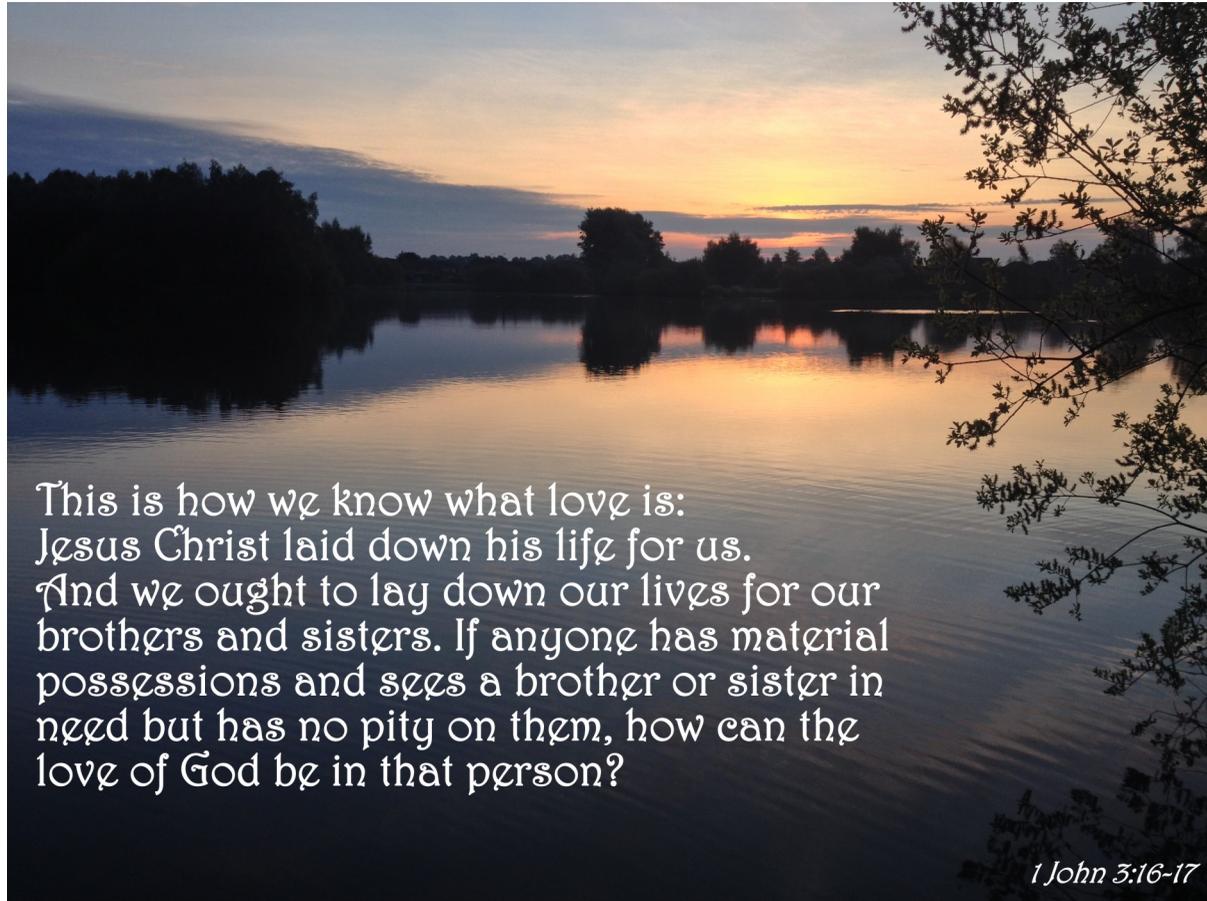


Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



This is how we know what love is:
Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives for our
brothers and sisters. If anyone has material
possessions and sees a brother or sister in
need but has no pity on them, how can the
love of God be in that person?

1 John 3:16-17

APRIL 25, 2021

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
April 25, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Easter

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

- Janet Linker, 1996

Prelude: At the Name of Jesus

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 Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

All: **He lays down his life for his sheep.**

One: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

All: **He knows us, and we belong to him.**

One: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

All: **He speaks, and we listen for his voice.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

We are your people, O God—
the sheep of your pasture,
the flock you have gathered.
Lead us beside still waters;
teach us the way of righteousness;
and feed us at your table;
through Jesus Christ,
our good shepherd. Amen.

Opening Hymn (*silently singing*): “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

No. 487

Invitation to Confession

If we are honest with ourselves,
our hearts condemn us.
But God, who knows everything,
is greater than our hearts;
and God's deep desire for us
is mercy, love, and peace.
Therefore let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Lord, have mercy on us.
We talk about love,
but our actions betray us.
We talk about love,
but we neglect the poor.
We talk about love,
but we fail to love one another.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, and abide in us
by the power of your Spirit
so that by our actions
our lives may show
our love for Jesus Christ,
in whose body we live
and in whose 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

We seek God's grace with boldness
because we trust in Jesus Christ,
the One who loves us
and laid down his life for us.

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

Lord God,
by the leading of your Spirit,
help us to listen for your voice
and follow in your paths
all the days of our lives;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Acts 4:5-12

P. 121 in the New Testament

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Anthem: More Like You, Lord

- Jay Althouse, 1991

Duet by Linda Patterson & Becky Richter

Second Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

P. 240 in the New Testament

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Sermon: Love Is a Verb

Rev. Jim DeMent

1 John 3:18: Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn (*silently singing*): "Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us

No. 387

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 3

Verse 2

Verse 4

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Gracious God, we give you thanks
that you have shown us the meaning of love
through Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us.
Show us how to share Christ's love
by giving our lives for one another;
to the glory of your holy 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 (*unison*)

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.

All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn (*silently singing*): "More Love to Thee, O Christ"

No. 359

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: In His Holy Name

- E. J. Lorenz, 1933

Colossians 1:15-20

When Morning Gilds the Skies

When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round
In joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
From depth to height reply:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
My canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
Through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Early let us seek Thy favor;
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.

More Love to Thee, O Christ

More love to Thee, O Christ,
More love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make
On bended knee.
This is my earnest plea:

Then shall my latest breath
Whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry
My heart shall raise.
This still its prayer shall be:

Once earthly joy I craved,
Sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek,
Give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be:

Refrain:

More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!



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

Sunday, May 2

10:30 AM Worship Service
* The Lord’s Supper

*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

By reading the entirety of John’s First Epistle, we realize that John is writing to an early Christian congregation in which there have arisen arguments and schisms about who Jesus was and what was the true meaning of Jesus’ ministry. Not much has changed among Christian congregations in 2,000 years!

John preaches that the antidote to such disagreement is to “love one another just as [Jesus] has loved us” (1 John 3:23). Easier to understand than to practice, Christians individually and collectively so frequently fail to abide by this commandment. Still, it is important to remind ourselves often of Jesus’ commandment to love one another and to aspire as best we can to follow Jesus’ teaching.

Of course, it is hard to love those who mock us, who disparage our beliefs, who fail to love us. But Jesus’ point is that their behavior is their problem for which they will be judged by God alone. If we are to love our enemy, if we are to turn our other cheek, then of course we must also love those who oppose us. May God give us the wisdom, the courage, and the strength to do so whenever we find ourselves in conflict with others.

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