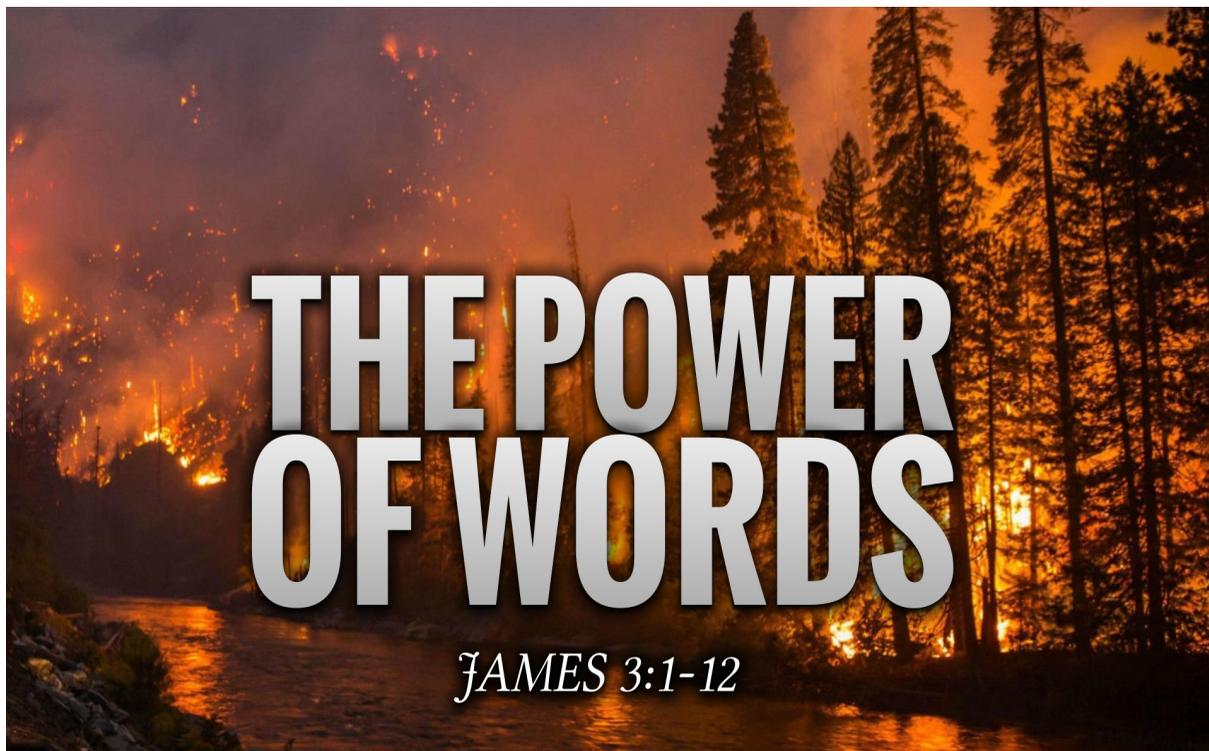


Welcome All
to
Sunday Worship Service



SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
September 12, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 19

*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: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

- arr. Walter Ehret, 1967

Welcome and Announcements

*** Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

All: **Let us walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

God of love,
you teach us a life journey that calls us to deny
what is unhealthy and unloving.
Lead us in that pathway.
Awaken us to the ever-new abundance
that is ours through your Word,
in the name of the one who died and rose,
Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn:** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

* **Invitation to Confession**

The Lord listens to the cries of the people
who turn with full hearts to the One who has mercy.
Let our tongues now make confession in the presence of God
and of this body.

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

**Holy God,
in the face of sin, our gravest enemy,
we call to you for help.
You know our fault before we speak.
Forgive us for what we have done in opposition to your will.
Forgive us for those things we have not undertaken
and for which we know our wrong.
We have not loved you and our neighbors as we ought.
Lead us away from this grief and sorrow.
Save us so that we may fulfill our vows to you
and attend to the needs of your people. Amen**

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

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

* **Assurance of Pardon**

God, who is gracious and merciful, knows the human desire
to save our lives by avoiding Jesus' call to carry the cross.
God, who is full of compassion, also knows that those who repent
have set their minds and hearts on what endures for all time.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgive!

* **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

You speak to us, Lord, with tongues of wisdom.
Let your Holy Spirit now open us to hear
with greater clarity the teachings of today,
that we may hold dear in yet new ways
what it is you will for us, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Proverbs 1:20-33

P. 495 in the Old Testament

Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.
At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.
Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when panic strikes you,
when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the LORD,
would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.
For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Organ Anthem: Assurance

-John Ness Beck

Second Scripture Reading: James 3:1-12

P. 42 in the New Testament

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Sermon: Words Matter

Rev. Jim DeMent

Jams 3:10: From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.

Silence and stillness

* **Congregational Hymn:** “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: My Jesus, I Love Thee

-Adoniram J. Gordon, 1894

* **Doxology** (*unison*)

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

Lord, who gives us everything we have,
we return with joy a portion of our bounty,
giving to the work of your church and your world
what is already yours: ourselves, our lives, and our means.
Make good come from these gifts.
Teach us to use what we have with wisdom and compassion.
In the name of Jesus 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 and the Lord’s Prayer

* **Closing Hymn:** “Take My Life”

* **Charge**

* **Benediction**

Postlude: Psalm 19 “Halifax”

-George Fredrick Handel, 1748

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 (*celi.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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Lord, speak to me that I may speak
In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek
Thine erring children, lost and lone.

Oh, lead me, Lord, that I may lead
The wandering and the wavering feet;
Oh, feed me, Lord, that I may feed
Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.

Oh, teach me, Lord, that I may teach
The precious thing Thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.

Oh, fill me with Thy fullness, Lord,
Until my very hearts o'erflows
In kindling thought and glowing word,
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

Take My Life

Take my life, and let it be
 Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
 Take my moments and my days;
 Let them flow in endless praise,
 Let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
 At the impulse of Thy love.
 Take my feet, and let them be
 Swift and beautiful for Thee,
 Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
 Always, only, for my King.
 Take my lips, and let them be
 Filled with messages from Thee,
 Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
 Not a mite would I withhold;
 Take my intellect, and use
 Every power as Thou shalt choose,
 Every power as Thou shalt choose.



Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler	Gloria Aouelle	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 12
 10:30 AM Worship Service
Monday September 13
 Mary & Martha Circle 2:00 PM in Parlor

*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

Robert Wyatt has chosen as our Prelude this morning an arrangement of a familiar hymn, “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing.” Of the more than 6,500 hymns penned by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), this one has proved to be one of his most popular and enduring. He wrote the hymn to commemorate the eleventh anniversary of his profound conversion to Christianity. The hymn originally had nineteen stanzas and when published was entitled, “For the Anniversary Day of One’s Conversion.”

In this morning’s New Testament reading, James cautions us that from “the same mouth come blessing and cursing.” Christians, mindful of the one tongue, small but mighty, given to them by God, do well to focus on the blessings that pour from their mouths. A thousand tongues singing praises to the Lord is a more wonderful way to use God’s gift than a single tongue cursing the darkness. The former is a spring pouring forth fresh clean water; the later is but brackish water suitable neither for loving nor living (James 3:11).

Clergy, Music, and Administration

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

Office Hours

Monday — Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
 361.575.2441
info@fpcofvictoria.org