

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



AUGUST 21, 2022

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
August 21, 2022, 10:30 a.m.
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude: Praise! Praise

-George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, (From "Solomon")

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: The Lord will guide you continuously
and satisfy your needs in parched places;
you shall be like a watered garden,
whose spring never fails.

All: **With thanksgiving and praise,
let us worship God.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

**Holy One, we bless you with all that is within us
as we remember your benefits to us.**

**Open our hearts to helping those most in need,
that our community and nation may be rebuilt
and restored. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn:** "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

No. 446

***Invitation to Confession**

Our God is compassionate and merciful,
knowing us with an intimacy we cannot comprehend.
There is nothing we have done,
or left undone,
that is not already known by God.
Therefore, confident in God's forgiveness
of his truly repentant people,
let us humbly confess our sin
so that we may be fully forgiven.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”
But the LORD said to me,
“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”
Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

Anthem: We’re Marching to Zion –*Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, Music and Refrain Robert Lowry, 1826-1899*
The Congregation sings, led by our hymn leaders.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.”) Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12:22: But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, . . .

Silence and stillness

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

God of justice and love,
we confess to you and to each other
that we have not offered food to the hungry
or satisfied the needs of the afflicted.
We have spoken evil of others
and pointed fingers in blame.
We have turned away from you and our community,
pursuing instead our own self-interests.
Parched for mercy, we cry out for your help.
Forgive us, God, and teach us your ways,
that we may be renewed like a garden freshly watered. Amen.

***Kyrie Eleison**

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

In the waters of baptism we receive abundant mercy,
flowing like a spring that never runs dry.
Forgiven and freed,
we are reconciled with God and with one another.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

No. 579

Prayer of Illumination

God of justice and mercy,
by your Holy Spirit inspire us through your word,
and shape our lives according to your will.
Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***Congregational Hymn:** “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

No.417

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: God Whose Giving Knows No Ending

-”*The Sacred Host*”, 1844

***Doxology** (*unison*)

No. 592

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

Lord of the Sabbath,
we rejoice in offering you these gifts,
that our lives may show forth the wondrous healing
of your love in the world. 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 and the Lord’s Prayer

One: God of mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

***Closing Hymn:** “Jesus Shall Reign”

No. 423

***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.

Below are 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

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
Whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for a blest abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

Round each habitation hovering,
See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering,
Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner
Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna
Which he gives them when they pray.

See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age.

We’re Marching to Zion

Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known,
Join in a song with sweet accord,
Join in a song with sweet accord.
And thus surround the throne,
And thus surround the throne.
Refrain

The hill of Zion yields
A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heavenly fields,
Before we reach the heavenly fields,
Or walk the golden streets,
Or walk the golden streets.
Refrain

Let those refuse to sing
Who never knew our God;
But children of the heavenly King,
But children of the heavenly King,
May speak their joys abroad,
May speak their joys abroad.
Refrain

Then let our songs abound,
And every tear be dry;
We’re marching thro’ Immanuel’s ground,
We’re marching thro’ Immanuel’s ground,
To fairer worlds on high,
To fairer worlds on high.
Refrain

Refrain: We’re marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We’re marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

Postlude: Blessing and Honor

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever,
And our confidence alone.

Here bestow to all Your servants
What they ask of You to gain,
What they gain from You forever
With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in Your glory
Evermore with You to reign.

To this temple, where we call You,
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
With Your wonted loving-kindness
Hear Your people as they pray,
And Your fullest benediction
Shed within its walls always.

Laud and honor to the Father,
Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit,
Ever three and ever one;
One in might, and one in glory,
While unending ages run.

Jesus Shall Reign

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume, shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.

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

Kay Edwards

Nathan Galvan
(Son of Leila Galvan)

Billy Leske

Kathleen McCameron

Linda Patterson

Maria Pezeski
(Mother of Leila Galvan)

Mikey Ruddock

Bob & Gayla Whitaker

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

Sunday, August 28

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

A contemporary picture of Mount Zion appears on our Bulletin cover. The tall, circular building on the right is the Abbey of the Dormition, a Catholic abbey belonging to the Benedictine Order in Jerusalem which by tradition marks the spot where Mary, the mother of Jesus, died. In religious conversations, Mount Zion and Jerusalem are often used interchangeably when speaking of the City of God. Geographically speaking, however, Mount Zion is located outside the walls of the Old City near the Zion Gate. The city of Jerusalem may have originally been built on Mount Zion, but over the ages the city has expanded to cover four hills, Mount Zion, Mount of Olives, Mount Moriah and Mount Scopus, and the valleys between them.

Nevertheless, make no mistake about the significance of the biblical imagery of Mount Zion. The scriptures refer to Zion 155 times in the Old Testament (including 39 times in Psalms and 46 times in Isaiah) and 7 times in the New Testament. The term can refer to a hill (or “mount”), the city of Jerusalem, the nation of Israel, the eternal heaven, and the heavenly Jerusalem. In this morning’s New Testament reading, the anonymous author of the Letter to the Hebrews refers to “Mount Zion *and* the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” (Hebrews 12:22). This is the place where we will find innumerable angels, the assembly of the firstborn, God the judge of all, the spirits of righteous make perfect, and of course Jesus (Hebrews 12:22-24). Quite simply, Mount Zion serves for us as an allegorical reference to where we shall be forever with our Creator, and sin and death shall no longer have power over us.

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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