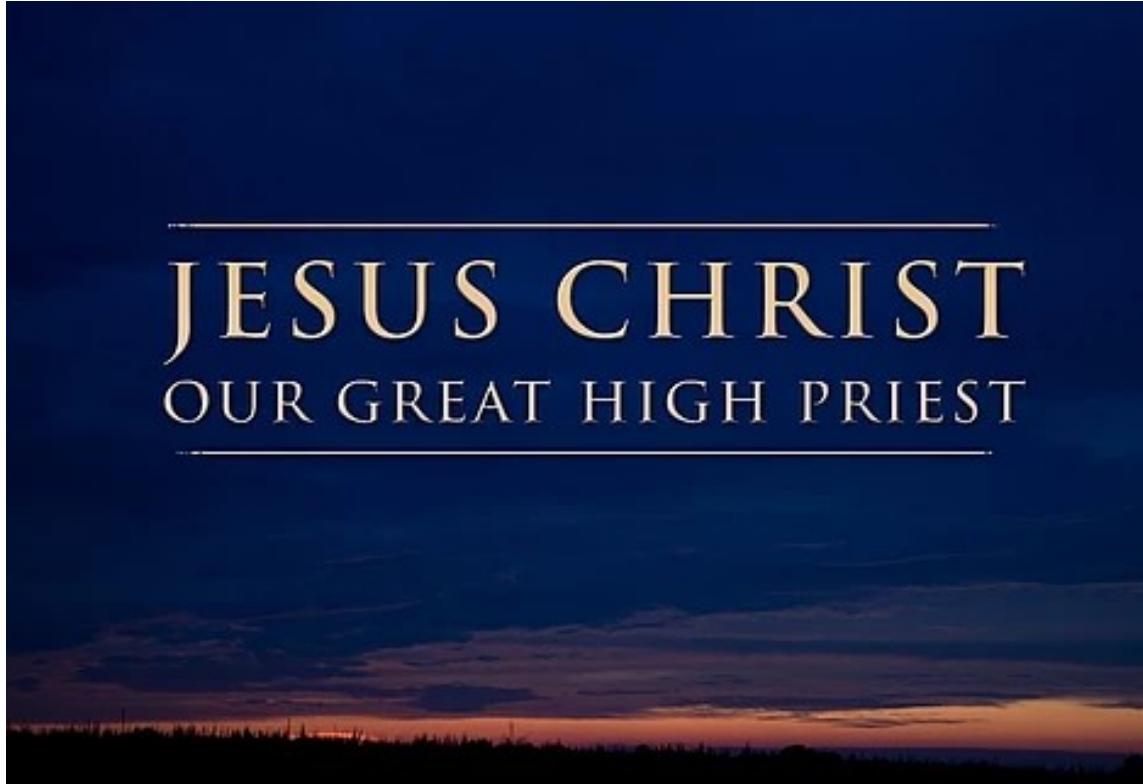


Welcome All  
to  
Sunday Worship Service



March 21, 2021

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

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

First Presbyterian Church  
March 21, 2021  
Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

**Prelude** "Ah, Holy Jesus"

*Johann Cruger, 1578-1662  
arr. Gordon Young 1964/R. Wyatt, 1970*

**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, "When I am lifted up,  
I will draw all people to myself."

All: **Blessed be the God of our salvation  
who bears our burdens and forgives our sins**

**Prayer of the Day** *unison*

Holy God, by the cross  
and resurrection of Jesus,  
you lift the suffering world toward hope  
and transformation  
and open the way to eternal salvation.  
As we move ever closer to the passion of Christ,  
may your law of love be written on our hearts  
as Christ draws all people to himself revealing  
your love for the world. Amen.

**Opening Hymn:** "God of the Ages"

No. 262

**Invitation to Confession**

Let us pray for the cleansing of our hearts,  
confessing our sins to the One  
whose mercy is everlasting.

