

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



AUGUST 8, 2021

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

WWW.FPCOFVICTORIA.ORG | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FPCOFVICTORIA

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
August 8, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 14

Facemasks are optional for those who have been fully vaccinated, but we kindly ask those who are not fully vaccinated to wear their masks at all times. Anyone wearing a mask, for whatever reason, will always be respected.

Prelude: Sing to the Great Jehovah's Praise

- arr. Lani Smith

Welcome and Announcements

*** Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: I will bless the Lord at all times;

All: **his praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

One: O magnify the Lord with me,

All: **and let us exalt God's name together.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Eternal God,
your Son Jesus Christ is the true bread from heaven.
Draw us to Christ that we may receive
nourishing grace for our journey in this world
and know at last the joy of everlasting life with Christ,
who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn:** "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

No. 423

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

* **Invitation to Confession**

Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak
the truth to our neighbors,
confessing our sins before God and one another.

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

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not lived as your
faithful children.
We have been angry with the world
and nursed grudges against our adversaries.
We have hoarded the fruits of our labors
rather than share our bounty with the needy.
We have not built up our neighbors
with words of kindness
but have indulged in evil gossip.
We have not forgiven the wrongs others have done,
even though we desire your forgiveness toward us
in Jesus Christ.
Heal us, O God,
and give us the grace to love
as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. Amen.**

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

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

* **Assurance of Pardon**

Let us put away bitterness and wrath
and anger and wrangling and slander,
together with all malice,
and be kind to one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven us.
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

Almighty God,
as we hear your gracious Word,
make us hungry for Jesus, your holy manna,
that we may be fed by him,
the bread of life. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 34:1-8

P. 508 in the Old Testament

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,
and was saved from every trouble.
The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Sebastian Temple, 1967

Solo by Dawn Neel

Second Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

P. 194 in the New Testament

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Sermon: Imitators of God

Rev. Jim DeMent

Ephesians 5:1-2: Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Silence and stillness

* **Congregational Hymn:** “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Rescue the Perishing

- *William H. Doane, 1925*

* **Doxology** (*unison*)

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

Receive these gifts, O God.

May our lives be a fragrant offering that is pleasing to you,
in union with Christ’s offering for us. 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

The Lord’s Prayer

* **Closing Hymn:** “Open My Eyes That I May See”

No. 324

* **Charge**

* **Benediction**

Postlude: Voluntary II

- *T. Martin Towne*

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 worshipping with us from home, we encourage you to sing along. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1

Verse 3

Verse 2

Verse 4

Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume, shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.

They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

We are one in the Spirit;
We are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit;
We are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity;
Will one day be restored:

We will work with each other;
We will work side by side;
We will work with each other,
We will work side by side,
And we'll guard each man's dignity
And save human pride:

We will walk with each other;
We will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other;
We will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land:

All praise to the Father,
From whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus,
God’s only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit,
Who makes us one:

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Open My Eyes That I May See

Open my eyes, that I may see
 Glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
 Place in my hands the wonderful key
 That shall unclasp and set me free.

Open my mouth, and let me bear
 Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
 Open my heart and let me prepare
 Love with Thy children thus to share.

Refrain:

Silently now I wait for thee,
 Ready, my God, thy will to see.
 Open my (eyes, ears, heart),
 Illuminate me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
 Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
 Everything false will disappear.



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

Monday, August 9

6:00 P.M. Session Meeting

Sunday, August 15

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

*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

On our Bulletin cover is a picture of the ancient baptismal pool at the Basilica of Saint John built near Ephesus in the four century A.D. Here we can see a very tangible representation of the spiritual transformation that occurs when a believer enters the steps at one end of the pool, proceeds to the center pool to be immersed in life-changing water, and emerges from the other side as a “new person” in Christ. Other elements of transformation were emphasized in ancient baptismal practices, as when the convert removed his or her clothes before entering the pool and was given new clothes (often white) when emerging from the pool.

Only if we accept that our faith in Jesus Christ is a transformational event in our lives can we undertake with confidence an effort to be obedient to Christ and to comply with the moral codes of the ancient apostles. We fail of course to attain the level of righteousness to which Christ’s instructions and the moral codes direct us, but in undertaking the effort, we behave as God intended us to behave among one another. We experience God’s love as manifested in the gift of his son, Jesus Christ. We live a new life, unable and unwilling to return to the old.

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