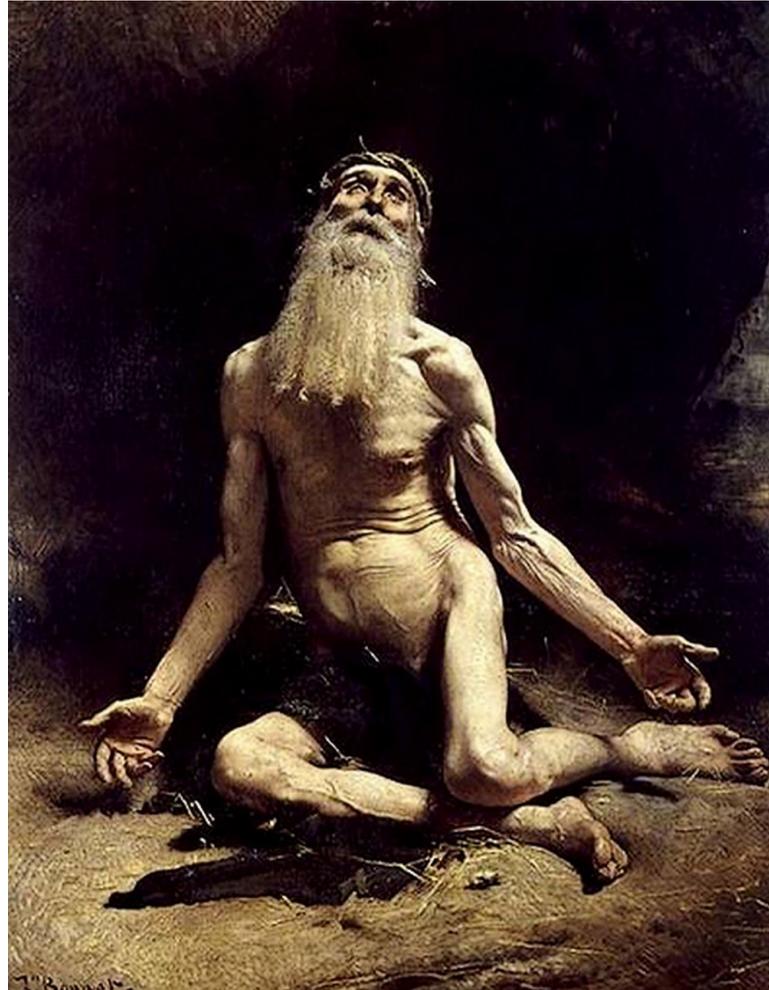


Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



OCTOBER 10, 2021

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
October 10, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 23

*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: Sing and Give Praise

- Van Denman Thompson 1969

Welcome and Announcements

*** Passing of the Peace**

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

Call to Worship

One: Seek good and not evil;
seek the Lord and live!
All: **May the Lord our God be with us.**
One: Seek good and not evil,
that justice may prevail.
All: **May the Lord our God show us grace.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

You alone are holy, O God;
you alone are good.
Help us to let go of worldly goods
and leave lesser things behind
so that we may be ready
to enter your holy realm
on that day when the first are last
and the last are first;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

* **Opening Hymn:** God of the Ages

* **Invitation to Confession**

We have a great high priest
who can sympathize with our weakness:
Jesus, God's Son, our Savior.
Therefore, with confidence,
let us confess our sin.

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

**God of justice and mercy, we confess
that we put ourselves first
and trust in things that will not last.
We desire the evil and scorn the good;
we gather up power and wealth
and push aside the needy in our way.
O Lord, be gracious to us
in spite of our great sin.
Teach us to love your justice
and share in your mercy.
Help us to seek the treasure
of heavenly life with you;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

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

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

* **Assurance of Pardon**

We have a great high priest
who has passed through the heavens:
Jesus, God's Son, our Savior.
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

Reveal to us your Word, O God.
Let your Word pierce our hearts
and open our minds, dividing good from evil,
truth from falsehood, life from death;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 22:1-15

P. 500 in the Old Testament

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.
Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.
But I am a worm, and not human;
scorned by others, and despised by the people.
All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
“Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”
Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.
Many bulls encircle me,
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.
I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem: Andante from Symphony II

-Howard Hanson

C.F. Schneider

Sermon: Where is God?

Rev. Jim DeMent

Job 23:3: “Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling!”

Silence and stillness

* **Congregational Hymn:** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: My Jesus, I Love Thee

-A.J. Gordon, 1894

* **Doxology** (*unison*)

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

God of glorious power and wisdom,
how can we number your countless gifts?
Look upon our lives with favor,
and, by the gift of your grace,
prosper the work of our hands;
we ask this in Jesus' name. 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:** Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

* **Charge**

* **Benediction**

Postlude: Majestic Largo

-Elle Jane Lorenz, 1935

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

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

God of the ages, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before thy Throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase;
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.



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, October 17
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
John Horadam, Worship
Jack Kleinecke, Clerk of Session
Billy Leske, Building & Grounds
Lynn McAuley, Caregiving & Fellowship
Dawn Neel, Christian Education
Susan Salinas, Worship
Jim Stokes, Treasurer, Finance
Gayla Whitaker, Caregiving & Fellowship
Bonnie Wilkinson, Asst. Clerk, Mission & Outreach

Other

Lynn McAuley, Presbyterian Women
Melissa Samudio, Presbyterian Day School
Jim Stokes, Treasurer
Henry Hauschild, Historian

Pastor’s Notes

Job, in all his misery and suffering, is magnificently portrayed in the painting which appears on the cover of our Bulletin. The painting is by the French artist, Léon Bonnat (1833-1922), who in gruesome detail captures the anguish evident in Job’s emaciated body. Yet, despite his physical weakness, Job is looking heavenward as if to ask, for all humanity, “Why, O Lord, have you caused me such suffering?”

In the New Testament, we hear echoes of Job’s lament when Jesus cries from the Cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34). We may not have an explanation for the eternal paradox of why, despite our understanding of a gracious, merciful, and loving God who created us, bad things still happen to good people. In Jesus’ anguished cry, however, we find that the depth of human suffering has been taken into God’s very being. God is very much aware of, and very present in, the realities of our suffering, for God’s Son has himself suffered-- even unto death on the Cross. Even when, like Job, we ask where God may be, God remains very much with us in our pain.

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