

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



May 1, 2022

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
May 1, 2022
Third Sunday of Easter

Prelude “The Promise of Living”

- Aaron Copland, 1952

Played by C. F. Schneider

Welcome and Announcements

***Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Introit: Come, Ye Faithful, Raise The Strain

- John of Damascus, 675-749,
Arthur Seymore Sullivan, 1842-1900

Call to Worship

One: O Lord our God, we praise you.

All: **We cried to you for help
and you answered us.**

One: You have restored our lives;

All: **you have rescued us from the grave.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

**Living Lord, you meet us in unexpected places
and surprise us with the abundance of your love.
Feed us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit
so that we may follow you this day, and always;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn:** “Open My Eyes That I May See”

No. 324

***Invitation to Confession**

When your soul is suffering in silence,
call out to the Lord our God,
who heals our brokenness,
who lifts us up from the pit
and restores our lives.
Let us confess our sin.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

**Lord God, in the light of your glory
we see the evil we have done,
the suffering we have caused,
the good we have refused,
and the truth we have denied.
Heal us of our sin,
wash us in your mercy,
and feed us with your grace,
so that we may follow your way
and tell the good news of the gospel. Amen**

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

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

Rise up from the dust!
Cast off the shroud of sorrow
and put on the joy of the Lord.
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 for Illumination

O God of light,
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
restore our sight,
that in these words of Scripture
we may see Christ,
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 30

P. 505 in the Old Testament

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me
up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.
O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone
down to the Pit.
Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.
As for me, I said in my prosperity,
“I shall never be moved.”
By your favor, O LORD,

you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face;
I was dismayed.
To you, O LORD, I cried,
and to the LORD I made supplication:
“What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?
Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!
O LORD, be my helper!”
You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you
forever.

Anthem: “There Once Was a Man”

-Robert J. Hughes, 1974

Second Scripture Reading: Revelation 5:11-14

P. 248 in the Old Testament

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures
and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full
voice,
“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”
Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is
in them, singing,
“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might
forever and ever!”
And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Sermon: Heavenly Hymns

Rev. Jim DeMent

Revelation 5:11: Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea,
and all that is in them, singing, . . .

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** “Blessed Assurance ”

No. 341

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

-William H. Jude, 1851-1922

***Doxology** (*unison*)

**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.**

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

**Worthy are you, O God,
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing.
Receive these gifts
of thanksgiving and praise
and use them for your glory
and the good of your people;
in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lamb. Amen.**

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

From A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us in the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
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!”**

Prayers of the People

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just to give you thanks
in every time and in every place, almighty God.

We give you thanks for the gift of creation
and especially for the gift of our life.
We are grateful that you have made us in your image
and that you pardon us when we act
as though you have no authority over our lives.
We are grateful that you sustain us in your great love.

And so, with all your people,
with angels, archangels,
and with all the company of heaven
we praise and magnify your glorious name,
joining our voices in the eternal hymn:

SANCTUS: UNISON

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ,
who was born of Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of the life that we know.
You anointed Jesus Christ with your Spirit
to preach good news to the poor,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
to give sight to the blind, and to liberate the oppressed,
proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor.

In Christ's baptism, suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, and made a new covenant with us by water and the Spirit.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine,
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming,
proclaiming the mystery of faith:

GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF FAITH: UNISON

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your people
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
so that the bread we share and the cup we bless
will be for us the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ
and with all who share this feast,
united in ministry in every place.
As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Make us one with Christ,
one with our neighbors,
and one in service to all the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Holy and astounding God,
At this table, in this meal,
we have been met by Christ—
the reflection of your glory,
the imprint of your being.

