

Welcome All  
to  
Sunday Worship Service



July 4, 2021

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

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

First Presbyterian Church  
July 4, 2021  
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 9

*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** “Hold Strong the Flags of Freedom with God Bless America”  
Robert J. Hughes, 1988/Irving Berlin/arr. Robert Wyatt, 2009

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\* Passing of the Peace**

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

**Call to Worship**

One: In this land of freedom and beauty, let us give thanks to God.  
All: **Let us praise the Holy One who created the blue lakes and grassy prairies, the vast desert lands, and the breathtaking mountains of our homeland.**  
One: Let us unite in worship of the Creator who formed all lands and all people,  
All: **And who declared, “It is good.” Come, let us worship God.**

**Prayer of the Day** (*unison*)

Gracious God,  
Teach us to walk gently in your path of love,  
seeking justice, making peace, cherishing the earth and one another.  
Enliven our imaginations that  
we can see through present ills to future newness.  
Embolden us with your love,  
that we may live now as if the new had already come.  
In joy we offer our praise to you. Amen.

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

\* **Opening Hymn:** “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

No. 564

\* **Invitation to Confession**

Trusting in the love and goodness of God, let us confess our sin.

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

**Merciful God, in your gracious presence  
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.  
Although Christ is among us as our peace,  
we are a people divided against ourselves,  
as we cling to the values of a broken world.  
The profit and pleasure we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas.  
The fears and jealousies we harbor set  
neighbor against neighbor, and nation against nation.  
We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,  
of intellect and reason,  
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.  
Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us.  
Set us free to serve you in the world,  
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\* **Kyrie Eleison**

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

\* **Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.  
Friends, believe the gospel.  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God!

\* **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**

Startle us, O God, with your truth,  
and open our minds to your Spirit,  
that we may be one with Christ our Lord,  
and serve as faithful disciples,  
in Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

**First Scripture Reading:** Psalm 123

P. 572 in the Old Testament

To you I lift up my eyes,  
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!  
As the eyes of servants  
look to the hand of their master,  
as the eyes of a maid  
to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,  
until he has mercy upon us.  
Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt.  
Our soul has had more than its fill  
of the scorn of those who are at ease,  
of the contempt of the proud.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**Organ Anthem:** “Patriotic Medley”

*arr. Robert Wyatt*

**Second Scripture Reading:** Mark 6:1-13

P. 40 in the New Testament

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

**Sermon:** Astounded, Annoyed, Amazed

Rev. Bette Burris

Mark 6:2: On the sabbath Jesus began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded.

Mark 6:5: And he was amazed at their unbelief.

*Silence and stillness*

\* **Congregational Hymn:** “I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”

No. 457

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory:** Land of Rest

- *USA Folk Melody*

\* **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*)

*From A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us in the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.  
In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,  
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

**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**

**In deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves  
to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the  
Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Amen.**

\* **Closing Hymn:** "Now Thank We All Our God"

No. 555

#### **Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude:** Lift Every Voice and Sing

*J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921*

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. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1

Verse 3

Verse 2

Verse 4

#### **O Beautiful for Spacious Skies**

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved,  
And mercy more than life!  
America! America!  
May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness,  
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,  
Whose stern, impassioned stress,  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years,  
Thine alabaster cities gleam,  
Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

**I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art**

I greet Thee, who my sure Redeemer art,  
My only trust and Savior of my heart,  
Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;  
I pray Thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,  
Reigning omnipotent in every place:  
So come, O King, and our whole being sway;  
Shine on us with the light of Thy pure day.

Thou art the life, by which alone we live,  
And all our substance and our strength receive;  
Sustain us by Thy faith and by Thy power,  
And give us strength in every trying hour..

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness,  
No harshness hast Thou and no bitterness:  
O grant to us the grace we find in Thee,  
That we may dwell in perfect unity.

Our hope is in no other save in Thee;  
Our faith is built upon Thy promise free;  
Lord give us peace, and make us calm and sure,  
That in Thy strength we evermore endure.

