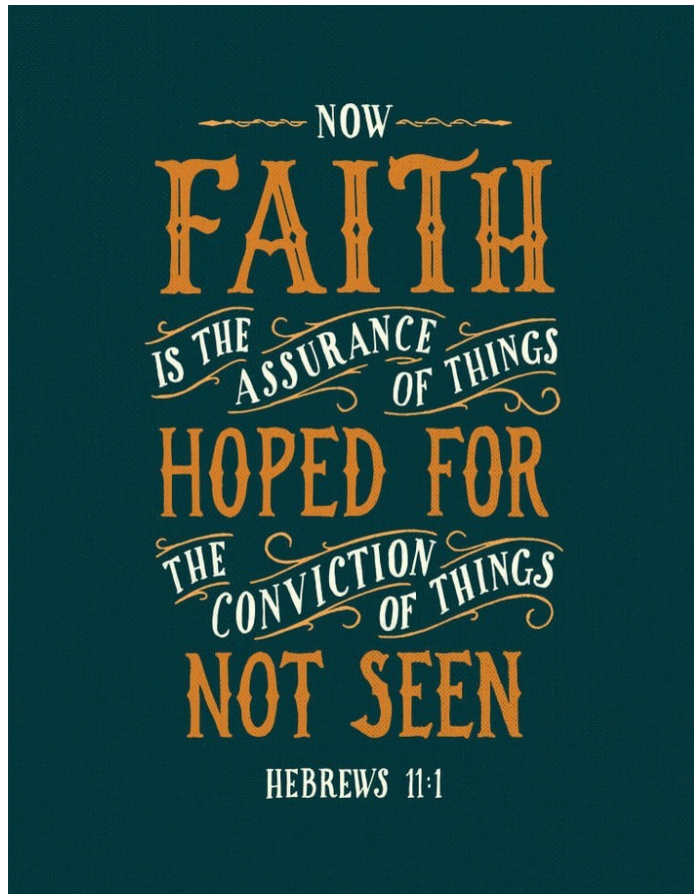


Welcome All
to
Sunday Worship Service



August 7, 2022

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
August 7, 2022
Nineth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude "Teach Us Thy Word"

- Felix Mendelsjohn, 1809-1847

Welcome and Announcements

Moment for Mission

*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Call to Worship

One: Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and shield.
Our hearts are glad, because we trust in God's holy name.

All: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

God of grace,
who are we that you should care for us?
Yet you surprise us with grace,
infuse us with hope,
and teach us a better way.
Make us ever more faithful,
and ever more grateful,
as we watch for the coming of your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "The God of Abraham Praise"

No. 488

*Invitation to Confession

God loves us still
and waits in mercy to forgive.
Trusting in the promises given at our baptism,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

Holy God,
you promise us a future filled with hope,
but we do not always believe.
In faith, you assure us of things hoped for,
but we fall back into fear.
You urge us to give freely,
but we cling to what we have.
You call us to watch at all times for you,
but we grow lazy and self-absorbed.
Forgive us.
Increase our hope, enlarge our hearts,
and keep us alert to the wonders you work
in the world every day.
For the sake of Jesus we pray. Amen.

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

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news!
By faith we have been saved,
our guilty hearts washed clean.
Refreshed, revived, and renewed,
we are empowered by the Holy Spirit,
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

Holy God,
by your Spirit enlighten us;
illumine us;
inspire us;
not for our sakes,
but for the sake of Jesus Christ,
in whom we live. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:10-12

P. 731 in the Old Testament

For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

Anthem: "Think of Me"

-Robert W. Thygeson, 1997

As Robert Wyatt sings this solo, you are invited to follow the lyrics printed in the back of this Bulletin.

Second Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

P. P.225-226 in the New Testament

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered himself faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Sermon: The Assurance of Things Hoped For

Rev. Jim DeMent

Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Silence and stillness

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

No. 341

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Hymn of Promise

-Natalie Sleeth, 1986

***Doxology** (*unison*)

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

Generous God,
you pour out blessing and cover us with gifts of love.
Accept these offerings for the sake of your children,
that they may proclaim your mercy and embody your grace.
In Jesus’ name we ask it. Amen.

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

The Apostles’ Creed

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

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: Eternal God,
we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.

