

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



JANUARY 31, 2021

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

WWW.FPCOFVICTORIA.ORG | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FPCOFVICTORIA

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
January 31, 2021
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Prelude: These Are Thy Glorious Works

- Van Denman Thompson, 1962

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Opening Sentences

One: Give thanks to God with your whole heart.

All: **Great are the works of the Lord.**

Call to Worship

One: Come! Let us give thanks to the Lord with whole hearts.

All: **Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**

One: Glory be to the One whose wonders are to be remembered.

All: **Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**

One: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

All: **Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**

One: The Lord feeds the righteous with truth.

All: **Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**

One: Come! Let us give thanks to God.

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

**Almighty God, Light from Light,
who commands the universe and all that is made,
your Word is the power that makes whole what is broken,
the force of good, and the food of peace.
Heal us now so that in all that we say and do,
the freedom we have in you may be for others, too;
in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Opening Hymn (*silently singing*): "The God of Abraham Praise"

No. 488

Invitation to Confession

The One who pardons, heals, and strengthens all who repent
calls us to name our failings and our hopes.
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Holy and all-powerful God,
who commands all spirits,
comforts those in distress,
and casts out destructive forces,
we confess that we are unable to do your will.
We protect what is familiar
and reject what is unknown.
We admire those with courage
but excuse ourselves when we falter from the truth.
We forget that you are always with us,
and that with you all things are possible.
Forgive us, lead us, make us new.
Remove our desire to heed false prophets,
and show us your way;
in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
one God, Maker of us all. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison (*silently singing*)

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

Assurance of Pardon

The God who made you and knows your every thought
hears you now and forgives you all your sin.
You have been redeemed through Jesus Christ,
God's Son, our Savior, who is Alpha and Omega, all in all.
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

Holy Spirit, your people call out for understanding.
Bring to our yearning hearts and minds
the truth of your Word; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 111

P.P. 562-563 in the Old Testament

Praise the LORD!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.
Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.
He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.
He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.
The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.
They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.

Second Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

P. 171 in the New Testament

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Sermon: The Arrogance of Intellect

1 Corinthians 8:7: It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge.

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn (*silently singing*): “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

No. 379

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

For the earth, which you have molded,
for creatures and animals, plants, water, air, and fire,
for Jesus who died and rose again,
for the breath of life,
we give you thanks, O God,
in the name of all that you have first given us,
especially Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Doxology

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 (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

One: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.
For all people in their daily life and work;
All: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.
One: For this community, the nation, and the world;
All: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.
One: For the just and proper use of your creation;
All: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.
One: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
All: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.
One: For the peace and unity of Christ's body, the church;

(Continued on next page)

Rev. Jim DeMent

Prayers of the People (*continued*)

All: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.
One: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
All: [silent prayer]
One: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life,
and particularly for those in which we rejoice this morning.
All: [silent prayer]
One: We will exalt you, O God our King;
All: And praise your name forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn (*silently singing*): “Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

No. 477

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: O Lord, How Manifold Are Thy Works

- *Sir Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896*



Hymn Lyrics

The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days,
The God of love!
The Lord, the great I Am,
By earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before Your holy name,
Forever blest.

You have eternal life
implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay,
While ages roll.
We praise You, living God!
We praise Your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought,
And still the same!

Your spirit still flows free,
High surging where it will;
In prophet's word You spoke of old
And You speak still.
Established is Your law,
And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart,
on sea, or land.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad His wonderful name;
The name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious, He rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
And still He is nigh, his presence we have;
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne,"
Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give Him His right,
All glory and power, all wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.

Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler	Gloria Aouelle	Leonard "Mac" McCameron	Kathleen McCameron
Roland Merrill	Sarah Waldrop	Trey Miller (Son of James & Camille Miller)	
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, February 7

10:30 AM Worship Service
**The Lord's Supper*

***A copy of our
"COVID-19 Pandemic
Public Health and Safety Protocols
for In-Person Gatherings
at the Church"
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
John Horadam, Worship
Billy Leske, Building & Grounds
Lynn McAuley, Caregiving & Fellowship
Dawn Neel, Christian Education
Susan Salinas, Worship
Jim Stokes, Treasurer, Finance
Gayla Whitaker, Caregiving & Fellowship
Bonnie Wilkinson, Asst. Clerk, Mission & Outreach

Other

Paula Leske, Presbyterian Women
Melissa Samudio, Presbyterian Day School
Shelley Hartman, Dawn Neel, and Helen Resendez,
Kids for Christ, Vacation Bible School
Henry Hauschild, Historian

Bulletin Cover

The picture on our Bulletin cover is a contemporary view of the ancient ruins at Corinth, Greece. Shown here are what remain of the Temple to Apollo (c. 550-530 B.C.). Obviously, no identifiable trace remains of the building, pavilion, or home in which Paul's fledging congregation may have met.

Thanks to the efforts of Julius Caesar to recolonize Corinth in 44 B.C., the city was flourishing by the 1st century A.D. when, between 51 and 52 A.D., Paul made his first visit there to organize a Christian church. Corinth was an important administrative and trade center in the Roman Empire at that time, and the early converts to Christianity in Corinth were a diverse mix of prosperous, well-educated merchants, together with an assortment of laborers and tradespeople found at any bustling port city in the Mediterranean.

Picture by Mark Cartwright; used by permission. For more pictures and additional information, see <https://www.ancient.eu/corinth/>.

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