All: **As we go from this place
may our lives be a joyful, heavenly hymn,
proclaiming the good news
of your righteousness and peace
for all the world. Amen**

***Closing Hymn:** "More Love to Thee, O Christ"

No. 359

***Charge**

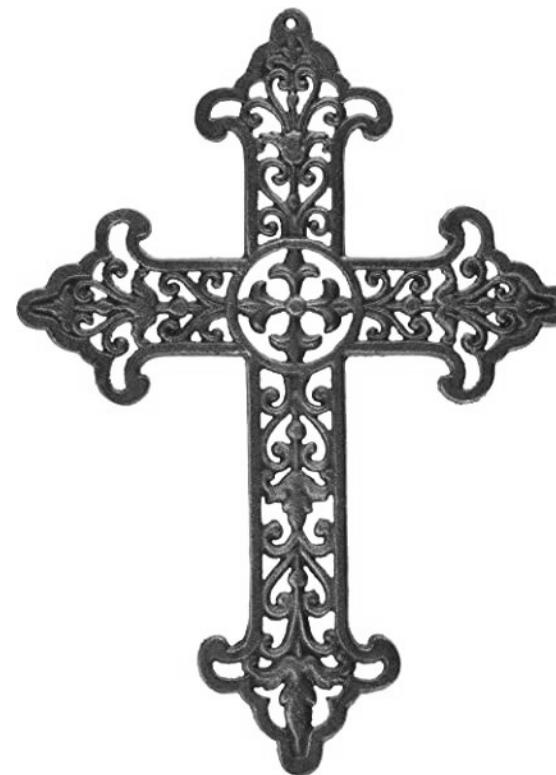
***Benediction**

Choral Benediction: O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

*-John Tisserand, D. 1494
15th Century French Tune*

Postlude: Christ the Lord Is Risen Again

-German Folk Melody, 1533



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

Open My Eyes That I May See

Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Refrain

Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear.
Refrain

Open my mouth, and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.
Refrain

Refrain:
Silently now I wait for thee,
Ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, ears, heart,
Illuminate me, Spirit divine!

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood.
Refrain

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels, descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
Refrain

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.
Refrain

Refrain:
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

More Love to Thee, O Christ

More love to Thee, O Christ,
More love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make
On bended knee.
This is my earnest plea:
Refrain

Once earthly joy I craved,
Sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek,
Give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be:
Refrain

Then shall my latest breath
Whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry
My heart shall raise.
This still its prayer shall be:
Refrain

Refrain
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!



Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler	Gloria Aouelle	Bette Austin	Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)
Grace & Drew Hampton (Daughter and Son-in-law of Bob & Gayla Whitaker)	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)

For caregiving concerns—please contact:
Lynn McAuley (979.248.6238); or Gayla Whitaker (361. 935.0950)

FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

Tuesday, May 3
PDS School-wide Picnic
Wednesday, May 4
4:00 PM Worship Committee meeting
Sunday, May 8
10:30 AM Worship Service
Mother’s Day

**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

One of the twelve panels from the storied Ghent Altarpiece is shown on our Bulletin cover this morning. Painted on wood by Jan (ca. 1390-1441) and Hubert (?-1426) van Eyck, this panel is known as the “Adoration of the Mystic Lamb,” evoking the passage from our Scripture reading this morning, Revelation 5:11-14.

The Ghent Altarpiece of 1432 ranks among the most significant works of religious art in Europe. Housed at Saint Bavo Cathedral in Ghent, Belgium, this large and complex altarpiece suffered a varied history over the centuries. Dismantled, stolen, and damaged many times over, it was reassembled, cleaned, and restored after World War II. The Altarpiece figures prominently in the 2014 movie, *The Monuments Men* (one of your pastor’s favorites!).

It is interesting to consider, some six centuries later, the artists’ rendering of heaven, replete with Medieval cathedrals and elegantly robed worshipers from around the known world. Notice, also, the detail added by the artists in the center where the Lamb stands on the altar. Blood pours from the heart of the Lamb into a cup (“This cup is the New Covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins”). What a fitting detail to consider this Sunday morning, as once again we celebrate the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of our Lord and Savior, the Lamb of God who died so that we might live!

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