

Welcome All
to
Sunday Worship Service



*“There will be signs in the sun,
moon, and the stars...”*

NOVEMBER 28, 2021
THE SEASON OF ADVENT

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

WWW.FPCOFVICTORIA.ORG | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FPCOFVICTORIA

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
November 28, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent

*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: An Advent Prayer

- Louise E. Stairs, 1974

***Moment for Mission:**

Frances Miller

Welcome and Announcements

*** Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Introit: To God Be the Glory

Andre Crouch, 1971

Call to Worship

One: The days are surely coming, says the LORD,
when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

All: **Justice and righteousness will fill the land
and all will live in peace and safety.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Gracious God,
Teach us to walk gently in your path of love,
seeking justice, making peace, cherishing the earth and one another.
Enliven our imaginations that
we can see through present ills to future newness.
Embolden us with your love,
that we may live now as if the new had already come.
In joy we offer our praise to you. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath -

The Candle of Expectation, Hope, and Prophecy

The nations shall beat their swords in plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

Isaiah 2:4

* **Opening Hymn:** “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

* **Invitation to Confession**

Trusting in the love and goodness of God, let us confess our sin.

* **Prayer of Confession** (*responsively*)

One: We wait for peace to come to all hearts and nations,

All: but we are reluctant to let our vision of the world be changed.

One: We wait for love to be born afresh in the world each day,

All: but we forget that the light we reflect in our words and actions is how the Light of Advent shines in the world.

One: We wait for Christ to be born again this season,

All: but we confess that we find the coming birth yet another event in our crowded lives.

One: We wait to be the people God intended us to be,

All: but we leave no room for the surprising newness of the prophets’ expectation. In your mercy, forgive us. Help us to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

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

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

* **Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

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

Startle us, O God, with your truth,
and open our minds to your Spirit,
that we may be one with Christ our Lord,
and serve as faithful disciples.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 25:1-10

P. 502 in the Old Testament

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you

be put to shame; let them be ashamed

who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,

and of your steadfast love,

or they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for your goodness’ sake, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Anthem: O Come, O Come Immanuel

-Natalie Sleeth, 1982

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 21:25-36

P. 85-86 in the New Testament

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Sermon: Signs of the Times

Rev. Bette Burris

Luke 21:28: "Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Silence and stillness

* **Congregational Hymn:** "Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

No. 5

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Prepare the Way

-Swedish Melody, 1697

* **Doxology** (*unison*)

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

Life-giving God,
we know that you will accomplish everything you propose.
Accept, we pray, these offerings from our hands.
May they contribute to what you are doing so that life may flourish.
In Jesus' name we pray. 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:** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

No 8.

* **Charge**

* **Choral Benediction:** Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

-Helen H. Lemmel, 1922

Postlude: Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

-Joseph Parry, 1841-1903

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 3

Verse 2

Verse 4

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!

Redeemer, come! I open wide;
My heart to Thee here Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION CALLED FOR DECEMBER 5, 2021

The Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation to be held at the conclusion of the worship service on Sunday, December 5 2021. During this brief meeting, the Chair of the Congregation Nominating Committee, Billy Leske, will report on the recommendations of the CNC, specifically that Francie Byrne, Patrick Patterson, and Becky Richter be elected to serve on the Session for a three-year term (the Class of 2024) commencing January 1, 2022.

The Moderator will invite additional nominations from the floor, if there be any. Before submitting someone to be considered for election to the Session, however, please be sure and confirm with that individual that he or she would be willing to serve if elected.

At the end of such discussion as the congregation may desire, a vote will be taken to elect the members of the Session Class of 2024. May God grant us and our new leaders strength, wisdom, and perseverance as First Presbyterian Church enters the coming calendar year with hope, promise, and continued service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler

Gloria Aouelle

Nathan Galvan
(Son of Leila Galvan)

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, December 5

10:30 AM Worship Service
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

The Bible is full of prophecies about the "end times." Just consider this sampling: "... they will look to the earth, but will see only distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and they will be thrust into thick darkness" (Isa 8:22); "Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty! (Isa 4:6); "When I blot you out, I will cover the heavens, and make their stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give its light. All the shining lights of the heavens I will darken above you, and put darkness on your land, says the LORD GOD" (Ezek 32:7-8); "I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes" (Joel 2:30-31).

As Christians, we do not dread that heaven and earth will pass away, for we are confident that the Word of the Lord will never pass away (Luke 21:33). When the kingdom of God is drawing near, we rejoice in Christ's promise that our redemption will be close at hand.

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