

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



JULY 25, 2021

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
July 25, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 12

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: Prelude in E Minor

- J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

*** Passing of the Peace**

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

Call to Worship

One: Your creation gives thanks to you, O God.
All: **And we, your faithful, bless you.**
One: We shall speak of the glory of your realm and tell of your power.
All: **We shall let all people know your mighty deeds and glorious splendor.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Generous God, you give us what we need and satisfy our desires in due season. Grant that our inner beings may be strengthened through your Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, that you may accomplish within us far more than all we ask or can imagine. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn:** "In Christ There Is No East or West"

No. 439

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

*** Invitation to Confession**

Let us confess to our God,
for the Lord is just in all his ways
and kind in all his doings.
The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**God, you uphold those who are falling
and raise up all who are bowed down.
Therefore we confess our sins—
both things we have done and
things we have left undone—
in every confidence that
you will open your hands to us
in an embrace of forgiveness and love. Amen.**

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

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

Assurance of Pardon

Dearly beloved,
through the power of the Spirit that is at work within us
God forgives our sins and strengthens our inner beings.
So now live knowing the love of Christ,
which surpasses all knowledge
and fills us with the fullness of God.

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, may this your Word
give us the power to comprehend,
with all the saints,
the length and width, the height and depth
of the love of Christ and fullness of life in you. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Judges 4:1-16

P.P. 220-221 in the Old Testament

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’” Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.” And she said, “I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him.

Now Heber the Kenite had separated from the other Kenites, that is, the descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had encamped as far away as Elon-bezaananim, which is near Kedesh. When Sisera was told that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, Sisera called out all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the troops who were with him, from Harosheth-ha-goiim to the Wadi Kishon. Then Deborah said to Barak, “Up! For this is the day on which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand. The LORD is indeed going out before you.” So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand warriors following him. And the LORD threw Sisera and all his chariots and all his army into a panic before Barak; Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot, while Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth-ha-goiim. All the army of Sisera fell by the sword; no one was left.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Second Scripture Reading: Romans 16:1-7

P.P. 164-165 in the New Testament

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well.

Greet Prisca and Aquila, who work with me in Christ Jesus, and who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who was the first convert in Asia for Christ. Greet Mary, who has worked very hard among you. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives who were in prison with me; they are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

Sermon: The Ministry of Reconciliation

Rev. Jim DeMent

Romans 16:6: Greet Mary, who has worked very hard among you.

Silence and stillness

* **Congregational Hymn:** “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

No. 438

Service of Installation—Presbyterian Women

(See Insert)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

- *No. 441*

* **Doxology** (*unison*)

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

We rejoice with thanksgiving for all we have received.

Multiply these gifts that we give
so that the world may more deeply know
fullness of life in you. 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:** “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

No. 441

* **Charge**

* **Benediction**

Postlude: Fanfare & Meditation on My Country 'Tis of Thee

- *Bradshaw*

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

In Christ There Is No East or West

In Christ there is no east or west,
In Him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
Are surely kin to me.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord
Close binding humankind.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
In Him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

Before our Maker's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin, we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

I love Thy church, O God:
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given,
'Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.



Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler

Gloria Aouelle

Lorraine Carpenter

Nathan Galvan
(Son of Leila Galvan)

Kathleen McCameron

Leonard "Mac" McCameron

Roland Merrill

Mikey Ruddock

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, August 1

10:30 AM Worship Service

* *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

The ancient mosaic on our Bulletin cover depicts a woman in prayer during the earliest periods of Christian worship. The original is curated in the Vatican's Pio Cristiano Museum.

Given the importance and prominence of women in the early Christian movement, it is curious why, in some Christian traditions, they have since been deemed unacceptable for serving as clergy. Through the 12th century, women carried out the ministry of the diaconate in its fullness: baptizing and anointing, proclaiming and preaching the Gospel, and sustaining the life of the church through their ordained ministry. Currently, however, the first two verses of Romans 16 (mentioning Phoebe as a worthy deacon) are omitted from the Scriptures used at Roman Catholic daily masses. See, <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/befriending-phoebe-co-worker-kingdom>.

With respect and grace to others who believe differently, at First Presbyterian Church we are grateful to God for the equal contribution that women make to building and sustaining Christ's church on earth.

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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info@fpcofvictoria.org