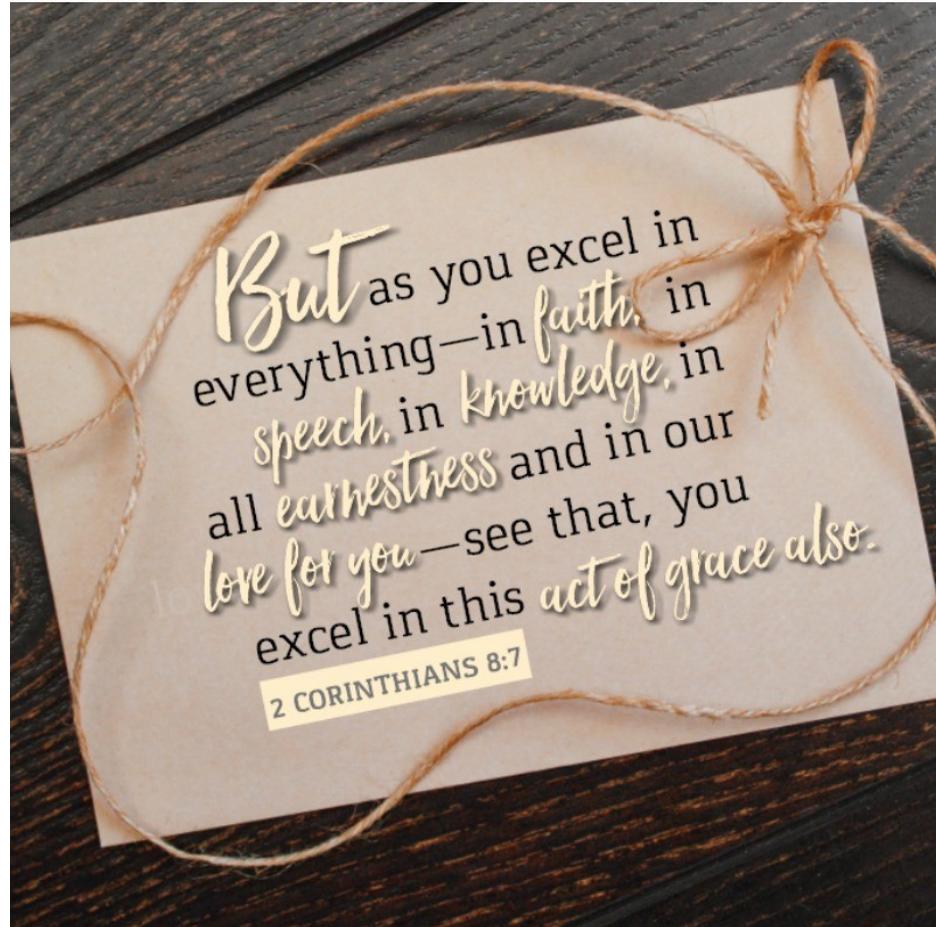


Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



JUNE 27, 2021

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
June 27, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 8

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: Fantasia on “Forest Greet”

- English Melody arr. Lani Smith, 1991

Welcome and Announcements

*** Passing of the Peace**

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

Call to Worship

One: Sing praises to God,
All: **give thanks for God’s name.**
One: For God clothes us with strength and joy
All: **and God turns our mourning to dancing.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Steadfast God, you sent Jesus as witness
that no one is outside your healing reach.
Help us to trust in the abundance of your love
as we share your compassion and generosity
wherever we may go,
with you, in Christ, and through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn:** “As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought”

No. 414

*** Invitation to Confession**

Let us confess our sins to God,
for God is faithful and loves us eternally.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel

from all its iniquities.

Organ Anthem: All to Christ

- *John T. Grape, 1835-1915*
arr. *Gregg Sewell, 1978*

Second Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

P. 183 in the New Testament

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written,

“The one who had much did not have too much,
and the one who had little did not have too little.”

