

Welcome All
to
Sunday Worship Service



JANUARY 30, 2022

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

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
January 30, 2022
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Prelude: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

-Lani Smith, 1967

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: From the very beginning, God calls us.

All: **God sets us apart with a meaning and a purpose.**

One: We come up with excuses to avoid our calls, for we are afraid.

All: **But God reassures us in many and various ways through the course of our days.**

One: Even if we are brought to the edge of a cliff,

All: **God is with us and sustains us.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

God of life, death, and resurrection,
we are grateful for life and all its gifts.

Increase in us the essence of life—

faith, hope, and love,

but especially love—

that we may abide with you eternally through Jesus Christ,
our savior and our lord. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "The God of Abraham Praise"

No. 488

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

***Invitation to Confession**

God calls us to speak the truth,
even when it is difficult,
to others but also to ourselves.
Confessing our sin in prayer,
we dare to speak the truth about ourselves to God,
who desires to deliver us and to cast out fear.

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

**God of life,
we admit to you and to each other
that we have not always lived lives of love.
We have lost patience and been rude.
We have been irritable and insisted on our own way.
We have even let love end.
Forgive us and heal us, dear God,
through Jesus Christ, your love incarnate. Amen.**

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

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

God has loved us since the beginning,
and God's love for us will never end.
Do not fear, therefore,
but have faith in God's steadfast love,
God's healing power,
and God's ability to make all things new
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 of Illumination

Spirit of life, God of love,
open our hearts and enter in,
that hearing your word of love,
we may become your love for others. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10

P. 698 in the Old Testament

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

Anthem: “The Greatest of These Is Love”

-*Roberta Bitgood, 1936*

Second Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

P. 175 in the New Testament

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Sermon: Love Never Ends

Rev. Jim DeMent

1 Corinthians 13:8: Love never ends.

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** “Take My Life, and Let It Be”

No. 391

Presentations of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

-*Robert Schumann, 1839*

Doxology

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, amen.

Verse 1

Verse 3

Verse 2

Verse 4

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

O God, bless our gifts that we have given
as expressions of our love
for you and our neighbors,
that these gifts may bring closer to fulfillment
your reign of peace and love;
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** “Though I May Speak”

No. 335

Charge

Benediction

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

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

Postlude: Song of Simeon

- *Orlando Gibbons, 1623*

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 Copyright Licensing International (*ccli.com*). If you are worshiping with us from home, we encourage you to sing along. Follow the verses in this order:

The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days,
The God of love!
The Lord, the great I Am,
By earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before Your holy name,
Forever blest.

You have eternal life
Implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay,
While ages roll.
We praise You, living God!
We praise Your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought,
And still the same!

Your spirit still flows free,
High surging where it will;
In prophet's word You spoke of old
And You speak still.
Established is Your law,
And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart,
On sea, or land.

Take My Life, and Let It Be

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in endless praise,
Let them flow in endless praise.

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Anthem: “The Greatest of These is Love”

<p>Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, And have not love, I am become as sounding Brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gifts of prophecy, And understand all mysteries; And all knowledge, and though I have all faith, So that I could remove mountains, And have not love, I am nothing.</p>	<p>Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, Seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, Thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, But rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things</p>
---	--

<p>And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, And though I give my body to be burned, And have not love, it profiteth me nothing.</p>	<p>Love never faileth: Love never faileth: But whether there be prophecies, they shall fall; And whether there be tongues, they shall cease; And whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.</p>
---	--

But love never faileth.
And now abideth faith,
Hope, love, these three, these three;
But the greatest of these is love.

Though I May Speak

<p>Though I may speak with bravest fire, And have the gift to all inspire, And have not love, my words are vain; As sounding brass and hopeless gain.</p>	<p>Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, Our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; By this we worship and are freed.</p>
---	---

Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

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)	Bob Zawadzki	Philip Chang

**For caregiving concerns—please contact:
Jack Kleinecke (361. 212.3229); or Gayla Whitaker (361. 935.0950)**

FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

Tuesday, February 1
12:00 PM Presbyterian Women’s Coordinating Team
Sunday, February 6
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
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

If your early Christian education involved the study of the King James Version of the Bible, or if the KJV is what you study now, you may wonder why 1 Cor 13:13 is translated as “faith, hope, and *charity*.” The word used by Paul, according to ancient Greek texts, was *agape*, a word which described the “highest” form of human love, as contrasted with *eros*, or erotic love, and *philia*, or brotherly love. Modern Biblical translations thus translate this verse from Paul’s letter more literally as “faith, hope, and *love*.”

The KJV translation is not, however, as erroneous as it may at first appear. In modern English, the word *charity* connotes the giving of alms to the poor. In the 17th century (when the KJV was written), however, *charity* had a more powerful theological connotation in that it was used to signify the reciprocal love between God and a mortal that is made manifest in unselfish love of one’s fellow mortals. Thus, the KJV translators correctly understood that the “love” of which Paul writes-- the love which abides, the love that is greater even than faith and hope-- is God’s love of us by which we are then to express our love of others.

With this understanding of “charity,” try reading all of 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, in the KJV. Then, everywhere you see the word *charity* (the word *love* does not appear!), pause to contemplate the meaning of Paul’s message as he uses this word to refer to the highest theological sense of parallel love: God’s love for us by which we know that we are to love one another.

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