

World Communion Sunday 180th Anniversary Celebration Organ Dedication



October 3 , 2021

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
October 3, 2021, 10:30 a.m
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 22

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 “Prince of Denmark March”

Jeremiah Clark 1674-1707

Welcome and Announcements

*** Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: To my sisters and brothers
I will tell your glory.

All: **O Lord our God,
how majestic is your name.**

One: In the great congregation
I will sing your praise.

All: **O Lord our God,
how majestic is your name!**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Faithful God, we give you thanks
that nothing can separate us from your love.
Receive us as beloved children
so that we may enter your presence this day
and abide with you forever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn**: Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

* **Invitation to Confession**

We have an advocate on high: Jesus Christ,
who came down to save us from our sin
but rose in honor and glory to reign forever.
Therefore let us seek God's grace .

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

**Loving God, you created us
to live in relationship with you,
to love and serve one another,
and to care for all your creatures.
Yet, in the hardness of our hearts,
we dismiss your commandments
and seek to go our separate ways.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Redeem, restore, and re-create us,
for the sake of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

* **Kyrie Eleison**

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

* **Assurance of Pardon**

What are we that God is mindful of us?
Who are we that God should care for us?
Yet God now calls us beloved children;
Jesus now claims us as sisters and brothers.

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.**

Duet: "The Gift to Be Simple"

Joey Farrell and Dawn Neel

- Dale Wood, 1974

Litany for First Presbyterian Church on the Occasion of Its 180th Anniversary

Almighty God, creator of all;
Jesus Christ, head of the church;
Holy Spirit, bond of peace;
O triune God, eternal love:

Have mercy on us.

By your ministry of healing and forgiveness;
by your seeking and saving the lost;
by your words of eternal life:

Have mercy on us.

By your calling and training of apostles;
by your promise to build up your church;
by your institution of holy sacraments:

Have mercy on us.

Having blessed this congregation for over 180 years,
do not abandon us now, O Lord.

By your inspiration, by your grace:

Help us, O Lord.

Strengthen your church
at 2408 Navarro Street
and in every place
and unite your people in faith, hope, and love:

Help us, O Lord.

Teach us to strive not for our own safety
but for the salvation of the world
and the righteousness of your realm:

Help us, O Lord.

Empower us to proclaim good news to all
and to make disciples of all people:

Help us, O Lord.

Grant us wisdom, power, and love,
and call us to the work of ministry:

Help us, O Lord.

Give us grace to know and trust your word
and to show our faith in our lives:

Help us, O Lord.

Strengthen us in body and soul
through the grace of your sacraments:

Help us, O Lord

Guide us when we are perplexed,
so that we may hold fast to our faith:

Help us, O Lord

Lead us to worship you in spirit and truth,
regardless of the world's praise or contempt:

Help us, O Lord

Almighty God, as we pray for the Church universal,
we pray for your blessing on this church in this place.

Here may the faithful find salvation,
and the careless be encouraged.

Here may the lonely find fellowship
and the lost find their way

Here may the tempted find help,
and the sorrowful comfort.

Here may the weary find rest,
and the strong be renewed.

Here may the aged find consolation
and the young be inspired;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Organ Anthem: "Awake My Soul"

Prayer for Illumination

Lord God, as you spoke long ago
through the voices of your prophets,
speak to us here, speak to us now,
through the power of your Spirit
and the promise of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

-Kevin McChesney, 1989

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 150

P. 583 in the Old Testament

Praise the LORD!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
 praise him in his mighty firmament!
Praise him for his mighty deeds;
 praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound;
 praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
 praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals;
 praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD!

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Second Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:14-17

P. 201 in the New Testament

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Organ Dedication

Pastor: Eternal God,
our praises join with the songs of heavenly choirs
and the music of the universe.
May this classic, custom-built organ, encourage our songs,
that we might sing our praise
and, with thanksgiving, glorify your name.

