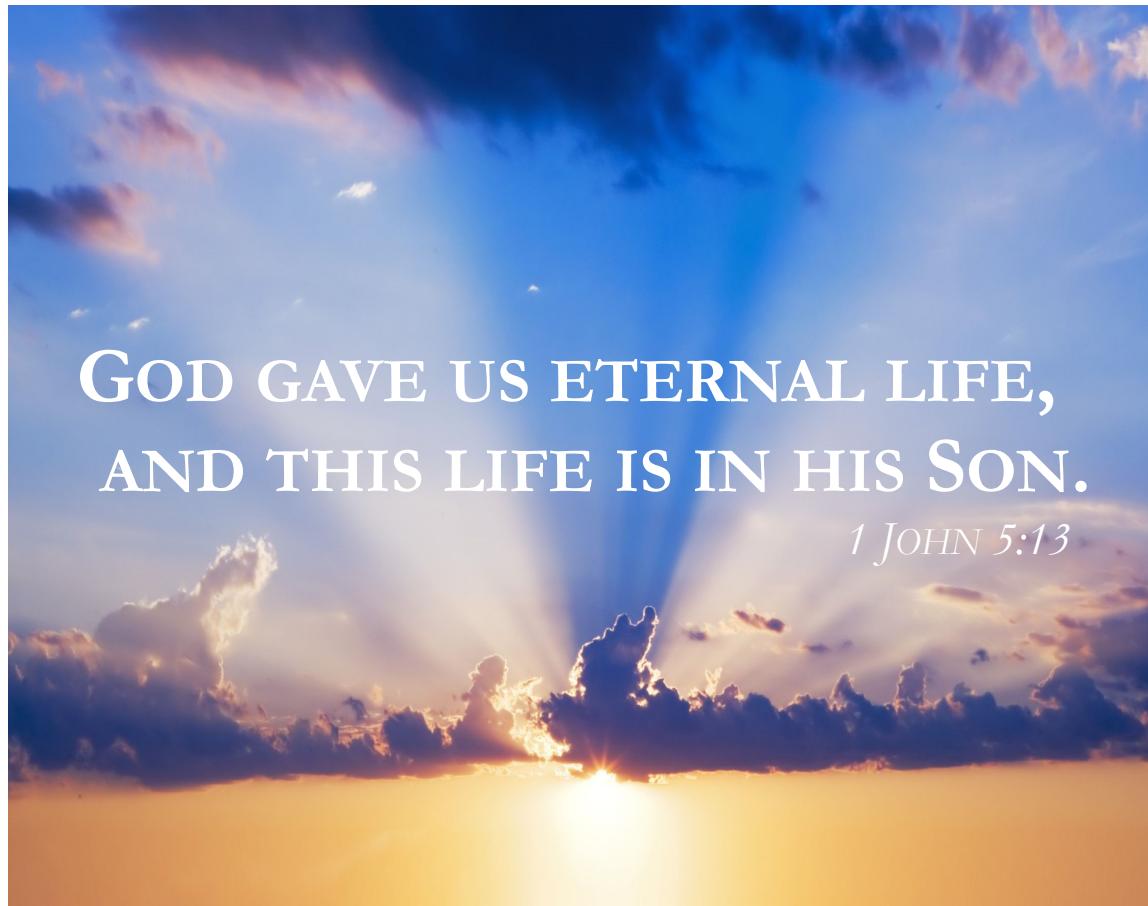


Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



**GOD GAVE US ETERNAL LIFE,
AND THIS LIFE IS IN HIS SON.**

1 JOHN 5:13

MAY 16, 2021

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
May 16, 2021
Seventh Sunday in Easter

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

- George J. Elvey, 1868

arr. Gordon Young, 1968/R. Wyatt, 2021

Prelude: Crown Him with Many Crowns

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you!

Call to Worship

One: Happy are those who do not ridicule and scoff
but who delight in God's teachings
and meditate on them day and night.
All: They are like trees planted by streams of water.
One: They yield fruit in due season,
and their leaves do not wither.
All: In all that they do, they prosper.

Prayer of the Day (unison)

Holy One,
open us to the possibility that we are being chosen
to be new disciples with new ministries
in Jesus' name. Amen.

Opening Hymn (*silently singing*): "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

No. 483

Invitation to Confession

The Lord watches over our ways.
Let us put our trust in God's grace
and confess our sins.

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

God, though you call us to delight in
your teachings,
we can become cynical and full of doubt.
Do not judge us, we pray, but heal us
and restore us to you.
Guard us and protect us from evil,
and sanctify us in truth;
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

In Christ Jesus, God has promised
to forgive us and reconcile us to God and each other.

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

May the reading of your Word
sanctify us in the truth and
bring us to perfect joy. Amen

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 1

Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Organ Anthem: I'll Walk With God

- Nicholas Brodsky, 1905-1958

Second Scripture Reading: 1 John 5:9-13

P. 241 in the New Testament

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Sermon: God's Testimony

Rev. Jim DeMent

1 John 5:11: And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn (silently singing): "How Great Thou Art"

No. 467

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Jesus has made God known to us.
We already belong to God.
And so we dedicate our gifts to God's service
and to the glory of God's 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 (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 and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn (*silently singing*): "All Creatures of Our God and King"

No. 455

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: Andante Maestoso

- W. Henry Maxfield



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

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Sing praise to God, who reigns above,
 The God of all creation,
 The God of power, the God of love,
 The God of our salvation;
 With healing balm my soul is filled,
 And every faithless murmur stilled:
 To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath made,
 God's gracious mercy keepeth;
 By morning glow or evening shade
 God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
 Within the kingdom of God's might,
 Lo! all is just and all is right:
 To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,
 But through all grief distressing,
 An ever present help and stay,
 Our peace, and joy, and blessing;
 As with a mother's tender hand,
 God gently leads the chosen band:
 To God all praise and glory!

Thus all my gladsome way along,
 I sing aloud Thy praises
 That earth may hear the grateful song
 My voice unwearied raises.
 Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
 Both soul and body take your part:
 To God all praise and glory!

How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God!, when I in awesome wonder
 Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
 I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
 Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
 And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
 When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
 And see the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think of God, His Son not sparing,
 Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
 That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
 He bled and died to take away my sin;

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
 And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
 Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
 And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
 Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest us both warmth and light,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou fertile earth, that day by day
Unfoldest blessings on your way,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them God's glory also show!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler

Gloria Aoueille

Leonard "Mac" McCameron

Kathleen McCameron

Roland Merrill

Sarah Waldrop

Nathan Galvan
(Son of Leila Galvan)

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, May 18

12:00 PM Bible Study in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 23

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

Analytical readers of our Scripture lesson from 1 John 5 will point out that in order to believe "God's testimony" (which is greater than "human testimony") we must first believe in God, which is itself a matter of faith. To have faith that God gave us eternal life through his Son requires that we have faith in God. The atheist might argue, therefore, that there is no more empirical evidence of God's testimony than there is of God's existence.

John is not writing for the atheist here, however. He rightly presumes that his audience has faith in God and in God's Son, Jesus Christ. He is talking about having faith in God's promise of eternal life. Thus, John concludes, "I write these things to you *who believe* in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life" (5:13). John thus reminds us that simply declaring our faith in Jesus Christ is not enough. We must understand why God chose to live among us, incarnate in the same flesh as our own. God's testimony, made manifest in Jesus, is that he came to declare the good news of our salvation and life-everlasting through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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