Sermon: The Grace of Giving

Rev. Jim DeMent

2 Corinthians 8:7: Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

Silence and stillness

* **Congregational Hymn:** “We Give Thee but Thine Own”

No. 428

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

Saving God,
we confess that our faith is too small,
our fear is too great.
When we are overwhelmed,
we think you do not care enough for us.
When life is uncertain and risky,
we are not sure we can trust you with our whole hearts.
Even when you move among us in powerful ways,
we question who you are.
Forgive us and calm our fears, we pray.
Teach us to trust in your power to save
and guide us in every circumstance.
Grant us your peace,
which is beyond all understanding.
In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

* **Kyrie Eleison** (*unison*)

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

* **Assurance of Pardon**

Christ offers peace to our troubled souls.
Believe the One whom even the wind and the sea obey.
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

Loving God, your Word has the power to restore our lives.
Open our hearts to the presence of your Spirit,
for you are mighty to save. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Psalm 13 “Out of the Depths”

- *Martin Luther, 1524*

* **Doxology** (*unison*)

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

**Holy God, thank you for giving us a joy for generosity
and a genuine love for those who are in need.**

**Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts and upon our lives
that together we may bring healing and hope to the world.**

In Christ's name we pray. 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:** “Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

No. 434

Congregational Meeting

* **Charge**

* **Benediction**

Postlude: Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service

- *Welsh 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 3

Verse 2

Verse 4

As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought

As those of old their first fruits bought
Of vineyard, flock, and field
To God, the give of all good,
The source of bounteous yield,
So we today our first fruits bring,
The wealth of this good land:
Of farm and market, shop and home,
Of mind and heart and hand.

With gratitude and humble trust
We bring our best to You,
Not just to serve Your cause,
but share Your love with neighbors too.
O God who gave Yourself to us
In Jesus Christ your Son,
Help us to give ourselves each day
Until life's work is done.

A world in need now summons us
To labor, love, and give,
To make our life an offering
To God that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
To make the dream come true:
A world redeemed by Christ-like love,
All life in Christ made new.

We Give Thee but Thine Own

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly, as thou blessest us,
To Thee our first fruits give.

To comfort and to bless,
To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lonely in distress,
Is angels' work below.

The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace--
It is a Christ-like thing.

Today We All Are Called to be Disciples

Today we are all called to be
Disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captives free,
Make plow-share out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
Make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first,
Our ease and comfort last.

Pray justice may come rolling down
As in a mighty stream,
With righteousness in field and town
To cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore
An earth where conflicts cease,
A world that was created for
A harmony of peace.

God made the world and at its birth
Ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth,
Responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud,
We sow not peace but strife,
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud
That threatens all of life.

May we in service to our God
Act out the living Word,
And walk the road the saints have trod
Till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we
Give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be
Disciples of the Lord.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

A Special Meeting of the Congregation will be held at the conclusion of this morning's worship service. There are two agenda items:

1. Our Treasurer, Ruling Elder Jim Stokes, will report on the financial circumstances of the church through the first six months of 2021.
2. Ruling Elder Billy Leske will present a report on the Session's recommendations for the election of members to constitute a Standing Congregation Nominating Committee ("SCNC").

The members of the SCNC to be presented for the congregation's consideration are Billy Leske and Jim Stokes (who, together with Jack Kleinecke, are rotating off the Session at the end of this year) and the following members of the congregation: Ruth Ann Bernard; Paula Leske; and Helen Williams. The Moderator will invite additional nominations from the floor, if there be any.

At the end of such discussion as the congregation may desire, a vote will be taken to elect the members of the 2021 Standing Congregation Nominating Committee. Thereafter, our meeting will be adjourned.

Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler	Gloria Aouelle	Lorraine Carpenter	Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)
Kathleen McCameron	Leonard "Mac" McCameron	Roland Merrill	Mavis O'Sullivan
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, July 4

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
Updated on the Day of Pentecost
May 23, 2021"
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

Several times in his letters, Paul mentions his undertaking to take up a collection to support the Christians in Jerusalem (for example, Rom. 15:25-29, 1 Cor. 16:1-4, 2 Cor. 8:1-9:15, Gal. 2:9-10). The irony, however, is that the Jerusalem church, dominated by Peter and James, was not immediately (if ever) taken with Paul who, by his own admission, was "untimely born" (1 Cor. 15:8). After all, Paul had never known Jesus in the flesh, he had once been a notorious persecutors of Christians, and he was in the vanguard of the efforts to allow Gentiles into the "Jesus community" without having them first become Jews.

It says much for Paul's belief in God's grace (*chariti*, in Greek), and in the Christ-honoring importance of responding to that grace, that he took the suffering in Jerusalem to heart. Even if viewed with suspicion in Jerusalem, Paul faithfully fulfilled God's commandment to "love thy neighbor" by working tirelessly among the congregations he founded to support other congregations who did not whole-heartly support his own evangelistic efforts.

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