

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



FEBRUARY 21, 2021

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
February 21, 2021
First Sunday in Lent

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

Prelude: Lamb of God, What Wondrous Love

*- Gabriel Faure 1845-1924
arr. Allan Robert Petker, 1986*

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: From water to wilderness:

All: **God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

One: On stone and in hearts:

All: **God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

One: From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

All: **God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

One: We follow Jesus on the Lenten path.

All: **For where he is, we would be also.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Almighty God,
your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are but did not sin.
Give us grace to direct our lives
in obedience to your Spirit,
that as you know our weakness,
so we may know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ our redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

God’s bow has been hung in the clouds—
a unilateral disarmament in spite of our sin.
God remains faithful to the covenant of steadfast love,
even when we are unfaithful.
Without fear, then,
we confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**God of mercy,
we begin this Lenten season in confession.
We do not live according to your ways,
but according to our own.
We condone violence,
participate in systems of injustice,
and use power to our own advantage
at the expense of others.
Forgive us, we pray,
when we are tempted to follow paths
other than those you set before us.
Teach us your commandments;
help us to turn from evil in its many guises,
and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near.
In your covenant of love, remember us, we pray,
and be for us, once more and always,
an ark of safety and new life.
In Christ’s name 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

As Noah and his family were brought safely
through the flood onto dry ground,
so in baptismal waters
we are brought from death into new life in Christ.
Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God,
forgives us and reconciles us and all things
in heaven and on earth.

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

Gracious God,
in rushing waters and in dry wilderness,
in every season and circumstance,
we need your sustaining word.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
proclaim the good news among us today
so that we may repent and believe
and see anew how the time is fulfilled
and the kingdom has come near;
in Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

P. 7 in the Old Testament

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Organ Anthem: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*William M. Runyan, 1923
arr. Lani Smith 1983*

Second Scripture Reading: Mark 1:9-15

P.P. 34-35 in the New Testament

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Sermon: Angels in Attendance

Rev. Jim DeMent

Mark 1:13: He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn (*silently singing*): “Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove”

No. 126

Affirmation of Faith

Excerpts from the PC (USA) Book of Confessions

- One:** We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
- All:** **We confess and acknowledge one God alone, distinct in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, to whom alone we must cleave, and in whom alone we put our trust.**
- One:** We believe that, we belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to ourselves but to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.
- All:** **We believe that, all things are governed by the Providence of God.**
- One:** We believe that, the Lord our God was pleased to make a second covenant of grace, wherein he freely offered unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ.
- All:** **We believe that, the chief end of humankind is to glorify God, and to enjoy God forever.**
- One:** We believe that there is but one only, the living and true God. God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness and perfection, all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.
- All:** **The church’s commission, upon which its freedom is founded, consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people in Christ’s stead, and therefore in the ministry of his own Word and work through sermon and Sacrament.**

(Continued on next page)

Affirmation of Faith (*continued*)

- One:** We believe that, the life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church’s mission.
- All:** **We believe that unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ. Through the work of God’s Spirit, unity is a binding force. At the same time, unity must be earnestly pursued and sought. Our unity must become visible to the world.**
- One:** We believe that separation and hatred between people and groups is sin, already conquered by Christ. Anything threatening our unity in Christ has no place in the church.
- All:** **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. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

God of steadfast love and faithfulness,
we are humbled as we try to do what is right
and to walk in your ways.
Bless, we ask, our offerings,
and use them for your own good purposes
in the church and in all creation.
We pray in Jesus Christ. 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.

Closing Hymn (*silently singing*): “Forty Days and Forty Nights”

No. 77

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: Andante

- Edvard Grieg, 1843-1907
arr. John W. Schuam, 1953

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all Thy quickening powers;
Kindle a flame of sacred love
In these cold hearts of ours.

In vain we tune our formal songs,
In vain we strive to rise;
Hosannas languish on our tongues,
And our devotion dies.

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Forty days and forty nights
You were fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted, and yet undefiled.

Shall not we Your sorrow share
And from worldly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer,
Strong with You to suffer pain?

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."

Dear Lord, and shall we ever live
At this poor dying rate?
Our love so faint, so cold to Thee,
And Thine to us so great!

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove,
With all Thy quickening powers;
Come, shed abroad a Savior's love,
And that shall kindle ours.

Then if Satan on us press,
Flesh or spirit to assail,
Victor in the wilderness,
Grant that we not faint nor fail!

So shall we have peace divine:
Holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us, too, shall angels shine,
Such as served You faithfully.

Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler

Gloria Aouelle

Leonard "Mac" McCameron

Kathleen McCameron

Roland Merrill

Mardy Ratliff

Sarah Waldrop

Nathan Galvan
(Son of Leila Galvan)

Trey Miller
(Son of James & Camille
Miller)

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

Saturday, February 27

8:30 AM—3:00 PM Session Retreat

Sunday, February 28

10:30 AM Worship Service

*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

Pastor's Notes

"The Temptation of Christ," depicted on our bulletin cover, is a common sermon topic on the First Sunday in Lent. The Temptation is a familiar story told in all three of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:9-15; and Luke 4:1-13), and the 40 days that Christ spent in the wilderness is commonly thought to be the inspiration for the Christian church's 40-day observance of Lent (a period in which Sundays are not counted).

Mark's account of Christ's temptation is particularly intriguing, because Mark provides scant details about what happened as Jesus prepared himself for his ministry in obedience to God's will. For instance, Matthew and Luke record Jesus' dialogue with the devil; Mark does not. Mark's account thus leaves us room to image Christ's struggles as our own, Christ's temptations as our own. During the period of reflection and penance afforded by Lent, it is comforting to know there is no struggle, no guilt we bear which has not been borne (and forgiven) by Christ. After his 40 days in the wilderness, Christ was prepared to fulfill his destiny to bring God's good news to all people. After our 40 days of Lent, will we be prepared to receive it anew?

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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