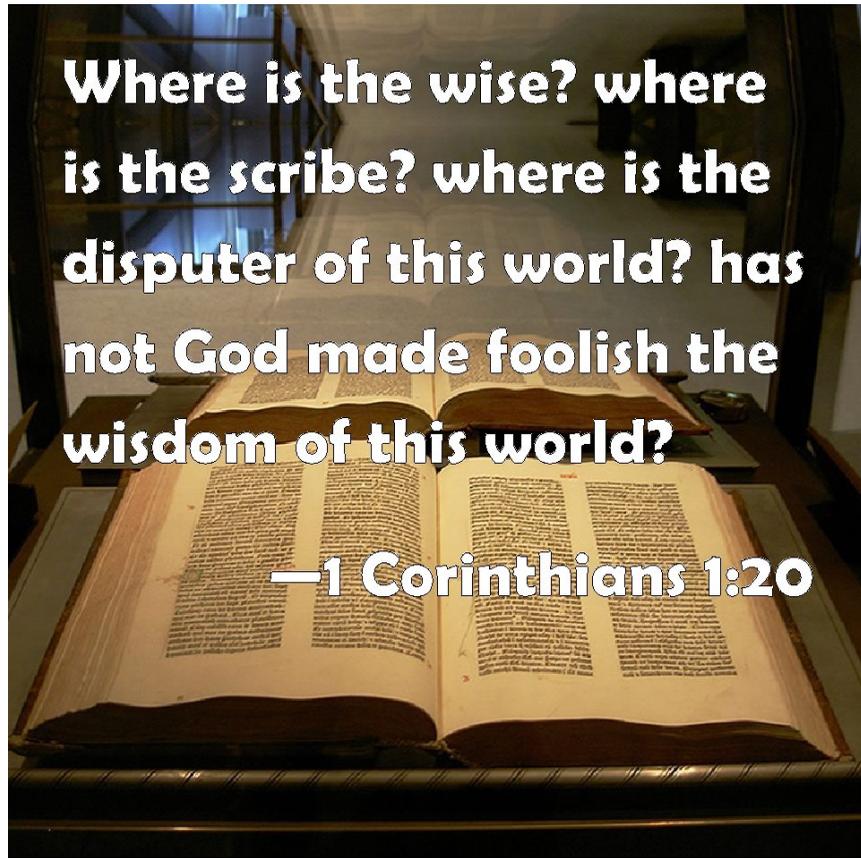


Welcome All
to
Sunday Worship Service



March 7, 2021

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent

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

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Prelude "Arioso"

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: The message of the cross
sounds foolish to the world;

All: **But to us it is the power of God!**

One: We proclaim the scandal of Christ crucified.

All: **The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,
and the weakness of God is stronger than our strength.**

Prayer of the Day *unison*

Eternal God,
your kingdom has broken into our troubled world
through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.
Help us to hear your word and obey it,
that we may become instruments of your saving love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn: "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

No. 417

Invitation to Confession

Despite all that God has taught us,
we still act foolishly; we are still weak.
In the cross of Christ,
we find forgiveness and grace.
We confess our sins,
trusting in God's wisdom and strength
rather than our own.

Prayer of Confession *unison*

Merciful God,
how fickle we are; we sin against you
without even knowing it.
Cleanse us, we pray, of any unknown sin,
and save us from willfully ignoring your way.
Let your commandments rule and guide us.
Forgive us for worshiping anyone or anything
except you;
keep us faithful.
Forgive us for failing to honor all
our relationships—
with those closest to us and those
who are distant neighbors.
Help us to speak words of blessing
and kindness,
rather than words that belittle or destroy.
Turn us away from violence, falsehood,
and selfishness.
Forgive us for thinking everything depends
on our efforts and power,
for you are the God who made us,
led us out slavery,
and has brought us into the community of faith.
Help us to depend on you alone
and to rest in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

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

Assurance of Pardon

Brothers and sisters,
in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again,
we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness
with God and with one another!
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

God of Glory,
we cannot hear the heavens proclaim
your handiwork,
though the speech of the skies must
be magnificent.
We cannot hear what day and night are
singing about you,
though their song must be both bright
and deep.
Yet, somehow you are made known to us
through our own foolish proclamation.
It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit
that your Word can be heard in our words.
Open our ears to what you are saying to us today, we pray;
and perhaps we may also hear echoes of your glory
in the broad firmament above.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 19

P.P. 498-499 in the Old Testament

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.
The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;

(continued on next page)

