

# Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



AUGUST 14, 2022

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

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church  
July 10, 2022, 10:30 a.m.  
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

**Prelude:** We Will Keep Our Faith Alive

*-Don Besig, 1990*

**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: God gives justice to the weak and the orphan;  
God rescues the weak and the needy.

All: **Blessed be the one, holy and living God,  
now and forever.**

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

Faithful God,  
you have blessed us with the  
inheritance of grace  
that we might live as people of justice,  
righteousness, and peace.  
Stir in us your power and fill us with  
the love of Christ,  
strong and true,  
that we may be always eager to serve your  
promised reign of peace. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn:** "Lead On, O King Eternal"

*No. 447*

**\*Invitation to Confession**

Let us confess our sins,  
for God is gracious and strong to save.

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

God of hope, we confess  
our disregard of your care,  
our doubt of your providence,  
our blindness to signs of your love.  
We are afraid to risk our comforts to find new life.  
In dark places, we separate ourselves from you and from others.  
We foster divisions between those you love.  
Help us to amend our lives  
and make us your faithful people  
who bear the good fruit of your Word in the world.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**\*Kyrie Eleison**

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

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

God hears our confession,  
rejoicing as we desire amendment of life.  
God lifts us from our loneliness and despair  
to rejoice in the company of the saints.  
God acknowledges the forces that separate us,  
and brings us to peace.  
Believe in God, Friends!  
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**\*Gloria Patri** (*unison*)

**Prayer of Illumination**

Holy God,  
your Word is like fire.  
By the power of your Spirit,  
illumine our sight  
and enflame our hearts,  
that we may live lives more faithful to your will.  
**Amen.**

No. 579

**First Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 5:1-7

I will sing for my beloved  
my love song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.  
He dug it and cleared it of stones  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
he expected it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded rotten grapes.  
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,  
judge between me  
and my vineyard.  
What more was there to do for my vineyard  
that I have not done in it?  
When I expected it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield rotten grapes?

And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.  
I will make it a wasteland;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.  
For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are his cherished garden;  
he expected justice  
but saw bloodshed;  
righteousness  
but heard a cry!

**Piano Anthem:** Have Faith in God

-B. B. McKinney, 1886-1952

*Solo by Dawn Neel*

**Second Scripture Reading:** Hebrews 11:29-2:2

P. 226 in the New Testament

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Sermon:** We Are Not Alone

Rev. Jim DeMent

Hebrews 12:1-2: . . . let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith . . .

*Silence and stillness*

**\*Congregational Hymn:** “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

*No. 383*

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory:** Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

*-Hellen H. Lemmel, 1922*

**\*Doxology** (*unison*)

*No. 592*

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

God of the ages,  
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,  
we faithfully add our gifts  
to those who have gone before us  
throughout the generations.  
Bless these gifts that they may yield an increase  
for the spreading of your love in the world. Amen.

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

*Based on excerpts from Holy Scripture*

This is the good news  
which we have received,  
in which we stand,  
and by which we are saved,  
if we hold it fast:  
that Christ died for our sins  
according to the scriptures,  
that he was buried,  
that he was raised on the third day,  
and that he appeared  
first to the women,  
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.  
We believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of the living God.  
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end;  
he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn:** “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

*No. 345*

**\*Charge**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Congregational Response** (*unison*)

God be with you until we meet again;  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With his shepeo securely fold you;  
God be with you 'till we meet again

'Till we meet, 'till we meet  
'Till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
'Till we meet, till we meet  
God be with you 'till we meet again.



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

**Lead On, O King Eternal**

Lead on, O King eternal,  
The day of march has come;  
Henceforth in fields of conquest  
Thy tents will be our home:  
Through days of preparation  
Thy grace has made us strong,  
And now, O King eternal,  
We lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal:  
We follow, not with fears;  
For gladness breaks like morning  
Where'er Thy face appears;  
Thy cross is lifted o'er us;  
We journey in its light:  
The crown awaits the conquest;  
Lead on, O God of might.

Lead on, O King eternal,  
Till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
And holiness shall whisper  
The sweet amen of peace;  
For not with swords' loud clashing,  
Nor roll of stirring drums;  
With deeds of love and mercy  
The heavenly kingdom comes.

## My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My faith looks up to thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine:  
Now hear me while I pray,  
Take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly thine!

May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart,  
My zeal inspire;  
As thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to Thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread,  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be Thou my guide:  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray  
From Thee aside!

When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold, sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll,  
Blest Savior, then, in love,  
Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul!

## Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Dear Lord, Creator good and kind,  
Forgive our foolish ways;  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives Thy service find,  
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word  
Rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,  
O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee  
The silence of eternity,  
Interpreted by love!

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of thy peace.

## **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! This year, given the financial concerns which the Session has about our budget, we will have a very intentional, and we hope very informative campaign over the next several weeks.

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!

## 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, July 15

6:00 PM Session Meeting

#### Sunday, August 21

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

### Pastor's Notes

On June 23, 2018, a young soccer team was rescued from the Tham Luang Nang Non cave in northern Thailand. Twelve members of the team, boys aged 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old assistant coach entered the cave after a practice session. Shortly thereafter, heavy rainfall partially flooded the cave system, blocking their way out and isolating them over a mile inside the mountain. After a massive international effort, all 13 of the trapped victims were rescued in a daring effort which lasted over three days, July 8-10, 2018. The picture on our Bulletin cover shows the rescue staging area at the mouth of the cave.

What is it that both attracts and terrifies us about stories of people trapped in a cave or mine? Is it our fears of suffocation, being crushed, or starving to death that give us nightmares? I believe such stories also carry with them an awful dread of isolation. Those trapped in the earth are surrounded by a consuming darkness and a terrible sense of loneliness, abandonment, and separation. Although we may never have been trapped in a cave, we all have known moments of unbearable loneliness, abandonment, and separation in our lives-- moments that are sometimes of our own making.

Christians have forever had to address these dark feelings during our journeys of faith. The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews offers faith and hope in Jesus Christ to conquer our fears. If Jesus Christ is our rescuer (or shall we say, Savior!), then our faith and our hope are the lifelines in our darkest times that lead him to us and us back into the light. Whether we find ourselves in the deepest darkness of our souls or in the light and joy of Christian fellowship, by God's grace, we are never abandoned; we are never alone.

### 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