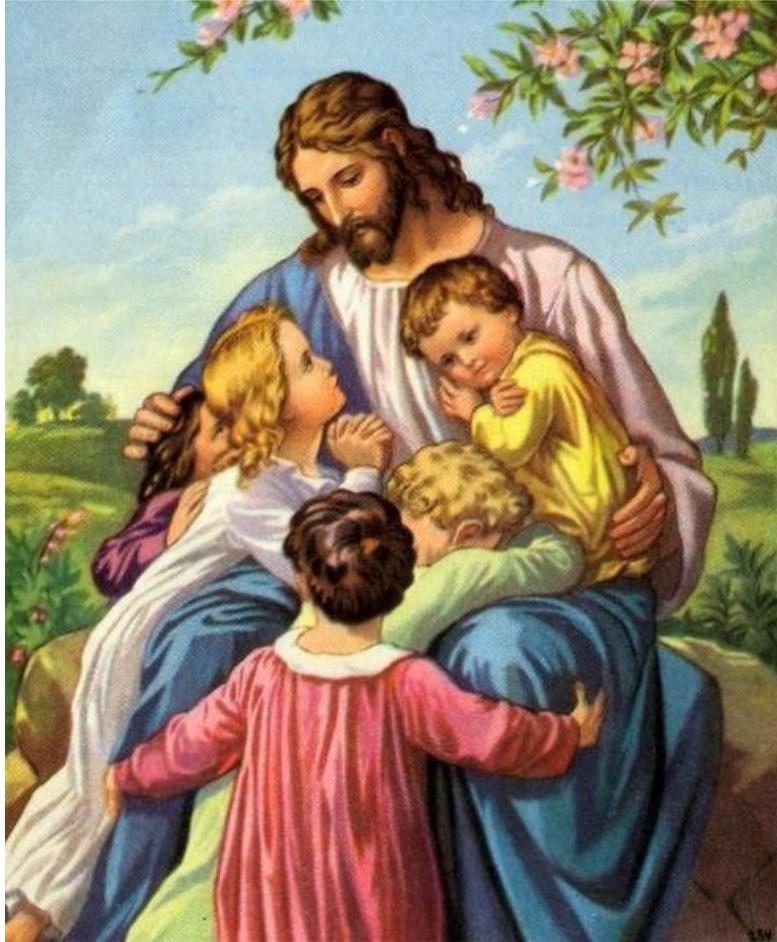


Welcome All
to
PDS Sunday Worship Service



APRIL 18, 2021

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

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
April 18, 2021
Third Sunday in Easter
PDS Sunday

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

Prelude: A Medley of Children's Church Songs

- arr. Robert Wyatt

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 bread of life opens our eyes.

All: **The word of life opens our ears.**

One: The risen one shows us God's own brokenness,

All: **and by those wounds we are healed.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Almighty God, your power makes the lame walk
and the dead rise to new life.

We give you thanks for the love poured into our world
through Christ Jesus,
who opened our minds to understand what you have made,
whose appearance among his followers brings peace,
and who creates faith through touch and taste.
Show us Jesus, even now,
through the mystery of your threefold presence,
one God, abiding now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn (*silently singing*): "Morning Has Broken"

No. 469

Invitation to Confession

The One who calls us to repent, hears us.
In trust that our Creator knows us through and through,
let us open our hearts to the healing of God's forgiveness.



Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Good and gracious God,
we are creatures of dust,
ignorant of your revelation,
misunderstanding your life, death, and resurrection among us,
needing forgiveness.

We repent of our failure to give as you have given to us.

We beg your mercy for our fallen world.

We seek your Word, that we may live with the faith of little children.

Be our solace in this life and always.

We ask this as your children, holy and yet incomplete.

By your mercy, forgive us and lead us. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison (*silently singing*)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

In the name of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
our plea for absolution has been heard.

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 God, by your Spirit
reveal your radical, surprising love;
come to us through your holy word,
and let us hear what you are saying. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 122

P.P. 571-572 in the Old Testament

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”
Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.
To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers.”
For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, “Peace be within you.”
For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your good.

Anthem: Good Morning Lord, This Little Light of Mine, My God Is So Big

Presbyterian Day School Children's Choir

Second Scripture Reading: Mark 10:13-16

P. 37 in the New Testament

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Sermon: Of Such Is the Kingdom of God

Rev. Jim DeMent

Mark 10:14: But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn (*silently singing*): “Jesus Loves Me”

No. 304

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Lord God, we offer to you only a portion
of what you have given us.
All that we have is from your creative hand.
All that we can give away we do through Jesus' love.
All our renewal comes from the Holy Spirit's wisdom.
Deal graciously with our gifts so that others may have joy;
in Jesus' name. 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

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.

The Apostles' Creed

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn (*silently singing*): "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

No. 106

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: All Things Bright and Beautiful

- 17th Century English Melody

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 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

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken
Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken
Like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
Fresh from the Word!

Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
Born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
Praise every morning,
God's re-creation
Of the new day!

Sweet the rain's new fall
Sunlit from Heaven,
Like the first dewfall
On the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness
Where his feet pass.

Jesus Loves Me!

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong;
They are weak, but he is strong.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As he loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to me."

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation.

We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen.

Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Savior.

Refrain:

Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.



Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler

Gloria Aouelle

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)

**For caregiving concerns—please contact:
Jack Kleinecke (361. 212.3229); or Gayla Whitaker (361. 935.0950)**

FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

Wednesday, April 21

5:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting

Sunday, April 25

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

For many of us who attended traditional Sunday School services when we were in grade school, a highly stylized, highly romanticized picture of “Jesus with the Children,” like the one on our Bulletin cover, hung in our classroom or in the halls of the education wing of our church. Of course, as adults, we now realize that the scene described in our Scripture reading from Mark this morning looked nothing like this. The children were neither cherubic nor Northern European in appearance. They were more likely an unruly, unwashed huddle of urchins with Middle Eastern features and no blond hair among them.

That’s alright, however. When we were children, we did not care how Jesus and his contemporaries looked in “real life.” We just knew that Jesus loved us, and if we came from a loving family and attended a caring church, we also knew what it felt like to be loved. Jesus urges us to return to that state of mind (“receive the kingdom of God as a little child”) and to put aside the “reality” of the world, as we follow him in faith and as we love others as he has loved us (John 13:34).

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