**People: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the strings and the pipes.
For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work;
at the works of your hands we sing for joy.**

Pastor: Trusting in Jesus Christ,
we dedicate this organ
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Organ Response: “The Great Amen”

- Robert H. Wyatt, 2021

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Intermezzo from “Cavallera Rusticana”

- Pietro Mascagni (1863-1945)

* **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*)

**Lord God, you have entrusted us
with the works of your own hands.
Now we return these gifts to you
with thanksgiving and praise.
Use them all for your glory
and for the good of your world;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

* **Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles’ Creed)** (*unison*)

From A Brief Statement of Faith

**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

Congregational Hymn: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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 and generous 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 and generous 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

As the Elements are served: Air from "Heroic Suite"

- George P Telemann (1684-1767)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Nourishing God,
thank you for inviting us
to your table together in spirit
with all our sisters and brothers around the world.
We are grateful that you have fed us with the bread of life
and quenched our thirst with the cup of salvation.

**All: As you have filled our lives with love and hope,
may we be a source of your love and hope
for others who hunger and thirst
for good news. Amen.**

* **Closing Hymn:** To God Be the Glory

* **Charge and Benediction**

Postlude "With Trumpets and Horns"

- George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

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 2

Verse 3
Verse 4

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty,
The King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
For He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
Come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things
So wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings,
Yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Historical Notes

On the occasion of our church's 150th and 175th Anniversaries (1991 and 2016, respectively), the members of First Presbyterian Church lovingly prepared informative pamphlets recording, in great detail with text and pictures, the history of our church in Victoria, Texas. If you do not have a copy of those pamphlets, you are welcome to contact the church office, and we will gladly provide an informal copy of either or both.

In this limited space, however, we only have room to repeat some interesting information that was recorded by Mary ("Mo") Kirby (1933-2019), a beloved member of the church. Here are some excerpts from Mo's notes:

From May to July of 1839, five ministers laid down their lives on this frontier; four of them were Presbyterian. In the midst of Indian raids and the war with Mexico, a small church across from what is now St. Mary's Catholic church, used by both by local Presbyterians *and* Catholics, was desecrated and abandoned.

Later, the Republic of Texas granted the Presbyterians a plot of land which included the corner of the current Forrest and Liberty Streets. It was there in October of 1841 that eight charter members and the Rev. William C. Blair formed the First Presbyterian Church of Victoria. Soon after, the town was raided by Comanches. Two members of the congregation were killed and their children carried off, later to be returned to the pastor and wife by the Texas Rangers.

A permanent church was finally built in 1873. Upon its opening, the new church hosted the Presbytery of Western Texas, and the new bell above the sanctuary tolled for the first time. All these years later, that bell, originally cast in Philadelphia in 1853, remains fully operational and sits in the steeple of our present church on North Navarro Street. The church that was built in 1873 grew and prospered, and 50 years later (in 1923), the congregation moved to a new red brick sanctuary at Liberty and Goodwin, and the bell went with them.

Then, almost 45 years after that (in 1966), the folding chairs, the small ceiling fans, the funeral-home hand-fans, and the red bricks were replaced by our current building. While the new church has many modern furnishings, mementos and artifacts from the previous church were incorporated into the new structure, not the least being the beautiful stained glass windows (incorporated into the interior design of the new church) that adorned the previous church building at Liberty and Goodwin. Also, the 1936 pipe organ that had been installed in the previous church was moved pipe by pipe, carried up three stories by members of the congregation, and rebuilt pipe-by-pipe. Electronic elements were added to the original pipes, making it a powerful, modern instrument for its time.

Mo's notes are undated, but at the end, she concludes her remembrances as follows: "So here we are 168 years later, on the threshold of a new century; the *third* for us, the *third millennium* for our Christ!" Mo would be pleased to know that, well into the "new century," the congregation of First Presbyterian Church is still going strong.



Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest.
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Thy light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory,
Great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Oh, perfect redemption,
The purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God.
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us,
Great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His Voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.