

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



JANUARY 23, 2022

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
January 23, 2022, 10:30 a.m.
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Prelude: The Heavens Are Telling

- Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809

Welcome and Announcements

***Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Introit: Light of The World, We Hail Thee

- John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875/
William Walker 1809-1875

Call to Worship

One: God built the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.

All: **God calls us to be builders as well.**

One: God calls us to build our lives:

All: **to restore broken places and continue to grow.**

One: God calls us to build our faith:

All: **to study the Word and ponder its interpretation.**

One: God calls us to build our community:

All: **to build bridges of understanding and systems of justice.**

One: God calls us to build history by fulfilling the promises of Scripture:

All: **to preach the good news of God's love and liberation for all people.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Almighty God,
by grace alone you call us
and accept us in your service.
Strengthen us by your spirit,
and makes us worthy of your call;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever. Amen.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

***Opening Hymn:** “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

No. 466

***Invitation to Confession**

Let us confess our sin as an offering
of our trust in God’s love and forgiveness for us.

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

**God of our Restoration,
whenever we come home to you,
we realize how far we have strayed
and how much we have forgotten
of your law and your love.
We have not loved you with our whole hearts
or loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Forgive us, heal us,
and restore us to our relationship with you;
through Jesus Christ, in whom we trust. Amen.**

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

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

God’s word does not come to condemn us,
but to make us wise,
reviving our souls and rejoicing our hearts.
God’s Word has been fulfilled among us in Jesus Christ,
who sets us free to live in accord with God’s own jubilee.

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 Gohst.
As it was in the beginnings, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

Prayer of Illumination

Just as we see your wisdom and glory in nature around us, God,
may we hear your Word for us in the words of these readings,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may be drawn closer to you.
Through your great preacher, Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 19

P.P. 498-499 in the Old Testament

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom
from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.
The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.
Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation
of my heart be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Anthem: God of Great and God of Small

- *Natalie Sleeth, 1973*

Second Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

P. 174 in the New Testament

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Sermon: Unity in the Body

Rev. Jim DeMent

1 Corinthians 12:12: For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Silence and stillness

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

No. 438

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Land of Rest

- *American Folk Tune*

***Doxology** (*unison*)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise ye, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen, amen.**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*unison*)

**God of life and of new life,
bless these gifts that we have given
that they may further your reign in this world. Amen.**

***Affirmation of Faith (The Creed of the United Church of Canada)** (*unison*)

**We are not alone,
we live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our Judge and out hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

**We are not alone
Thanks be to God!**

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** “Live into Hope ”

No. 332

***Charge**

***Benediction**

***Choral Benediction:** Walk in the Light

- *Bernard Barton, 1784-1849*
Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

Postlude: Stand Up and Bless the Lord

- *Charles Lockhart, 1769*



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

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ’s blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ’s blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of your name.

Blest Be the Tie 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.

Live into Hope

Live into hope of captives freed,
 Of sight regained, the end of greed.
 Th oppressed shall be the first to see
 The year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope the blind shall see
 With insight and with clarity,
 Removing shades of pride and fear-
 A vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty,
 The right to speak, the right to be,
 The right to have one's daily bread,
 To hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed
 From chains of fear or want or greed.
 God now proclaims our full release
 To faith and hope and joy and peace.



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) | Linda Patterson |
| Mikey Ruddock | Jere Swoboda
(Prior FPC Members) | Carol Wisdom
(Daughter of Lea Lenz) | Philip Chang |

**For caregiving concerns—please contact:
 Lynn McAuley (361.579.9566); or Gayla Whitaker (361. 935.0950)**

FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

Sunday, January 30
 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
- Francis Byrne, Mission & Outreach
- John Horadam, Worship
- Lynn McAuley, Asst. Clerk, Caregiving & Fellowship
- Dawn Neel, Finance, Assistant Treasurer, Worship
- Patrick Patterson, Buildings and Grounds
- Becky Richter, Christian Education, Personnel
- Suzanne Salinas, Mission & Outreach, Worship
- Gayla Whitaker, Caregiving & Fellowship
- Bonnie Wilkinson, Clerk of Session, Personnel

Other

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

Pastor's Notes

Our bulletin cover this morning features the cover of a book, a book collecting the paintings, sketches, and other works of Leonardo da Vinci. Famously, da Vinci would covertly enter morgues to sketch, with astonishing accuracy and detail, the muscles, bones, and other parts of the human body. Da Vinci could not have known in his era that the human body has 206 bones, 639 muscles, and about 6 pounds of skin, along with ligaments, cartilage, veins, arteries, and more. He would have intuitively appreciated, however, that all those parts are interconnected and inseparable notwithstanding the myriad of different functions they perform.

To this insight, Paul adds the claim that, although the human body is comprised of many separate parts working in unison, no one part is "greater" than the other. The eye is not superior to the ear, nor vice versa. Moreover, a healthy body is diminished by the absence of an eye or an ear or any of its other parts. So also, therefore, is it with us as members of the body of Christ on earth, his church. No member of Christ's church is more important than or superior to any other member. Christ's body, the church, is diminished when any one of its members is diminished. As aspirational as it may be among sinful humanity, the goal of Christians is unity, harmony, and equality in the body of Christ.

Clergy, Music, and Administration

- Rev. Jim DeMent, Interim Pastor
- Robert Wyatt, Organist/Choirmaster
- Erica Colding, Office Administrator

Office Hours

Monday — Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 361.575.2441
 info@fpcofvictoria.org