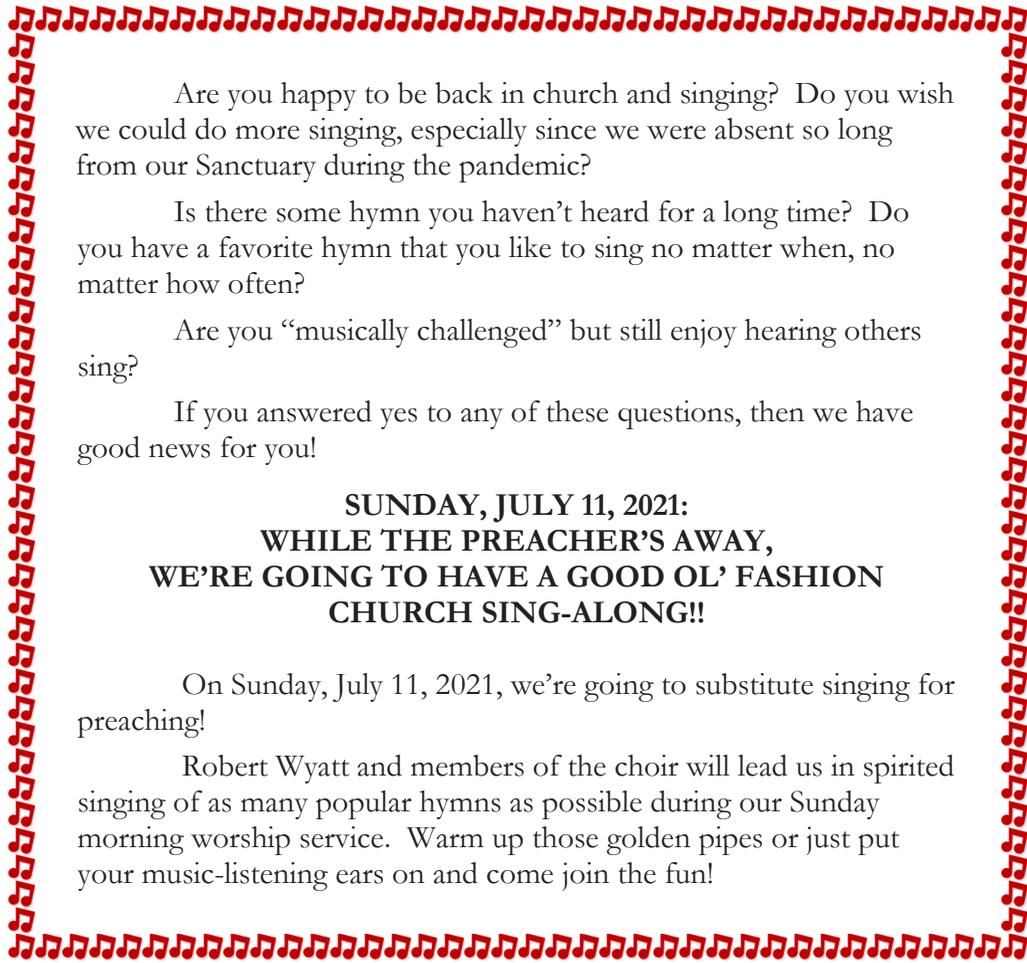
**Now Thank We All Our God**

Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom his world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms,  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in his grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills  
In this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
Who reigns in highest heaven,  
To Father and to Son,  
And Spirit now be given.  
The one eternal God,  
Whom heaven and earth adore;  
The God who was, and is,  
And shall be evermore.





Are you happy to be back in church and singing? Do you wish we could do more singing, especially since we were absent so long from our Sanctuary during the pandemic?

Is there some hymn you haven't heard for a long time? Do you have a favorite hymn that you like to sing no matter when, no matter how often?

Are you "musically challenged" but still enjoy hearing others sing?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then we have good news for you!

**SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2021:  
WHILE THE PREACHER'S AWAY,  
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A GOOD OL' FASHION  
CHURCH SING-ALONG!!**

On Sunday, July 11, 2021, we're going to substitute singing for preaching!

Robert Wyatt and members of the choir will lead us in spirited singing of as many popular hymns as possible during our Sunday morning worship service. Warm up those golden pipes or just put your music-listening ears on and come join the fun!

Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

- |   |   |                           |   |
|---|---|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Kathryn Amsler</b>                     | <b>Gloria Aouelle</b>                         | <b>Lorraine Carpenter</b> | <b>Nathan Galvan</b><br>(Son of Leila Galvan) |
| <b>Kathleen McCameron</b>                 | <b>Leonard "Mac" McCameron</b>                | <b>Roland Merrill</b>     | <b>Mavis O'Sullivan</b>                       |
| <b>Jere Swoboda</b><br>(Prior FPC Member) | <b>Carol Wisdom</b><br>(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, July 6**  
12:00 PM PW Coordinating Council Meeting
- Sunday, July 11**  
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

The source of the old adage, "familiarity breeds contempt," is lost in time, but the concept is as old as time.

Jesus "astounds" all who hear him teach in his hometown synagogue, but they cannot get past the fact that they know him so well-- he's *just* a carpenter, the son of Mary with many brothers and sisters, and they remember him when he used to play in the dusty streets of their small town. They are "offended" by the concept that deeds of power may be done by his hands. Jesus is, in turn, "amazed" that the folks who know him so well, and whom undoubtedly he loved as a child, now reject him.

This story is a cautionary tale against underestimating someone just because we believe we know a lot about them. May Jesus be as familiar to us as he was in his hometown, but let us not allow that familiarity to distract us from his awesome power. May Jesus' good news continue to astound us, even as we grow familiar with his presence in our homes and our hearts!

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  
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