

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



September 5 , 2021

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
September 5, 2021, 10:30 A.M.
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 18

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 “Voluntary on Olivet”

Lowell Mason, 1831 arr. E.L. Ashford, 1901

Welcome and Announcements

*** Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

Here at the feast of God’s holy word and holy meal,
eyes and ears are opened so that we may all
be made glad and filled with hope.

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

God of love,
you show your people how to be truly rich in faith,
through the gifts you give when least hoped for or expected.
Come to your people today with words of both judgment and mercy,
that we may be fed from the bread of life.
We pray this in your holy triune name:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn:** “Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

No. 429

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

* **Invitation to Confession**

Let us confess our sins
to the Lord who surrounds us with favor
forevermore.

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

**Almighty and compassionate God,
every day, in our desire to
attain our wants,
avoid discomfort,
and shun those we do not know or love,
we show ourselves to be unworthy of your gifts of life.
Of this we are sorely aware,
and we ask your power to renew us in body and spirit,
that we will be able, through your help,
to walk in the way you intend for us.
Forgive us and lead us, in Jesus' name. Amen**

* **Kyrie Eleison**

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

* **Assurance of Pardon**

Just as Jesus made the deaf to hear and the mute to speak,
our merciful God lifts our burdens from us,
removes the failures of our past,
and turns us to new life.

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

Holy God, whose Spirit comes to us
in moments of both strength and weakness,
come now into our midst that we might be able to hear your Word
in fullness and in truth, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

First Scripture Reading: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

P. 604 in the Old Testament

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favor is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;
for the LORD pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Solo: "Though I May Speak"

English Folk Melody

Solo by Betty Richter

Second Scripture Reading: James 2:1-17

P. 229-230 in the New Testament

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Sermon: Generosity

Rev. Jim DeMent

James 2:15-16: If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them,
“Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is
the good of that?

Silence and stillness

* **Congregational Hymn:** “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

No. 438

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

- *Albert Lester Peace, 1884*

* **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*)

**Receive our thanks, O God,
for your gifts of life, means, and time.
We treasure your offerings and, small as our return giving may be,
welcome it for the sake of those in need
and for the furtherance of your witness in this world.
Make us daily more grateful for all we have been given,
in Jesus’ name. 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

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Holy, astounding, and generous God,
At this table, in this meal,
we have been met by Christ—
the reflection of your glory,
the imprint of your being.

**All: As we go from this place
may our lives be a joyful song,
proclaiming the good news
of your righteousness and peace
for all the world. Amen**

* **Closing Hymn:** "Today We Are Called to Be Disciples"

No. 434

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face

-Orlando Girbons, 1583-1625



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

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
And the gospel go unheard,
Help us witness to you purpose
With renewed integrity;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry .

Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
Life abundant meant for each,
Give us all new fervor, draw us
Closer in community;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry .

Lord, you make the common holy:
"This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
Daily lift life heavenward,
Asking that the world around us
Share your children's liberty;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
All that you so freely give.
May you care and mercy lead us
To a just society;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry

Blest Be the Tide That Binds

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Maker's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin, we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.



Today We Are Called to Be Disciples

Today we all are called to be
Disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captive free,
Make plow-share out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
Make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first,
Our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and its birth
Ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth,
Responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud,
We sow not peace but strife,
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud
That threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down
As in a mighty stream,
With righteousness in field and town
To cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore
An earth where conflicts cease,
A world that was created for
A harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God
Act out the living Word,
And walk the road the saints have trod
Till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we
Give thanks in one accord
To God who calls is all to be
Disciples of the Lord.



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 Member)

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

Monday, September 6

Church office and PDS closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 7

12:00 Noon PW Coordinating Council Meeting

Sunday, September 12

10:30 AM Worship Service

*A copy of our
“COVID-19 Pandemic
Public Health and Safety Protocols
for In-Person Gatherings
at the Church”
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

Lynn McAuley, 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

This morning we shall sing, “Blessed Be the Tie that Binds,” which continues “our hearts in Christian love.” The lyrics to this familiar hymn were written by John Fawcett, a Baptist minister who served his humble church in Wainsgate, England, from 1766 to 1817, the entirety of his public ministry. Despite gaining widespread public acclaim, including the award of an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Brown University in the United States, Rev. Fawcett remained at Wainsgate within the tie that binds a Christian community seeking faithfully to serve Jesus Christ.

It is Christian love, both for our Triune God and for our neighbor, that compels us to be generous among those less fortunate than ourselves. Such a response, in faith, to the generosity afforded us in God’s love and the sacrifice of his Son on the Cross cannot be quelled by the magnitude and persistence of the poverty we encounter. Our faith, even when held as deeply as by Rev. Fawcett, always requires a response, always requires works. Our Scripture reading from James 2:17, puts this clearly: “So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.”

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