

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



MARCH 13, 2022

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

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
March 13, 2022, 10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday in Lent

Prelude: Lenten Ballad

- *Edward Grieg, 1843-1907*

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: The psalmist sings,

All: **One thing I asked of the LORD,
that I will seek after:**

to live in the house of the LORD

all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the LORD,

and to inquire in God's temple.

One: Sisters and brothers, God is good,

All: **and in love and mercy greets us here.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Loving God,

you save all who seek refuge in you.

Grant that we who know your salvation

may walk always in your light,

take courage in your faithfulness,

and rejoice in your astounding goodness to us.

Through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

No. 84

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

***Invitation to Confession**

The Lord is our light and our salvation;
whom shall we fear?
With humble hearts,
let us confess our sins before God and one another.

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

**Merciful God,
you have made us citizens of heaven,
but we confess that we have set our minds on
earthly things.
We have let our desire for security restrain our
commitment to serve the poor.
We have let our fear of danger curb our obligation
to love our enemies.
We have let our love of things dull our generosity
to the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.**

***Kyrie Eleison**

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

God, our light and our salvation,
does not forsake us or leave us with our sin.
In Christ we are offered the gift of healing repentance.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Gloria Patri**

Prayer of Illumination

Lord,
open your Word by your Holy Spirit,
so that we, like Abraham,
may believe your promises to us. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 27

P. 503-504 in the Old Testament

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.
Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.
One thing I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.
For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.
Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,

and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.
Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”
Your face, LORD, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!
If my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me up.
Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.
I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

Organ Anthem: The Lord Is My Light

- Frances Allitsen, 1848-1912

Second Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

P. 198 in the New Testament

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Sermon: Citizens of Heaven

Rev. Jim DeMent

Philippians 3:20: But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** “How Great Thou Art”

No. 467

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

***Offertory:** My Song Is Love Unknown

- *John Ireland, 1918*

***Doxology**

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

O God,
we have beheld your goodness to us.
Accept the offering of the work of our hands,
and use us for the sake of Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Affirmation 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.

From A Brief Statement of Faith

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

No. 281

***Charge**

***Benediction**

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

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

Postlude: Genevan Psalter, 1551

- *J. S. Bach, 1685-1750*

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

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me:
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.



How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God!, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

And when I think of God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin;

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

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

Monday, March 14

2:00 PM Mary & Martha Circle
6:00 PM Session Meeting

Thursday March 17

12:00 PM Witness to the Resurrection Service for
Susan Cohen

Sunday, March 20

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, Buildings & Grounds
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

Your pastor is always interested when science and Holy Scripture intersect. I do not look for any "proof" of God's word in science, but I do believe that the many sciences, including history and archeology, are among the multitude of blessings God gives his children. As with all God's blessings, science can inform our faith.

On our Bulletin cover this morning is a picture of a mosaic found on the floor of an ancient Christian church in Philippi. Dating to the 4th century, the inscription confirms its location in a church dedicated, "in Christ," to Paul. If not the first, Philippi was one of the earliest sites of Christian worship on European soil. Paul traveled there during his first missionary journey, and it was in Philippi that he was thrown in jail for disrupting public order. Paul was beaten badly, but he managed to escape thanks to a violent earthquake which destroyed his prison. In the course of Paul's escape, his jailer, who had been listening to Paul and his companions sing and pray while in captivity, had a conversion experience (Acts 16:11-40).

Despite Paul's rough reception, the Christian community in the ancient city of Philippi thrived for over five centuries. Paul's letter confirms the existence of the church in Philippi. History and archeology confirm its subsequent influence and longevity.

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