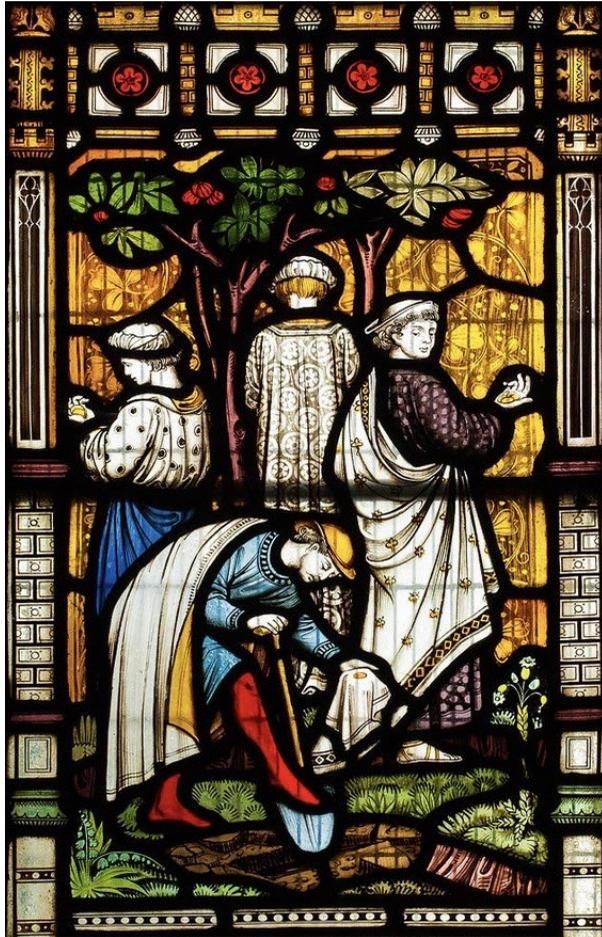


Welcome All
to
Sunday Worship Service



NOVEMBER 15, 2020

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
November 15, 2020
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proper 28

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

Prelude: Hark! Hark! My Soul

*- Henry Smart, 1868
arr. R.M. Stults, 1937*

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

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

Call to Worship

One: Clothe yourselves with faith and love;
be confident in your salvation in Christ Jesus.
All: **The Lord is with us!
Let us worship God.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

**God of righteousness,
you overcome those who abuse their power
and lift up those who suffer.
Even now, when evil seems to hold sway,
we know that you will have the last word.
Keep us faithful as we wait and watch for your coming realm,
when you will welcome all your children
into your kingdom of justice, peace, and love. Amen.**

Opening Hymn (*silently singing*): "God of the Ages"

No. 262

Invitation to Confession

God has not destined us for wrath,
but for salvation in Jesus, who died for us.
Confident in God's mercies,
let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Almighty God,
you have shown us the ways of justice
and nurtured us with love.
Even so, we have not lived according to your will.
When we are oppressed or unjustly accused,
we cling to fear and forget to trust in your deliverance.
When we are giddy with power and abuse the rights of others,
we hold tight to our privilege and forget your laws.
Have mercy on us, Lord,
for we are weak and prone to disobedience.
Hear our confession, and respond to us with kindness,
that we might turn to you again,
walk in the light,
and live in equity and peace;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison (*silently singing*)

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

Assurance of Pardon

Children of light,
because we belong to our Lord Jesus Christ,
we need not fear—
for he lived for us, he died for us,
he was raised for us and prays for us.

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

Shine your light on your Word, O Lord;
by your Spirit let us see your wonder.
For your justice outruns our sense of fairness;
your love overwhelms our deepest affections.
Open our eyes, unstop our ears,
and show us your most excellent way;
for Jesus' sake. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”
Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Congregational Hymn (*silently singing*): “As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought”

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

P.P.28-29 in the New Testament

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Sermon: Risking It All

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 25:20: “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.”

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn (*silently singing*): “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

No. 388

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

For all that you are and all that you do,
we give you thanks,
our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.
We wait in hope for the coming of your realm
and offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth;
in Jesus’ name. **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

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: Recessional in F

- *Gregory F. Cohn, 1947*



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

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

God of the ages, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase;
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
In this free land with Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought

As those of old their first-fruits brought
 Of vineyard, flock, and field
 To God, the giver of all good,
 The source of bounteous yield;
 So we today our first fruits bring,
 The wealth of this good land:
 Of farm and market, shop and home,
 Of mind and heart and hand.

A world in need now summons us
 To labor, love, and give,
 To make our life an offering
 To God, that all may live.
 The church of Christ is calling us
 To make the dream come true:
 A world redeemed by Christ-like love,
 All life in Christ made new.

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.

With gratitude and humble trust
 We bring our best to You,
 Not just to serve Your cause,
 But share Your love with neighbors too.
 O God who gave Yourself to us
 In Jesus Christ Your Son,
 Help us to give ourselves each day
 Until life's work is done.

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;
 O 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	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

Sunday, November 22

10:30 AM Worship Service

***Members and visitors on our premises
 will want first to familiarize themselves
 with our
 “COVID-19 Pandemic
 Public Health and Safety Protocols
 for In-Person Gatherings
 at the Church.”***

***A copy of these
 Health and Safety Protocols
 can be obtained as you enter the church
 or at our website:
 www.fpcofvictoria.org.***

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

Pastor’s Notes

The stained glass window on the Bulletin cover was fabricated in the late 19th Century in the famous English workshops of Clayton & Bell. It was commissioned by and installed on the ancient Norman church of St. Edith’s Church located in Bishop Wilton (the name of a town), Yorkshire, England.

Clayton & Bell excelled in their use of story-telling as demonstrated in this work in which the story of this morning’s New Testament lesson is illustrated. The master has entrusted his servants with their respective amounts of money (“talents”) and is now walking away. The focus of the composition is the servant who was given the one talent and has already begun to secure it, risk free, by digging a hole in the ground where he will bury it.

What is not immediately apparent in the stained glass, and is equally obscure in Scripture, is the enormous value of the talents entrusted by the master to his servants. By some estimates, one talent was equal in today’s currency to almost \$500,000!

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
 361.575.2441
 info@fpcofvictoria.org