

Invitation to Confession

The Scriptures call us to turn from sinful ways
and return to God,
who offers mercy and pardon.
Trusting in that mercy, let us call upon God who is near.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Holy God,
we confess that we have grown complacent
in our response to you.
You set before us a rich feast of blessing,
but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy.
You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world,
but we indulge our own desires.
Our ways are not your ways;
our thoughts do not ascend to your thoughts.
Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives.
Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire
for a more fruitful life.
Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are,
in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be.
We ask this in the name of our Savior,
your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

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

Assurance of Pardon

God's love is sure and steadfast,
always providing a way out,
a way through,
a way back to God.

Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Gloria Patri

**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

Almighty God, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
open your Word and illumine our darkened world,
that we may see clearly and live faithfully
by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

P.P. 685-686 in the Old Testament

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that
which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you
shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God,
The Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may
have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Anthem: The Old Rugged Cross

David Faskas, Guitar Robert Wyatt, Organ

Second Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-14

P. 172 in the New Testament

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud,
and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the
same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that
followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they
were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not
become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they
rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three
thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed
by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These
things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the
ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing
has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested
beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to en-
dure it. Therefore, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols.

Sermon: Watch Out That You Do Not Fold

1 Corinthians 10:12: So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn :** “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: In the Garden

***Doxology** (*unison*)

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

God of wilderness and Promised Land,
in days of want and in days of plenty
you have been with us.
By these gifts we now share,
may others know of your providence and care.
Send us—not only our offerings, but our very selves—
to console and comfort,
to lift up and reach out,
to listen and sit beside
your children everywhere
at the one Table you have set;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
who gathers, protects, and cares for the church
through Word and Spirit.
This God has done since the beginning of the world
and will do to the end.
We believe that God is the one
who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people.
We believe that God,
in a world full of injustice and enmity,
is in a special way the God of the destitute,
the poor, and the wronged.
We believe that the church must witness against
and strive against any form of injustice,
so that justice may roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.

Rev. Jim DeMent

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from the Confession of Belhar

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

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Charge

Benediction

Choral Benediction: Lead Me, Lord

-Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

Postlude: In Christ Alone

-Stuart Townend, 2002



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 Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's redeeming love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Bought me with his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Jesus, keep me near the cross;
There a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream,
Flows from Calvary's mountain.

Near the cross! O lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadow over me.

Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the bright and morning Star
Shed its beams around me.

Near the cross! I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand,
Just beyond the river.

Refrain:

In the cross, in the cross
Be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last!

Thou, O Christ are all I want;
More than all in Thee I find:
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy name;
I am all unrighteousness,
False and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.

Other refuge have I none;
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of Thy wing.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.

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

Thursday, March 24

12:30 PM Presbyterian Women Luncheon and
Election of Officers

Sunday, March 27

10:30 AM Worship Service

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

*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.*

Pastor's Notes

Our scripture reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians this morning illustrates a common practice of Christians to re-read the Old Testament in light of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Paul saw Christ's presence revealed throughout the only Holy Scripture available to him at the time, namely the Jewish Scriptures (or what we refer to as the Old Testament). Thus, for example, during the exodus that Moses led from Egypt, for Paul the rock from which the Israelites drank was Christ (1 Cor. 10:4).

This is called an analogical or allegorical reading of the Old Testament with "hindsight" in the knowledge that Jesus was the Messiah foretold by the ancient prophets (most notably in Isaiah 53). In his post-Resurrection appearance on the road to Emmaus, Jesus declared that "everything written about me in the law of Moses . . . must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44).

There is spiritual growth to be gained from this practice, but only if care is taken not to miss the fact that God, in the context of the moment, was also speaking to his chosen people. God speaks to us in the moment as well as for the understanding of those who follow in the future. In Holy Scripture, God is able to speak to both Jews and Christians alike.

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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