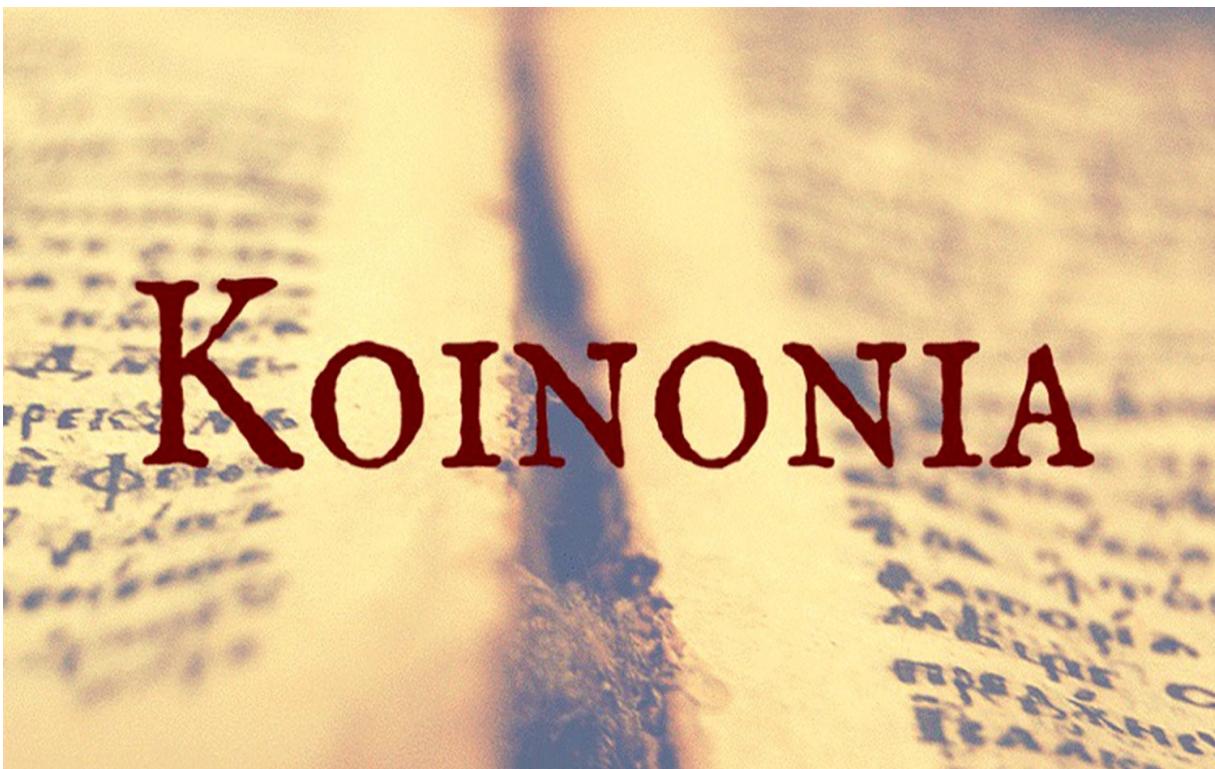


# Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



APRIL 11, 2021

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

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church  
April 11, 2021  
Second Sunday in Easter

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

- Gilbert M. Martin, 1996

**Prelude:** The Risen Christ

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

**Call to Worship**

One: Peace be with you.

All: How good and pleasant it is  
when we live together in unity.

One: Receive the Holy Spirit.

All: It is like precious oil on the head,  
the blessing of the Lord.

**Prayer of the Day (unison)**

Breathe in this place, O Lord,  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
to open our minds, unlock our hearts,  
and enliven our faith  
so that in holy fellowship  
we may welcome  
the risen one among us. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn** (*silently singing*): "The Day of Resurrection"

No. 118

**Invitation to Confession**

If we say that we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.  
But if we confess our sins,  
God who is faithful and just  
will forgive us our sins  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
Trusting in God's mercy,  
let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

You have shown yourself to us, O God,  
by Word and Spirit,  
with signs and wonders,  
in flesh and blood,  
yet we still struggle to live and believe  
the good news of Jesus Christ.  
Have mercy on us; forgive us.  
Enter into our lives  
and cast out our fear  
so that we may come to trust in you  
and have life in Jesus' name. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison (*silently singing*)

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

Assurance of Pardon

We have an advocate with God—  
Jesus Christ, the righteous one—  
who offered his life in love  
to save the world from sin.

