

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



NOVEMBER 8, 2020

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
November 8, 2020
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proper 27

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

- Gregg Sewell, 1976

Prelude: Praise the Lord of All Creation

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

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

Call to Worship

One: People of God, listen:
the Lord has done marvelous things.
All: **Teach your children all that God has done
so that they may live in hope and die in peace.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Eternal God,
you are our hope and our salvation,
for in Jesus Christ you have conquered death.
Baptized in him, we are raised to new life.
Increase in us our faith
and keep us watchful,
that we may welcome Christ with joy
when he comes to set the whole world free. Amen.

Opening Hymn (*silently singing*): "How Great Thou Art"

No. 467

Invitation to Confession

Our hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus and his righteousness.
Trusting in the mercy of God,
let us confess our sin
that we might find forgiveness
and new life in Christ.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Holy and gracious God,
you are all light and wonder and glory.
You are our strength and our delight;
you give us all we need to live.
Yet we are distracted by all that glitters,
continually grasping for more.
Rather than trust in your provision,
we chase after our own happiness.
Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you.
Overwhelm us with your goodness
and cover us with grace,
for we know that you are the source of life,
the fount of all that is good.
In the name of Jesus 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

Hear the good news:
Nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
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

Lord, to whom should we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
speak to us of your promises
that we might hear your truth
and enjoy you forever;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 70

P. 532 in the Old Testament

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O LORD, make haste to help me!
Let those be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life.
Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire to hurt me.
Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"
turn back because of their shame.
Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, "God is great!"
But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay!

Organ Anthem: Lead, Kindly Light

- John B. Dykes, 1865
- arr. E.L. Ashford, 1901

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

P.28 in the New Testament

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Sermon: Living Expectantly

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 25:13: Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn (*silently singing*): "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us

No. 17

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

**Gracious God, receive our thanks
for your extravagant blessings.
May our gifts be signs of trust in your coming reign
of justice, peace, and love;
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**

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:

Affirmation of Faith

From A Brief Statement of Faith

Verse 1
Verse 2
Verse 3
Verse 4

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
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.
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.

How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God!, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:
When through the woods, and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook and feel the gentle breeze:
And when I think of God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:
When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow with humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

Refrain:
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: O Praise the Gracious Power

- Carol Doran, 1984

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us;
The shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
Midnight's peace their cry has broken,
Their urgent summons clearly spoken:
"The time has come, O maidens wise!
Rise up, and give us light;
The Bridegroom is in sight.
Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare and hasten there,
That you the wedding feast may share."
Zion hears the watchmen singing;
Her heart with joyful hope is springing:
She wakes and hurries through the night.
Forth he comes, her Bridegroom glorious
In strength of grace, in truth victorious:
Her star is risen, her light grows bright.
Now come, most worthy Lord,
God's Son, Incarnate Word,
Alleluia!
We follow all and heed your call
To come into the banquet hall.





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 10

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

On the Bulletin cover appears a stylized painting of water color and gouache on paper by William Blake (1757-1827), an English poet, painter, and printmaker. Entitled the “Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins,” Blake’s depiction captures the moment when the 5 wise bridesmaids refuse to share their oil with the 5 foolish bridesmaids.

Many understand the oil accumulated by the wise bridesmaids to be an allegory for faith, Christian behavior, and spiritual preparation-- a very personal reserve to be called upon during all aspects of life, but especially in moments of crisis, at the end of life, and upon the return of Christ in glory. Such “oil” can only be gained by each Christian for himself or herself as that person follows in the way of Jesus. It is “non-transferrable” and can seldom be acquired “at the last minute” (as the foolish bridesmaids discovered during their futile midnight search).

The original of this work hangs in the Tate museum in the City of Westminster, London, England.

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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