

# Welcome All to Graduating Seniors Sunday



MAY, 15 2022

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

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church  
May 15, 2022  
Graduating Seniors Sunday  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Prelude** “Psalm of Glory”

- Dorothy Wells, 1982

**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: Alleluia! Christ is alive; let all the people praise him.

All: **Let all creation sing with joy. Alleluia!**

**Prayer of the Day** (*unison*)

Surprising God, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ  
you make all things new.

Long ago you called your church  
to a love beyond all social and cultural differences  
and gave them the gift of your Holy Spirit  
to open their hearts to enact such love.

Give us that same spirit of openness,  
that we too might discern new directions in our day  
for your dream to reconcile and heal all creation.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn:** “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

No. 487

**\*Invitation to Confession**

Trusting in the love of God to make all things new,  
let us confess our sin to God and our neighbor.

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

God of mercy,  
your command to love one another  
across all differences  
opens us to new horizons,  
yet we often respond with fear and judgment  
that hinders your goal for humanity.  
Forgive our sins, we pray,  
and give us a true repentance  
that leads to life for all creation.  
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

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

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

God's promises of grace and forgiveness  
are trustworthy and true.  
Be at peace to serve the Lord,  
and may you always be known by your love.  
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 promise,  
your word made flesh in Jesus Christ  
is trustworthy and true.  
By the power of your Holy Spirit,  
may it rise up in us this day like a gift  
from the spring of the water of life  
to refresh our thirsty souls. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

P. 616 in the Old Testament

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

**Organ Anthem:** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

-William M Runyan, 1923 arr. Lani Smith, 1983

**Second Scripture Reading:** 2 Timothy 1:1-10

P. 211 in the Old Testament

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

**Sermon:** Grace, Peace, and Mercy

Rev. Jim DeMent

2 Timothy 1:2: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Silence and stillness*

**\*Congregational Hymn:** "All Things Bright and Beautiful "

No. 267

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory:** Wherever I May Wander

*-New England Folk Melody*

**\*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*)

Loving God, we give you thanks  
 for the ministry of reconciliation to which you call us  
 in the name of Jesus Christ and his resurrection.  
 Accept these gifts for your mission to heal all creation.  
 May they be a testament to your love for us  
 as we share them in love for you;  
 through Jesus Christ we pray. 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!"

**Prayer and Blessing for Graduating Seniors** (*unison*)

Eternal God,  
 in your will our lives are lived,  
 and by your wisdom the truth is found.  
 We pray for these graduates who have finished their course of study,  
 and now move on to something new.  
 Take away anxiety or confusion of purpose,  
 and keep them dreaming dreams, seeing visions,  
 and living in the Spirit who sets us free.  
 In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen

**\*Closing Hymn:** "I Danced in the Morning"

**\*Charge**

**\*Benediction**

**Choral Benediction:** O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

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

**Postlude:** Let There Be Joy

*-Beatrice A. Miller, 1996*



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 worshiping with us from home, we encourage you to sing along. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1  
 Verse 2

Verse 3  
 Verse 4

**When Morning Gilds The Skies**

When morning gilds the skies,  
 My heart awaking cries:  
 May Jesus Christ be praised!  
 Alike at work and prayer  
 To Jesus I repair:  
 May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind?  
 A solace here I find:  
 May Jesus Christ be praised!  
 Or fades my earthly bliss?  
 My comfort still is this:  
 May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round  
 In joyful notes resound:  
 May Jesus Christ be praised!  
 Let air and sea and sky  
 From depth to height reply:  
 May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,  
 My canticle divine:  
 May Jesus Christ be praised!  
 Be this the eternal song  
 Through all the ages long:  
 May Jesus Christ be praised!

**All Things Bight and Beautiful**

Each little flower that opens,  
 Each little bird that sings:  
 God made their glowing colors,  
 God made their tiny wings.  
*Refrain*

The purple-headed mountain,  
 The river running by,  
 The sunset, and the morning  
 That brightens up the sky,  
*Refrain*

*Refrain:*

All things bright and beautiful,  
 All creatures great and small,  
 All things wise and wonderful:  
 The Lord God made them all.

**I Danced in the Morning**

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
 And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
 And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,  
 At Bethlehem I had my birth.  
*Refrain*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
 But they would not dance and they would not follow Me;  
 I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
 They came with Me and the dance went on.  
*Refrain*

I danced on the Sabbath when I cured the lame,  
 The holy people said it was a shame;  
 They whipped and they stripped and they hung Me high;  
 And they left Me there on a cross to die.  
*Refrain*

The cold wind in the winter,  
 The pleasant summer sun,  
 The ripe fruits in the garden:  
 God made them, every one.  
*Refrain*

God gave us eyes to see them,  
 And lips that we might tell  
 How great is God Almighty,  
 Who has made all things well.  
*Refrain*

I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;  
 It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;  
 They buried My body and they thought I'd gone,  
 But I am the dance and I still go on.  
*Refrain*

They cut Me down and I leapt up high,  
 I am the life that'll never, never die;  
 I'll live in you if you'll live in Me;  
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.  
*Refrain*

*Refrain:*

Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.  
 And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
 And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

**Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests**

<b>Kathryn Amsler</b>	<b>Gloria Aouelle</b>	<b>Bette Austin</b>	<b>Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)</b>
<b>Cooper Hampton (Grandson of Bob &amp; Gayla Whitaker)</b>	<b>Kathleen McCameron</b>	<b>Leonard "Mac" MCCameron</b>	<b>Linda Patterson</b>
<b>Maria Pezeski (Mother of Leila Galvan)</b>	<b>Mikey Ruddock</b>	<b>Bob &amp; Gayla Whitaker</b>	<b>Carol Wisdom (Daughter of Lea Lenz)</b>

**For caregiving concerns—please contact:  
 Bonnie Wilkinson (361. 571.7081); or Gayla Whitaker (361. 935.0950)**

**FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service**

**Friday, May 20**  
 9:00 AM PDS Kindergarten Graduation,  
 reception in Fellowship Hall immediately after  
 10:00 AM PDS End of Year Program  
**Sunday, May 22**  
 10:30 AM Worship Service  
 Presbyterian Women Officer Installation

**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**

Although the specifics are lost to antiquity, historians generally agree that the tradition of the 'graduation ceremony' must have begun in the twelfth century, when teaching, learning, and scholarship were very much the special province of the Christian church. Students were often monks and, as such, wore monastic garments that have become the robes now worn by graduates.

In medieval England, the hoods, or cowls, attached to the robes are believed to have taken their inspiration from ancient Druid priests who added the hood to their robe as a symbol of their education and "higher learning." Mortarboard caps are thought to have been created in the 15th century, as part of an evolution from a hat which was used by clerics and professors. The square shape of a mortarboard is believed to signify a book, chosen in recognition of scholarly achievements.

Today, in the twenty-first century, there is not so close an association between school and church, but the concept of 'graduation' is still the same: the passage of the graduate to a higher, more educated status after a period of study and training. Graduation is a formal recognition of hard work and achievement. This morning the members of FPC are proud of the achievements of our Kids for Christ. We pray for their welfare, happiness, and success. We pray also that the lessons they learned at FPC, lessons centered around the love of God for us all, will remain with them throughout their lives.

**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