

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



FEBRUARY 20, 2022

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
February 20, 2022
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

- *William Croft, 1708 / arr. Gordon Young, 1961*

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: Take delight in the Lord,
who satisfies the desires of your heart.

All: **Commit your way to the Lord
and trust in God's actions.**

One: Be still before the Lord
and wait patiently for God

All: **The Lord is our salvation
and our refuge in times of trouble**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

God of abundant mercy,
you alone can turn evil into good,
sorrow into rejoicing,
and death into everlasting life.
Teach us your way of grace—
to meet hatred with kindness,
to answer curses with blessing,
to love without holding back,
to give without thought of return;
all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "Be Thou My Vision"

No. 339

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

***Invitation to Confession**

Jesus promised us that God is kind
even to the ungrateful and the wicked, even to us.
Trusting in God's kindness and love,
let us confess our sin.

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

**Merciful God, we confess
that we have not followed your ways
or trusted your promises.
We love only those who love us;
we show kindness only to those who are kind to us;
we give only when we expect to receive.
Forgive us, Lord.
Fill our hearts with your selfless love.
Change our lives by your matchless grace.
These things we pray through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

***Kyrie Eleison**

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord
we have received grace in good measure—
spilling out and running over.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Gloria Patri**

***Prayer of Illumination** (*unison*)

**Gracious God, by your Word
you provide all we need—
for salvation, for wholeness, for abundant life.
Now draw us close in your Spirit
so that we may discover your will
and live according to your purposes;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

P. P 510 & 512 in the Old Testament

Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.
Trust in the LORD, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.
Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.
Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.
But the meek shall inherit the land,
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.
The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.
The LORD helps them and rescues them;
he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.

Anthem: O Lord, You Gave Your Servant John

- Joy F Patterson, 1988 Irish Melody

Second Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

P.P. 176-177 in the New Testament

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

**continued on next page*

Second Scripture Reading *(continued)*

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Sermon: We Shall Be Angels

Rev. Jim DeMent

1 Corinthians 15:49: Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** “Sweet By and By”

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Though I May Speak

-English Folk Melody

***Doxology**

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

Holy God, you have given us land in which to grow and thrive,
food for survival and pleasure,
air and water, fire and cold.
Make our thanksgiving bloom forth into the lives of others
in the name of the one who gave everything for us. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith**

From A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
We trust in God, who Jesus called Abba, Father.
We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
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!”
With believers of every time and place
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** “Seek Ye First”

No. 333

***Charge**

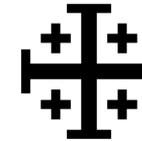
***Benediction**

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

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

Postlude: Shining Hour

- Benjamin Godard Op. 128 No. 3 1849-1895



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

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Sweet By and By

There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar,
For our God waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

To our bountiful God above
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of God's love
And the blessings that hallow our days.

Refrain:

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blest;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more;
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and ye shall find,
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!



Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler	Gloria Aouelle	Bette Austin	Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)
Kathleen McCameron	Leonard "Mac: MCCameron	Linda Patterson	Maria Pezeski (Mother of Leila Galvan)
Mikey Ruddock	Jere Swoboda (Prior FPC Member)	Carol Wisdom (Daughter of Lea Lenz)	Bob Zawadzki

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

FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

Wednesday, February 23
5:30 PM Choir Practice
Sunday, February 27
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

It is hard to imagine a text that has created such confusion among faithful followers of Christ than the passage from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians we are studying this morning. Our faith compels us to believe in the resurrection of our bodies as Christ has promised, but reality has caused us to be uncertain about what that miracle looks like.

Your pastor remembers a Sunday School lesson when he was in junior high school which likened the resurrection of the body to a caterpillar that wrapped itself in its chrysalis (the earthly body) and emerged as a butterfly (a different, and more beautiful, heavenly body). I believe the metaphor is theologically accurate, since it preserves the point that the latter body emerges from the former. The process is a continuum, and there is no separation of a spirit (or soul) from the earthly body-- rather a divine transformation into a body we cannot yet understand.

In the agricultural communities of the Roman Empire, Paul probably had better luck with the metaphor of a seed that grows into a very different-looking plant (as on our Bulletin cover) rather than with caterpillars and butterflies. The idea is still the same, however. While the dying plant provides for the new plant to take life, it is God who raises the imperishable from the perishable human being. What the imperishable body may "look like" to mortal eyes is anyone's guess. What we know, however, is God will cause it to happen and it will be beautiful in His eyes and our own.

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
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