

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



MARCH 27, 2022

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
March 27, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude: Meditation on “Cathedral Spires”

- Elle Jane Lorenz

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Introit: O Lamb of God

- Phillip R. Dietterich, 1931

Call to Worship

One: Grace, peace, and mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

One: In Christ there is a new creation.

All: **The old has passed away; everything is new!**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Gracious God, seeker of the lost:
draw your children back to your loving embrace,
restore us to our inheritance as daughters and sons,
and reconcile our hearts to you,
that we may become ambassadors
of your reconciling love to all the world.
Through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

***Opening Hymn :** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ”

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Invitation to Confession

Trusting the grace promised to us in Jesus Christ,
let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Merciful God,
we confess that we have strayed from your ways.
Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance.
You gave us the earth for our home,
but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty.
You gave us neighbors to love,
but we pursue selfish ambitions.
You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing,
but we break your law and forsake your love.
Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance.
Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love.
Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

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

Assurance of Pardon

As a parent welcomes home a wayward child,
so God embraces all who return in true repentance.
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 your Holy Spirit
open our minds and bodies to the re-creating power
of your Word,
that we may see the world through the mind of Christ
and live in the world as a foretaste of your new creation.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 32

P.P. 506-507 in the Old Testament

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.
You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.
Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.
Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Anthem: My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

-Isaac Watts, 1719 / Southern Harmony, 1835

Second Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

P. 181 in the New Testament

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Sermon: A New Creation

Rev. Jim DeMent

2 Corinthians 5:17: So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** “Amazing Grace”

No. 280

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Sweet Hour of Prayer

-William B. Bradbury, 1859

***Doxology** (*unison*)

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

O God, all that we have comes from you.
Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives,
for we return to you only what you have so graciously given.
Use us for the sake of Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles’ Creed)** (*unison*)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** “On Jordan’s Stormy Banks”

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Charge

Benediction

Choral Benediction: Lead Me, Lord

-Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

Postlude: Impromptu

-Franz Schubert, 1797-1828 OP. 142, No. 2

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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.



Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.

No chilling winds or poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness and sorrow, pain and death,
Are felt and feared no more.

O'er all those wide extended plains
Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns,
And scatters night away.

When I shall reach that happy place,
I'll be forever blest,
For I shall see my Savior's face,
And in his bosom rest.

Refrain:

I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land;
Oh, who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the promised land!

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:
Bonnie Wilkinson (361. 571.7081); or Gayla Whitaker (361. 935.0950)

FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

Sunday, March 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, 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

The coming of a "new creation" in Jesus Christ is a constant theme in the New Testament and, your pastor believes, a constant theme in all God's creation. On our bulletin cover this morning is an image of the Milky Way that was produced by a radio telescope managed by Australia's national science agency. Scientists believe the Milky Way is over 13.6 billion years old, with the planet earth becoming a new creation within it some 4.5 billion years ago.

Two thousand years ago, God sent his only begotten Son to live among us and promising each of us a new creation, a transformation of our lives if we would follow in his way. The transformation of our lives into a new creation may seem like a small thing compared to the new creations that have appeared in God's cosmos over billions of years, but in God's eyes our own transformation must be the most important event of all. God's creation is good, for God said so when he first made it. But God's love for us, each of us, is something more, something divine!

When we are reconciled to God, whether dramatically (akin to the big bang?) or slowly (akin to earth's evolution?), we are transformed in a way that is truly wonderful. In Christ, we become reconciled to God; indeed, we become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). The transformation of each of God's children in response to his love must surely be to God a more spectacular new creation than even a new galaxy!

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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