**All: Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit
to give ourselves for others
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn:** "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

***Charge**

***Benediction**

Postlude: Trumpet Minuet

-Jeremiah Clark, 1673-1707



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

The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days,
The God of love!
The Lord, the great I Am,
By earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before Your holy name,
Forever blest.

You have eternal life
Implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay,
While ages roll.
We praise You, living God!
We praise Your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought,
And still the same!

Your spirit still flows free,
High surging where it will;
In prophet's word You spoke of old
And You speak still.
Established is Your law,
And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart,
On sea, or land.

Think of Me

Come and drink of the wine, think of me;
The blood shed for you, think of me.
As you come to the table today,
Humble be the words that you say.
Think of me.

Break the bread, take and eat,
Think of me;
Body nailed to the cross, think of me.
Pray that God's will be done, let it be.
Cast away all your sins, think of me.

When you sip from the cup and offer a prayer,
Do this in remembrance of me.
Pray for peace, pray for love
From the Father above.

May your heart let me in;
Think of me.
When you meet to commune, think of me;
Pour the wine, break the bread,
Think of me.

As you seek to renew
God's pledge made to you,
Think of me, drink the wine,
Think of me, eat the bread,
Think of me.

Drink the wine, eat the bread,
Think of me.

O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

O Master, let me walk with Thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee
In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only Thou canst give,
With thee, O Master, let me live.

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.



OUR JOURNEY FORWARD

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
- Jeremiah 29:11*

Our 2023 Stewardship Campaign has begun! Please watch for your pledge cards in the mail. This year, given the financial concerns the Session has about our budget, we will have a very intentional, and we hope very informative campaign over the next several weeks. In order to start next year's budget-planning process on time, we will celebrate the conclusion of our formal Stewardship Campaign on the last Sunday in September, namely, September 25, 2022, with a special program of praise and thanksgiving at our Sunday morning worship service. If the way be clear, that worship service will be followed by a potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall, topped off by a bake sale. Stay tuned for further details.

Pledging is simultaneously an act of faith, an act of worship, and an act of trust. May all these things be in your heart as you, in prayer with the Holy Spirit, consider whether you can increase your pledge in 2023 for the glory of God and the welfare and missions of our 182-year-old church!



How's the closet-cleaning going? Have you been through the garage and the attic yet?

Remember! The FPC Autumn Rummage Sale is taking place Friday afternoon, August 19th, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, August 20th, from 7:30 a.m. until done.

Bring your "stuff" to Fellowship Hall during the week of August 15th between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. (after PDS has been dismissed), and we will help you set it up and "tag it." All proceeds will go to support FPC and its ministries. This is a win/win/win situation for all involved: cleaner closets/garages/attics for you; great finds for bargain-hunters; additional income for FPC. Come participate in the fun!

Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Gloria Aouelle	Bette Austin	Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)	Billy Leske
Kathleen McCameron	Linda Patterson	Maria Pezeski (Mother of Leila Galvan)	Mikey Ruddock
Bob & Gayla Whitaker	Wendall Wheeler Wilson (Cousin of Henry Hauschild)	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

Monday, August 8

6:00 PM Session Meeting

Tuesday August 9

First day for PDS students

Sunday, August 14

10:30 AM Worship Service

FPC Victoria Servant Leadership

Session Members

Jim DeMent, Moderator
Frances 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 lyrics for our Congregational hymn this morning, "Blessed Assurance," were penned by one of America's most famous and prolific hymnists, Fanny J. Cosby (1820-1915). It is estimated that Fanny wrote over 8,000 gospel song texts in her lifetime, all while having been blinded by an infection at six months of age!

The famous story associated with this popular hymn is that the melody was composed by Mrs. Phoebe Knapp, an amateur musician, and the wife of the founder of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Phoebe was a close personal friend of Fanny, and one day she played her melody for the blind hymnist and asked, "What does his tune say?" Fanny responded immediately, "Why, that says: 'Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!'" Your pastor likes this story, because imagine what kind of blessed assurance a gospel songwriter, blind since infancy, must have known to be inspired to compose so many memorable hymns to the glory of God! Such faith is an inspiration to us all.

As our church contemplates *Our Journey Forward*, may we find in our faith "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). May we have faith in the plans God has for us, plans "for our welfare and not for our harm" (Jer. 28:11).

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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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info@fpcofvictoria.org