First Scripture Reading: *(continued)*

the precepts of the LORD are right,
 rejoicing the heart;
 the commandment of the LORD is clear,
 enlightening the eyes;
 the fear of the LORD is pure,
 enduring forever;
 the ordinances of the LORD are true
 and righteous altogether.
 More to be desired are they than gold,
 even much fine gold;
 sweeter also than honey,
 and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
 in keeping them there is great reward.
 But who can detect their errors?
 Clear me from hidden faults.
 Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
 do not let them have dominion over me.
 Then I shall be blameless,
 and innocent of great transgression.
 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
 be acceptable to you,
 O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Anthem: “Think of Me”*Solo by Robert Wyatt**Robert W. Thygerson, 1997***Second Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

P. 166 in the Old Testament

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
 and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Sermon: Foolishness

Rev. Jim DeMent

1 Corinthians 1:20: Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

*Silence and stillness***Congregational Hymn:** “Break Thou the Bread of Life”**Prayer of Thanksgiving** *unison*

O Lord our God,
 we want to follow all your commandments—
 to love only you, not worshiping the things
 of this world;
 to love our neighbor freely,
 not desiring for ourselves something they possess.
 Accept our offerings, we pray,
 and teach us to be generous,
 giving fully of ourselves
 that we may truly be the body of Christ in this 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.

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**The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper**

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
 One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
 One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(continued on next page)

It is truly right and just to give you thanks
in every time and in every place, almighty God.

We give you thanks for the gift of creation
and especially for the gift of our life.

We are grateful that you have made us in your image
and that you pardon us when we act
as though you have no authority over our lives.

We are grateful that you sustain us in your great love.

And so, with all your people,
with angels, archangels,
and with all the company of heaven
we praise and magnify your glorious name,
joining our voices in the eternal hymn:

SANCTUS: UNISON

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ,
who was born of Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of the life that we know.
You anointed Jesus Christ with your Spirit
to preach good news to the poor,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
to give sight to the blind, and to liberate the oppressed,
proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor.

In Christ's baptism, suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, and made a new covenant with us by water and the Spirit.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine,
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming,
proclaiming the mystery of faith:

GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF FAITH: UNISON

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your people
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
so that the bread we share and the cup we bless
will be for us the body and blood of Christ.

(continued on next page)

By your Spirit make us one with Christ
and with all who share this feast,
united in ministry in every place.
As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Make us one with Christ,
one with our neighbors,
and one in service to all the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Merciful God, we give thanks that you have invited us to this Table.

All: **We give thanks that you have received us as members of the body of Christ
and have affirmed us as a community of faith.**

One: Lead us to live as faithful and dedicated disciples in service to all the world;

All: **in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "I Come With Joy"

No. 507

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: The Heavens Are Telling

Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809



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). If you are worshiping with us from home, we encourage you to sing along. If you are worshiping 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

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever,
And our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call You,
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
With Your wonted loving-kindness
Hear Your people as they pray,
And Your fullest benediction
Shed within its walls away.

Here bestow to all Your servants
What they ask of You to gain,
What they gain from You forever
With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in Your glory
Evermore with You to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father,
Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit,
Ever three and ever one;
One in might, and one in glory,
While unending ages run.

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Break Thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee, O living Word!

Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, now unto me,
As Thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

I Come with Joy

I come with joy to meet my Lord,
Forgiven, loved and free,
In awe and wonder to recall
His life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
To find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
In Christ's communion bread,
In Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
Each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one,
And strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known:
We see and praise Him here,
We see and praise Him here.



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

Tuesday, March 9
6:00 PM Session Meeting
Sunday, March 14
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 Scripture on our Bulletin cover is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible, and it varies only slightly from the New Revised Standard Version that we use in worship. In this passage, Paul uses rhetorical questions in a parallel structure. The reference to “the wise,” was likely made for Paul’s Greek audience who prized reason and intellect as wisdom. The reference to “the scribe” was likely made for Paul’s Jewish audience who prized knowledge of the Torah as wisdom. The reference to the “debater” was likely designed to appeal to both audiences who prized superb oratory skills as a sign of wisdom.

By no means, however, was Paul being anti-intellectual. His own vocabulary and rhetoric reflect that he was well educated, intelligent, and skilled in the arts of logic, reason, and persuasion. Rather, Paul took issue with those who vainly thought they could convince themselves (and others) by their own efforts into believing the Gospel that Paul was preaching. Paul knew, however, that to try to do so was foolishness-- foolishness, because the life, death, and resurrection of Christ can never be explained by human intellect. It is only when we accept God’s wisdom as superior to our own and accept, in faith, the Gospel he sent to us in his son Jesus Christ that we experience salvation.

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