

# Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

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

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church  
September 26, 2021, 10:30 a.m.  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 21

*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:** Little Rondo

- Richard Blake, 2005

### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **\* Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

#### **Call to Worship**

One: Upon this gathering of your people,

All: **Pour out your Spirit, O Lord.**

One: Be near to us and speak to us.

All: **And we will proclaim your glory.**

#### **Prayer of the Day** (*unison*)

God of unquenchable fire  
and overflowing grace,  
cast out the demons that oppress us;  
take away the things that make us stumble.  
Lead us into your realm of life  
and temper us with your peace;  
in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\* Opening Hymn:** "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

\* **Invitation to Confession**

In faithful prayer there is power to save the sick;  
anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.  
Therefore let us confess our sins  
and pray for one another  
so that we may be healed.

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

**God, our strength and savior,  
you know our great transgressions,  
our hidden faults, our secret sins.  
With our hands we grasp at power;  
with our feet we stumble into evil;  
with our eyes we look out for ourselves.  
Forgive us, gracious God,  
and lead us in your holy way  
of life and love and peace;  
for the sake of 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**

Though we wander from the truth,  
God brings us back  
and saves our souls from death.  
  
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 God, by the power of your Spirit,  
enlighten our eyes, instruct our minds,  
rejoice our hearts, and revive our souls  
so that our lips and our lives  
may bear witness to your Word. **Amen.**

**First Scripture Reading:** Psalm 124

P. 572- in the Old Testament

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side  
—let Israel now say—  
if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,  
when our enemies attacked us,  
then they would have swallowed us up alive,  
when their anger was kindled against us;  
then the flood would have swept us away,  
the torrent would have gone over us;  
then over us would have gone  
the raging waters.  
Blessed be the LORD,  
who has not given us  
as prey to their teeth.  
We have escaped like a bird  
from the snare of the fowlers;  
the snare is broken,  
and we have escaped.  
Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

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

**Organ Anthem:** Jesus Is My Life

-Todd Kendall, 2005

**Second Scripture Reading:** James 5:13-20

P.P. 231-232 - in the New Testament

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

**Sermon:** Prayer

Rev. Jim DeMent

James 5:13: Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.

\* **Congregational Hymn:** “Sweet Hour of Prayer”

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory:** God, That Makest Earth and Heaven

*Traditional Welsh Melody*

\* **Doxology** (*unison*)

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

Your gift of life, O God,  
is more precious than gold  
and sweeter than honey to our lips.  
Take these gifts of our lives:  
refine and purify them,  
and let them be for the world  
a sign of your goodness and grace;  
through Jesus 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 and the Lord’s Prayer**

\* **Closing Hymn:** “There Is a Balm in Gilead”

\* **Charge**

\***Benediction**

**Postlude:** “O Christ, The Healer”

*-1543 German Melody  
Harm. J.S. Bach , 1725*

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

**Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart!**

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your King.

At last the march shall end;  
The wearied ones shall rest;  
The pilgrims find their home at last,  
Jerusalem the blest.

Yes, on through life's long path,  
Still chanting as ye go;  
From youth to age, by night and day,  
In gladness and in woe.

Then on, ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your King.

**Refrain**

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

**Sweet Hour of Prayer**

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,  
That calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Savior’s throne  
Make all my wants and wishes known!  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
My soul has often found relief,  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,  
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,  
The joys I feel, the bliss I share  
Of those whose anxious spirits burn  
With strong desires for thy return!  
With such I hasten to the place  
Where God my Savior shows his face,  
And gladly take my station there,  
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,  
Thy wings shall my petition bear  
To Him whose truth and faithfulness  
Engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since He bids me seek His face,  
Believe his word, and trust His grace,  
I'll cast on Him my every care,  
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

**There Is a Balm in Gilead**

Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
And think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit  
Revives my soul again.

If you cannot preach like Peter,  
If you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus  
And say, "He died for all."

**Refrain**

There is a balm in Gilead  
To make the wounded whole.  
There is a balm in Gilead  
To heal the sinsick soul.



**Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests**

<b>Kathryn Amsler</b>	<b>Gloria Aoueille</b>	<b>Lorraine Carpenter</b>	<b>Nathan Galvan</b> (Son of Leila Galvan)
<b>Kathleen McCameron</b>	<b>Leonard "Mac" McCameron</b>	<b>Mikey Ruddock</b>	
<b>Jere Swoboda</b> (Prior FPC Members)	<b>Carol Wisdom</b> (Daughter of Lea Lenz)	<b>Philip Chang</b>	

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

**FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service**

**Sunday, October 3**  
10:30 AM Worship Service  
*\*The Lord's Supper*  
Organ Dedication  
World Communion Sunday

*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](http://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 painting on the cover of our Bulletin is entitled "The Angelus" and was painted by the French artist, Jean François Millet (1814-1875). Three times a day (9:00 a.m., noon, and 6:00 p.m.), a devout Catholic is called to pray the Angelus, which is often announced by the ringing of church bells (as can be seen in the background of Millet's painting).

Too often, modern Christians bring an idealized notion to the important spiritual practice of prayer. "Sweet Hour of Prayer," our congregational hymn-- attributed to William W. Walford (1772-1850), reputedly an obscure and blind lay preacher in Colshill, England-- is a musical example of this romanticized concept. Peaceful and contemplative prayer is to be devoutly cherished, of course, but the absence of peace and a shortage of time are never valid excuses to avoid a conversation with God.

As Paul admonishes us, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances ..." (1 Thess. 5:16-18). We can do this as easily in hectic times as we can in peaceful times. Praying is good for our soul and is "the will of God in Christ Jesus" for each of us (1 Thess. 5:18).

**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](mailto:info@fpcofvictoria.org)