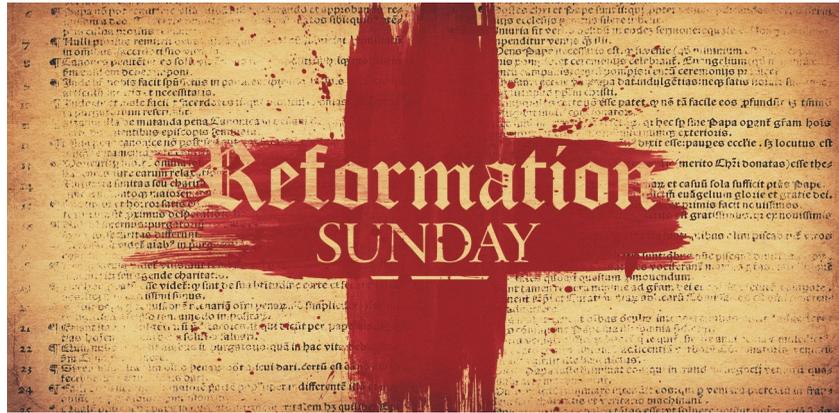
More love to Thee, O Christ,
More love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make
On bended knee.
This is my earnest plea:

Then shall my latest breath
Whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry
My heart shall raise.
This still its prayer shall be:

Once earthly joy I craved,
Sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek,
Give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be:

Refrain:

More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!



REFORMATION SUNDAY

Many Protestant denominations, particularly those in the reformed tradition, celebrate the last Sunday in October as Reformation Sunday. Martin Luther nailed his famous *95 Theses* to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany on All Hallows Eve (October 31, 1517)-- the evening which precedes All Saints Day on November 1st.

Our Bulletin Insert, commemorating Reformation Sunday, recounts an incident in the life of Ulrich Zwingli, a contemporary of Martin Luther and John Calvin. Zwingli and Calvin were active in Zurich and Geneva, respectively, during the early years of the reformation movement ignited by Luther.

Zwingli condemned the Roman church's abuses of the time (particularly the selling of Papal indulgences). Based on his careful reading of Scripture, Zwingli also rejected, among other things, the veneration of saints, the concept of purgatory, and the literal presence of the body and blood of Christ in the communion elements. For Presbyterians, the founding reformers (after Luther) are John Calvin, John Knox, and Ulrich Zwingli.

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

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation to be held at the conclusion of the worship service on Sunday, October 25, 2020. During this brief meeting, the Congregation will elect an Elder Nominating Committee for the purpose of recommending individuals to serve on the Session as Ruling Elders in the Class of 2023.

Elder Bill Wilkinson will present a report on recommendations prepared by a special committee of the Session. In addition to the nominations presented for the Congregation's consideration, the meeting will be opened for additional nominations from the floor, if any. Any member nominated to the Class of 2023 should, however, be consulted in advance regarding her or his availability and willingness to serve.

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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