

Welcome All
to
Sunday Worship Service



OCTOBER 31, 2021

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
October 31, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 26

*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.*

Prelude: Lord, I Love You with All My Heart

- Bernard Schmid, 1577

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 they
whose way is blameless,

All: **who follow the teaching of the Lord**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Dear Lord, you are our only hope.

Teach us to put our trust in you.

God, you are our help.

Teach us the path of righteousness

and turn us from the ways of the wicked,

for we know that you love those who do justice.

We will forever praise you for the glory of your righteous reign,
now and forever. Amen.

* Opening Hymn: Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

No. 446

* Invitation to Confession

Let us confess our sins to God,
from whom our help comes.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

Holy God, giver of all good things,
we have failed to live in thanksgiving for Earth,
for our families, for neighbors, and for strangers,
for the air we breathe, the water we drink,
and the soil that grows our food.
Forgive us for sins against you, your creation,
and our neighbors,
through disobedience to your will in word and deed.
Teach us to love the way of blamelessness
and to be happy in your steadfast love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

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

* **Assurance of Pardon**

For the sake of Jesus Christ who died and rose for us,
God forgives you all your sin.
Through the power of the Holy Trinity alive in our midst,
God's mercy turns you toward what is good and just
so that you may love God and love your neighbor. Amen.
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

Through your Word, O God,
let your Holy Spirit
open our insight,
remove our ignorance,
kindle our zeal,
and bind us to you,
in Jesus' name. Amen.

Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.
Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.
Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.
The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Duet: This Touch of Love

*Jaroslav J Vajda, 1971
Carl Schalk, 1987*

Presented by Becky Richter and Joey Farrell

Second Scripture Reading: Mark 12:28-34

P. 49 in the New Testament

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other' and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Sermon: A Simple Question

Mark 12:28: "Which commandment is the first of all?"

Silence and stillness

Rev. Jim DeMent

Congregational Hymn: My Faith Looks Up to Thee

No. 383

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Though I May Speak

- English Folk Melody

Doxology (*unison*)

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

Bless these gifts, O Lord,
from your unfailing care for your people.
Let them be a sign of our gladness for all that we have
and all that we may offer to others,
in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)

From "The Confession of Belbar," PC(USA) Book of Confessions

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
who gathers, protects, and cares for the church
through Word and Spirit.
This God has done since the beginning of the world
and will do to the end.

We believe that God is the one
who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people.

We believe that God,
in a world full of injustice and enmity,
is in a special way the God of the destitute,
the poor, and the wronged.

We believe that the church must witness against
and strive against any form of injustice,
so that justice may roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*** Closing Hymn:** More Love to Thee, O Christ

No. 359

*** Charge**

*** Benediction**

Postlude: Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here

- Melchior Vulpinus, 1609

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 3

Verse 2

Verse 4

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
Whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for a blest abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

Round each habitation hovering,
See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering,
Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner
Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna
Which he gives them when they pray.

See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My faith looks up to thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine:
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly thine!

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide:
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside!

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

More Love to Thee, O Christ

More love to Thee, O Christ,
More love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make
On bended knee.
This is my earnest plea:

Once earthly joy I craved,
Sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek,
Give what is best;
This all my prayer shall be:

Then shall my latest breath
Whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry
My heart shall raise.
This still its prayer shall be:

Refrain

More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!



Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler	Gloria Aouelle	Lorraine Carpenter	
Kathleen McCameron	Leonard “Mac” McCameron	Maria Pezeshki (Mother of Leila Galvan)	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, November 7

10:30 AM Worship Service

- * All Saints Remembrance
- * The Lord’s Supper

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

When Jesus answered the inquiring scribe’s question, “which commandment is the first of all?,” he began his response by reciting the verses from Deuteronomy 6:4-9 which have for ages been known to Jews as the *Shema* (the Hebrew word for the imperative, “Hear”). The *Shema* begins, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ...”

Interestingly, while the *Shema* invokes “heart, soul, and might,” Jesus’s version says we are to love the Lord our God with all our “heart, soul, *mind*, and strength” (Mark 12:30). Your pastor believes Jesus is being intentional with the addition of loving God with our mind. God made us with intellectual as well as emotional capacities. To think about God, to reason about God, to bring our powers of intellect and logic to consider our love for God— all of this is as God intended. Of course, always bring your heart to worship, praise, and love God, but do not forget to bring your mind as well.

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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info@fpcofvictoria.org