

Welcome All
to
Sunday Worship Service



June 13, 2021

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
June 13, 2021
Third Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 6

Facemasks are optional for those who have been fully vaccinated, but you are always welcome to wear your mask and you will always be respected. Social distancing is still maintained. If you wish to sing aloud, please sit in the front half of the Sanctuary.

Prelude "Faith"

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

Welcome and Announcements

*** Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to God Most High;
to declare God's steadfast love in the morning
and God's faithfulness at nighttime.

All: **Those who are planted in the house
of the Lord flourish;
no matter their age, they bear fruit
and remain lush and fresh, proclaiming:
The Lord is righteous! God is my rock!**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

God, Sower of seeds,
be at work among us, we pray,
that your church may thrive in faithfulness.
Whether we are the size of a tall cedar
or are a small sprig,
it does not matter.
You are able to put us to good use.

(continued on next page)

Prayer of the Day *(continued)*

Not by our efforts,
but by your power and grace
we bear fruit,
produce boughs of spacious welcome.
You can make even a dry tree flourish!
Even we can become a new creation!
Urge us on, then, in the love of Christ.
In his name we pray. Amen.

* **Opening Hymn:** “The Church’s One Foundation”

No. 442

* **Invitation to Confession**

God will not count our trespasses against us,
longing instead for us to be reconciled.
We come before God, then,
in honesty, humility, and hope.

* **Prayer of Confession** *(unison)*

Gracious God,
we so often miss your kingdom at work among us.
Captivated by power and prestige,
we overlook the mustard seeds
you have planted all around.
Forgive us for failing to notice
where and how you are at work.
Forgive us when we work against
your plans and purposes—
fostering divisions when you have called us
to a ministry of reconciliation;
beset by apathy when the world has such deep needs;
building walls to keep people out
when your branches offer generous nests.
Help us to grow in faithfulness, we pray,
so that we might reach our fullest height of faith.
In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

* **Kyrie Eleison**

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

* **Assurance of Pardon**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

* **Gloria Patri** *(unison)*

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

Holy God,
we walk by faith and not by sight.
So guide our steps in your Word today that,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
we are kept from falling
and find our way in your way.
Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

P.P. 548-549 in the Old Testament

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.
The righteous flourish like the palm tree,
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
They are planted in the house of the LORD;
they flourish in the courts of our God.
In old age they still produce fruit;
they are always green and full of sap,
showing that the LORD is upright;
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

One: The Word of the Lord
All: **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem: “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

Samuel McFarland, 1816

Solo by Linda Patterson

Second Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

P. 181 in the New Testament

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Sermon: A New Creation

Rev. Jim DeMent

2 Corinthians 5:17: So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Silence and stillness

* **Congregational Hymn:** “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

No. 466

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: My Faith Looks Up to Thee

- *Lowell Mason, 1831*

* **Doxology** (*unison*)

**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.**

* **Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

Life-giving God,
we know that you will accomplish
everything you purpose.
Accept, we pray, these offerings from our hands.
May they contribute to what you are doing
so that life may flourish.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

* **Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)

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.**

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:** "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

No. 276

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: Postlude in E Flat

Scotson Clark, 1970





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

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word;
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
This world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean;
Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler

Gloria Aouelle

Leonard "Mac" McCameron

Kathleen McCameron

Roland Merrill

Nathan Galvan
(Son of Leila Galvan)

Jere Swoboda
(Prior FPC Member)

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

Monday, June 14

6:00 PM Session Meeting

Sunday, June 20

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

Unquestionably, an encounter with Christ is a truly transformational experience--whether it occurs as dramatically as a lightening-strike or as subtly as the erosion of a canyon. Visual depictions of this transformation, such as shown on our Bulletin cover, generally express the experience as a return to a younger time, such as a seedling. The Bible tells us, however, that when we are in Christ, we are a new creation-- although not necessarily a youthful creation. What if the hand on our Bulletin cover was holding a mature, well developed redwood tree over 300 feet tall? Our transformation in Christ is to a greater maturity, a higher understanding, a deeper spirituality, and a stronger self.

Our embrace of Christ leads to a newness that is far superior to our former, sinful, selfish ways of thinking and living. It is an embrace that may occur, and likely repeatedly occur, at any age throughout our lives, and it was never intended to make us younger. Of course, since the old has passed away, it does make us freer, but it is a freedom grounded in faith, in confidence, and in trust in the better way that Christ would have us live.

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