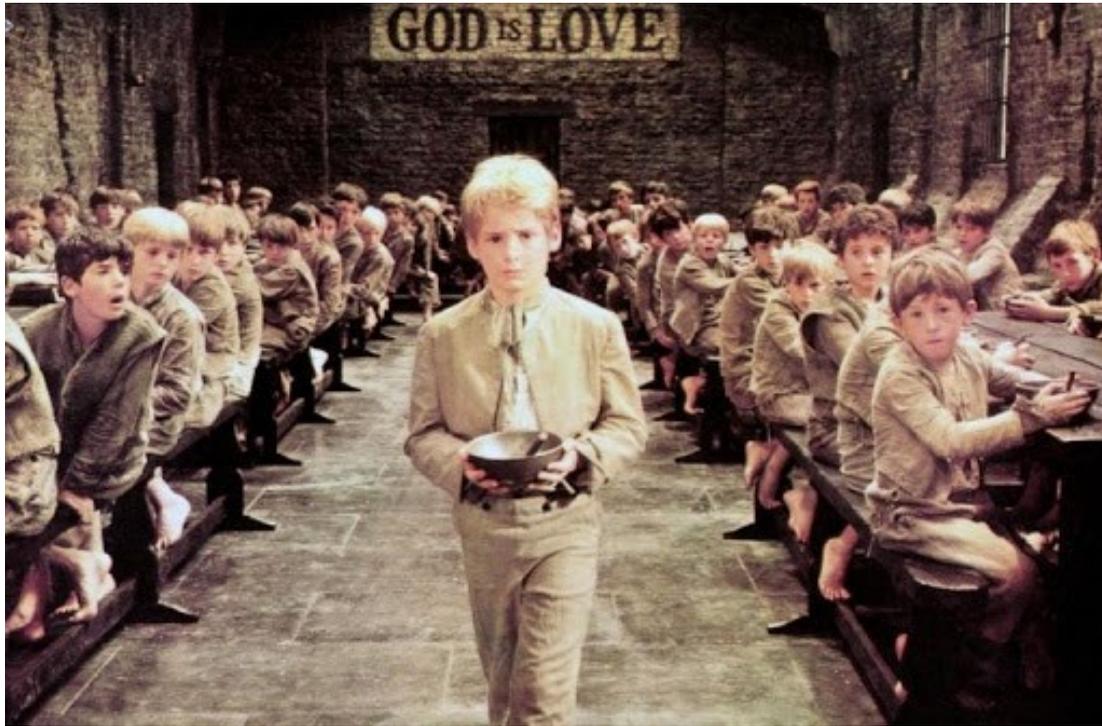


# Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



May 2, 2021

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

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church  
May 2 2021  
Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Prelude "Christ Leads Death to Life"

Myrtha B. Licht, 1945

Welcome and Announcements

Moment for Community

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

All: **Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.**

One: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior  
nourishes everyone.

All: **Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.**

Prayer of the Day *unison*

Loving God,  
teach us to love as you have commanded,  
let us love one another as you have loved us,  
in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn: "Christ Is Alive"

No. 108

Invitation to Confession

Trusting in the mercy of God,  
let us confess to God and to one another  
our failure to love our neighbor.



### **Prayer of Confession** *unison*

Almighty God,  
you love us, but we have not loved you.  
You call, but we have not listened.  
We walk away from neighbors in need,  
wrapped in our own concerns.  
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.

God of grace,  
help us to admit our sin,  
so that as you come to us in mercy,  
we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness,  
through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

### **Kyrie Eleison**

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

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The saying is sure  
and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Jesus Christ came into the world  
to save sinners.

He himself bore our sins  
in his body on the cross,  
that we might be dead to sin,  
and alive in all that is good.

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**

Come, Holy Spirit,  
that through your word we may be guided  
into the love of God for all the world. Amen.

### **First Scripture Reading:** Acts 8:26-40

P.P. 127 in the Old Testament

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading? He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.  
In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

### **Anthem:** “Where Two or Three Are Gathered”

*Liam Lawton, 2009*

**Second Scripture Reading:** 1 John 4:7-21

P. 241 in the New Testament

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**Sermon:** God Is Love

Rev. Jim DeMent

1 John 4:16b: God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

*Silence and stillness*

**Congregational Hymn:** "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

No. 329

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** *unison*

Through our offerings, O God,  
give your loving Spirit to a world in need of comfort.  
Make our many gifts one offering for the world;  
in the name of Jesus. **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.**

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.

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:** "Lift High the Cross"

No. 371

**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude:** Credo

*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 Alive**

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing,  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Not throned afar, remotely high,  
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
But daily, in the midst of life,  
Our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
To distant years in Palestine,  
Be saving, healing, here and now,  
And touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war,  
Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
And lives, where even hope has died.

### **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.

### **Lift High the Cross**

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
The Lamb victorious, Christ the Son of God.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
Your death has brought us life eternally.

Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
Bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory.

### **Refrain:**

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.



**Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests**

<b>Kathryn Amsler</b>	<b>Gloria Aouelle</b>	<b>Leonard “Mac” McCameron</b>	<b>Kathleen McCameron</b>
<b>Roland Merrill</b>	<b>Mardy Ratliff</b>	<b>Sarah Waldrop</b>	<b>Nathan Galvan</b> (Son of Leila Galvan )
<b>Trey Miller</b> (Son of James & Camille Miller)	<b>Samantha Skaggs</b> (Niece of Roxanna and Henry Hauschild )	<b>John &amp; Jere Swoboda</b> (Prior FPC Members)	<b>Carol Wisdom</b> (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, May 4**  
12:00 PM Bible Study, “The Gospel of Mark from Scratch”

**Sunday, May 9**  
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](http://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**

You pastor has recently been in a Broadway musical frame of mind. This week’s Scripture lesson brings to mind *Oliver!*, a 1960 musical written by Lionel Bart. There is a point in the story where Oliver, a young orphan based loosely on the main character in Charles Dicken’s novel, *Oliver Twist*, sings “Where Is Love?” Lonely, afraid, and seemingly abandoned, Oliver gives voice to the universal hunger in the human heart: the need to be loved.

In his First Epistle, John speaks eloquently to that hunger. God is both the source and, in Jesus Christ, the fulfillment of that hunger. Our need to be loved is answered in the first instance by God. In that love, we find our capacity to love others as Christ commands.

**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](mailto:info@fpcofvictoria.org)