Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service

AUGUST 29, 2021

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
August 29, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 17

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: Fanfare on "Austria" *- Franz Joseph Haydn 1732-1809 arr. Douglas E Wagner, 1983*

Welcome and Announcements

*** Passing of the Peace**

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

Call to Worship

One: Who may abide in the presence of God?
All: Who may live on God's holy mountain?
One: All those who walk blamelessly and do what is right.
All: All those who speak truth from their heart!

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ
you have shown us the truth of your commandments.
Give us sincere hearts
that we may serve you with joy,
obey you with love,
and manifest your wisdom to the world;
through Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn:** "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!" No. 476

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

*** Invitation to Confession**

With sincere hearts and minds,
let us confess our sins before God and the world,
trusting in God's mercy to forgive.

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

God of light,
we confess that we live in the shadows of hypocrisy
and self-righteousness.
We honor you with our lips,
but we have not served you in our hearts.
We are satisfied with human traditions
and avoid your liberating truth.
We have confused meekness with weakness,
holiness with social conformity,
and anger with righteousness.
Forgive us, we pray.
By the power of your word
save us from the prison of our conceit
so that we may serve you with sincere hearts;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

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

*** Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, do not despair:
God renews us by the word of truth,
that we might become the first fruits of God's creation.

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

Lord, by the power of your Spirit
open our hearts and minds to receive your Word
that we not forget the wonders you have done
nor neglect to make them known to our children,
nor fail to tell them to the world. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 15 P.P. 495 in the Old Testament

O LORD, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?
Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;
who do not slander with their tongue,
and do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;
in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honor those who fear the LORD;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

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

Second Scripture Reading: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 P.P. 42 in the New Testament

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

"For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Sermon: Hipocrites! Rev. Jim DeMent

Mark 7:6: "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hipocrites . . .."

Silence and stillness

*** Congregational Hymn:** "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" No. 345

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Be Thou My Vision *- Irish Ballad*

*** Doxology** (*unison*)

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

O God, receive these gifts for the work of your church.
With these gifts we dedicate ourselves
to live in the truth of your word,
and follow your commandments
with sincere hearts;
through Christ our Lord. 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 Lord's Prayer

*** Closing Hymn:** "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" No. 357

*** Charge**

*** Benediction**

Postlude: Now Let All the Heavens Adore Thee *Phillip Nicola, 1556-1608, arr. J.S. Bach, 1685-1750*

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 2
Verse 3
Verse 4

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

O worship the King all-glorious above!
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
The chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Dear Lord, Creator good and kind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

O Master, let me walk with Thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee
In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only Thou canst give,
With thee, O Master, let me live.

Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler

Gloria Aoueille

Lorraine Carpenter

Nathan Galvan
(Son of Leila Galvan)

Kathleen McCameron

Leonard "Mac" McCameron

Mikey Ruddock

Jere Swoboda
(Prior FPC Members)

Carol Wisdom
(Daughter of Lea Lenz)

Philip Chang

For caregiving concerns—please contact:
Jack Kleinecke (361. 212.3229); or Gayla Whitaker (361. 935.0950)

FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

Sunday, September 5

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
Bonnie Wilkinson, Asst. Clerk, Mission & Outreach
Billy Leske, Building & Grounds
Dawn Neel, Christian Education
Gayla Whitaker, Caregiving & Fellowship
Jack Kleinecke, Clerk of Session
Jim DeMent, Moderator
Jim Stokes, Treasurer, Finance
John Horadam, Worship
Lynn McAuley, Caregiving & Fellowship
Susan Salinas, Worship

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 New Testament records Jesus using the word "hypocrite" (*hupokritês*) some 15 times, almost half of which includes his condemnation of the Pharisees and other religious authorities during his "Seven Woes" diatribe in Matthew 23:13-29 (and, of course, once again in this morning's passage from Mark).

Interestingly, in its original usage, *hupokritês* referred to an actor in the Greek theater. On stage, the actor would use a mask to portray an emotion (joy, sadness, etc.), but of course the actor's "true" face was covered by the mask. Our Bulletin cover, an ancient relief (now in the Vatican museum), illustrates a Greek actor contemplating his masks.

Hupokritês is a combination of two words, literally "judging" and "under," such as, precisely, a performer acting under a mask. It is easy, therefore, to see why being called a "hypocrite" by Jesus was such an insult. Figuratively, the term suggested a "two-faced" person-- one face (the face of what the person preached) different from the other (the face of what the person did). Our Lord easily sees through whatever mask we may try to wear. The only face we need is the one with which we sincerely strive to follow the teachings of our Savior, Jesus Christ-- both in word and deed.

Clergy, Music, and Administration

Rev. Jim DeMent, Interim Pastor
Robert Wyatt, Organist/Choirmaster
Erica Colding, Office Administrator

Office Hours

Monday — Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
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