

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

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

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First Presbyterian Church
September 19, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 20

*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.*

- Johannes Brahms, 1833-1897

Prelude: St. Anthony Chorale

Welcome and Announcements

* Passing of the Peace

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

Call to Worship

One: Happy are the people
All: who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners follow,
or sit in the seat of people who scoff at others.
One: Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
All: And they meditate on God's law day and night.
One: The Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
All: But the way of the wicked will perish.

Prayer of the Day (unison)

Gentle Jesus, you call us to live in your name
with wisdom, honor, and respect,
fully known to you and precious in your sight.
Draw us near to you each day
as you teach us how to feed on your gifts,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

* Opening Hymn: "God Is Here!"

**Please stand in body or spirit.*



P. 489 in the Old Testament

* **Invitation to Confession**

Let us give up boasting and dishonesty,
turning to the Lord with our confessions,
because the One who knows us through and through
has promised to renew us.

* **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

The God who loves and sustains you hears your plea.
The Lord desires for you a welcome
into the blessed community of freedom and light.
Remember the poor and the outcast,
welcome the child,
and you will know, as well, your own welcome,
in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

* **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 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

We pray for your great wisdom, O God,
To come to your people and set us free.
Help us hear what the Spirit is saying to us this day. **Amen**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 1

Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Organ Anthem: Psalm 1 - "The One Is Blest"

-Scottish Psalter, 1615

Second Scripture Reading: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8

P.P. 229-230 in the New Testament

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Sermon: Wisdom

Rev. Jim DeMent

Jams 3:13: Who is wise and understanding among you?

Silence and stillness

* Congregational Hymn: “God of Grace and God of Glory”

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Jesus Calls Us

* Doxology (*unison*)

* Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

We thank you for the wealth you shower on us daily, O Lord,
and we witness the marvelous goodness that comes from you.
Transform these gifts into signs of welcome
for all who are touched by their use.
Transform us into people who bless others throughout each day,
in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

* Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

* Closing Hymn: “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

* Charge

* Benediction

Postlude: “Adoration”

-*William H. Jude, 1874*

Colossians 1:15-20

-*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 (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

God Is Here!

God is Here! As we Your people
Meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
What it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
All our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit
Into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
Of our life-long need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit;
Here the Cross has central place.
Here is honesty of preaching,
Here in silence as in speech,
Here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory,
On Thy people pour Thy power;
Crown Thine ancient church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
Scorn Thy Christ, assail Thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Here our children find a welcome
In the Shepherd's flock and fold,
Here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
Seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living
To believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
In an age of change and doubt
Keep us faithful to the gospel,
Help us work Your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
All we have to give, receive:
We, who cannot live without You,
We adore You! We believe!

Cure Thy children's warring madness,
Bend our pride to Thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces,
Pledge to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not them or thee!
That we fail not them or thee!

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Lord, I want to be a Christian
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.



Lord, I want to be more holy
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.

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 26

10:30 AM 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
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

Our Closing Hymn, “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian,” is among a canon of African American Spirituals that appears both in mainline denominational hymnals and in African American hymnals in the United States. The lyrics, by an anonymous author, were first published in 1907 in *Folk Songs of the American Negro* edited by Frederick J. Work (1878?-1942).

Ultimately, this spiritual is a prayer for conversion, expressing outwardly a desire to practice ethical behaviors that indicate an inward commitment of faith. Our study of the Letter of James this month examines those ethical behaviors that demonstrate that one is a follower of Christ, those ethical behaviors that we strive to follow in response God’s great love and generosity for us-- the gift of his Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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
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