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

God of all who doubt and believe,  
by the gift of your Spirit  
enable us to hear with our ears,  
to see with our eyes,  
and to touch with our hands  
your Word of life—Jesus Christ—  
our Lord and our God. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!  
It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.  
It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,  
life forevermore.

Anthem: After Calvary

*Solo by Dawn Neel*

*Thelma Goodrich, 1965*

Second Scripture Reading: 1 John 1:1 - 2:2

P.P. 238-239 in the New Testament

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Sermon: Fellowship

Rev. Jim DeMent

1 John 1:3: . . . we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

*Silence and stillness*

Congregational Hymn (*silently singing*): “Were You There?”

No. 102

### Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Holy God, we give you thanks and praise  
for light and life and love, and— above all—  
the presence and fellowship of the living Lord among us.  
By your Spirit who breathes within us,  
strengthen our faith, use our gifts,  
and work in our lives to bear witness  
to the resurrection of Christ our Lord,  
in whose name we pray. **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

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. **Amen**

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn (*silently singing*): “Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”

No. 115

- 17th Century Dutch Melody

### Charge and Benediction

Postlude: Because You Live, O Christ

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 ([cdli.com](http://cdli.com)). 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 not 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

### The Day of Resurrection

The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of gladness,  
The Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
From this world to the sky,  
Our Christ hath brought us over  
With hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,  
That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal  
Of resurrection light;  
And, listening to His accents,  
May hear, so calm and plain,  
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,  
May raise the victor strain.

### Were You There?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

### Refrain:

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when ...?

Now let the heavens be joyful,  
Let earth the song begin,  
Let the round world keep triumph,  
And all that is therein;  
Let all things seen and unseen  
Their notes of gladness blend,  
For Christ the Lord hath risen,  
Our joy that hath no end.

Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?  
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

## Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain  
Of triumphant gladness;  
God hath brought forth Israel  
Into joy from sadness;  
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters;  
Led them, with unmoistened foot,  
Through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today;  
Christ hath burst His prison,  
And from three days' sleep in death  
As a sun hath risen.  
Now rejoice, Jerusalem,  
And with true affection  
Welcome in unwearied strains  
Jesus' resurrection!



<u>Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests</u>					
Kathryn Amsler	Gloria Aoueille	Leonard "Mac" McCameron	Kathleen McCameron		
Roland Merrill	Sarah Waldrop	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)			
<b>For caregiving concerns—please contact: Jack Kleinecke (361. 212.3229); or Gayla Whitaker (361. 935.0950)</b>					
<b>FPC Opportunities for Worship &amp; Service</b>		<b>FPC Victoria Servant Leadership Session Members</b>			
<b>Tuesday, April 13</b> 6:00 PM Session Meeting		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			
<b>Sunday, April 18</b> 10:30 AM Worship Service <i>* PDS Sunday</i>		<b>Other</b> 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			
<i>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: <a href="http://www.fpcofvictoria.org">www.fpcofvictoria.org</a>.</i>					
<b>Pastor's Notes</b>					
<p>The Greek word used in the New Testament for fellowship is “koinonia” (κοινωνία). In 1 John 1:7, we read “... if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” As we cautiously anticipate the end of the current pandemic, are we not realizing that in addition to the pain and suffering we have endured as a result of illness and death, what we have missed most is fellowship-- fellowship with our families, our friends, our neighbors, and our fellow Christians?</p> <p>Psychologists and sociologists tell us that human beings are “social animals.” We are generally happy in the presence of friends and loved ones, and we can become physically and emotionally ill when we are not. Christians have known this for ages. God’s children grow in mind and spirit in the presence of one another, whether in worship, during a meal or other event in Fellowship Hall, or in community service helping others. During this pandemic, we have truly missed being with one another. And rightly so! John tells us that Christian fellowship is divine. In it, we walk in God’s light; in it, we are cleansed from all sin.</p>					
<b>Clergy, Music, and Administration</b>		<b>Office Hours</b>			
Rev. Jim DeMent, Interim Pastor Robert Wyatt, Organist/Choirmaster Tasha Wolf, Office Administrator		Monday — Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM 361.575.2441 <a href="mailto:info@fpcofvictoria.org">info@fpcofvictoria.org</a>			