**Prayer of Confession** *unison*

**Redeeming God,  
we confess that we have not loved you  
with our whole heart,  
and have not loved our neighbors as we ought;  
we have strayed from your commandments.  
Do not remember our sins,  
but forgive our iniquities,  
that we may fix our eyes on you and sin no more,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Kyrie Eleison**

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

**Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news!  
Hope does not disappoint us,  
for God's love has been poured into our heart  
through the Holy Spirit given us in baptism.  
Believe in God, Friends!  
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**Gloria Patri**

**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 for Illumination**

Your Word, O God, has power to  
change our lives  
and to create a whole new world.  
As we meditate on your word this day,  
fill us with your Holy Spirit,  
that we may treasure your word with  
our whole hearts  
and fix our eyes on you. **Amen.**

**First Scripture Reading:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

P. 735 in the Old Testament

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**Anthem:** “I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry”

*John Ylvisaker, 1985*

*Solo by Robert Wyatt*

**Second Scripture Reading:** Hebrews 5:5-10

P. 220 in the Old Testament

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you;”

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Sermon:** Jesus Christ, the High Priest

Rev. Jim DeMent

Hebrews 5:6: “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

*Silence and stillness*

**Congregational Hymn:** “Baptized in Water”

No. 492

**The Sacrament of Baptism**

**PRESENTATION**

**One:** There is one body and one Spirit  
just as you were called  
to the one hope of your calling,

**All:** **one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
one God and Father of all,  
who is above all and through all and in all.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH (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.

**THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER**

One: The Lord be with you.  
All: **And also with you.**  
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**THE BAPTISM**

**LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING**

**WELCOME** *(unison)*

With joy and thanksgiving  
we welcome you into Christ's church,  
the body of Christ,  
to share with us in his ministry,  
for we are all one in Christ. Alleluia! Amen!

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** *unison*

As the high priest Melchizedek blessed Abraham  
and offered his tithe of bread and wine at your holy altar,  
may our gifts be made perfect through Christ  
to glorify you and bless the world. 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:** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

No. 101

**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude:** Dona Nobis

*W. A. Mozart, 1756-179*



We have reproduced below the lyrics of the hymns selected for this morning's 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) or from Christian Copywrite Licensing International (*ccli.com*). If you are worshipping with us from home, we encourage you to sing along. If you are worshipping with us in the Sanctuary, we invite you to contemplate the lyrics as Robert Wyatt, our Choirmaster, plays the melodies. Under our current Health Protocols, we must refrain from singing out loud, but that does prevent us from finding comfort, hope, strength, and courage in these familiar hymns. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1  
Verse 2

Verse 3  
Verse 4

**God of the Ages**

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 by 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.

### Baptized in Water

Baptized in water,  
Sealed by the Spirit,  
Cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;  
Heirs of salvation,  
Trusting his promise,  
Faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water,  
Sealed by the Spirit,  
Dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;  
One with his rising,  
Freed and forgiven,  
Thankfully now God's praise we sing.

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

Baptized in water,  
Sealed by the Spirit,  
Marked with the sign of Christ, our King;  
Born of the Spirit,  
We are God's children,  
Joyfully now God's praise we sing.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

### 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

#### Sunday, March 28

10:30 AM Worship Service (Palm Sunday)

*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 high priest, Melchizedek, is for many Christians an obscure Old Testament reference. The story is told in Genesis 14:17-20 of how Abram (before he was renamed "Abraham" by God), after his great victory over strong opposing forces who had captured Lot (his nephew) and his family and kinspeople, was greeted on his return by the king of Sodom and King Melchizedek, the "priest of God Most High" (Gen. 14:18). Melchizedek brought Abram bread and wine, blessed him, and bore his tithe to the altar.

Many Christians believe that the author of Hebrews refers to Melchizedek as the highest priest in Israel's history so as to contrast his position with the fact that Christ, as God's son, is of an even higher order of priest for us now. Others connect Melchizedek's high priesthood to the elemental nourishment of the Eucharist which we celebrate in remembrance of the life, death, and resurrection of our high priest, Jesus Christ. Regardless, like a good priest, Jesus intercedes constantly with our God on our behalf for our salvation and for the forgiveness of our sins.

### 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