

# Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



AUGUST 28, 2022

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

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church  
August 28, 2022, 10:30 a.m.  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

**Prelude:** For the Lord Hath Comforted His People

-T. Ridley Prentice, 184\_-1895

**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: Sing aloud to God our strength.  
Shout for joy to the Lord of Life.  
Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

All: **Glory to God forever.**

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

Faithful God,  
in Jesus you show us a way of humility  
and hospitality  
with power to transform our world.  
Give us the grace to love those things that please you  
and the courage to live them to your glory. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn:** "Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"

No. 483

**\*Invitation to Confession**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord who is  
our ever-present helper.

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

Lord, all that we have is a gift from you,  
yet we do not live lives of gratitude.  
We ignore strangers  
and turn away from those in need.  
We seek honor for ourselves  
and allow pride to take root in us.  
Forgive our foolish ways, O God,  
and restore us to you,  
that we may walk in the way of love. Amen

**\*Kyrie Eleison**

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

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

God promises to never leave us.  
Therefore, be at peace and stand secure  
in the Lord.  
  
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 a light in darkness  
and a source of blessing.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us;  
enliven our hearts and minds  
as we hear your word for us today;  
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*No. 579*

**First Scripture Reading:** Psalm 81:1, 10-16

P. P. 521-542 in the Old Testament

Sing aloud to God our strength;  
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.  
I am the LORD your God,  
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.  
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.  
“But my people did not listen to my voice;  
Israel would not submit to me.  
So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,  
to follow their own counsels.  
O that my people would listen to me,  
that Israel would walk in my ways!  
Then I would quickly subdue their enemies  
and turn my hand against their foes.  
Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him,  
and their doom would last forever.  
I would feed you with the finest of the wheat,  
and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

**Piano Anthem:** Sine Nomine

*-Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906*

*Played by Dr. C. F. Schneider*

**Second Scripture Reading:** Luke 14:1, 7-14

P. 77 in the New Testament

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

**Sermon:** The Best Seat in the House

Rev. Jim DeMent

Luke 14:7: When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

*Silence and stillness*

**\*Congregational Hymn:** “O for a World”

*No. 386*

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory:** Something for Thee

*-Robert Lowery, 1826-1899*

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

*No. 592*

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

Faithful God, you bless us in Jesus,  
who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.  
And so we praise you with lips that confess his name  
and ask your blessing on these gifts  
for the life of the world. Amen.

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

*The Creed of the United Church of Canada*

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.  
We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.

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

**\*Closing Hymn:** "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

*No. 343*

**\*Charge**

**\*Benediction**

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

*-Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880/William G Tomer, 1880*

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.

**Postlude:** Jesu, Meine Freude

*-Johann Cruger, 1653 / harm. J. S. Bach, 1723*

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

### Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Sing praise to God, who reigns above,  
The God of all creation,  
The God of power, the God of love,  
The God of our salvation;  
With healing balm my soul is filled,  
And every faithless murmur stilled:  
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,  
But through all grief distressing,  
An ever present help and stay,  
Our peace, and joy, and blessing;  
As with a mother's tender hand,  
God gently leads the chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath made,  
God's gracious mercy keepeth;  
By morning glow or evening shade  
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;  
Within the kingdom of God's might,  
Lo! all is just and all is right:  
To God all praise and glory!

Thus all my gladsome way along,  
I sing aloud Thy praises  
That earth may hear the grateful song  
My voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,  
Both soul and body take your part:  
To God all praise and glory!

### O for a World

O for a world where everyone  
Respects each other's ways,  
Where love is lived and all is done  
With justice and with praise.

We welcome one world family  
And struggle with each choice  
That opens us to unity  
And gives our vision voice.

O for a world where goods are shared  
And misery relieved,  
Where truth is spoken, children spared,  
Equality achieved.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong,  
The foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong,  
Who perishes will rise.

**Called as Partners in Christ's Service**

Called as partners in Christ's service,  
 Called to ministries of grace,  
 We respond with deep commitment  
 Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
 May we learn the art of sharing,  
 Side by side and friend with friend,  
 Equal partners in our caring  
 To fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,  
 Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
 Let us follow, never faltering,  
 Reconciling folk on earth.  
 Men and women, richer, poorer,  
 All God's people, young and old,  
 Blending human skills together  
 Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,  
 In a small or global sense,  
 Help us bear each other's burdens,  
 Breaking down each wall or fence.  
 Words of comfort, words of vision,  
 Words of challenge, said with care,  
 Bring new power and strength for action,  
 Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow  
 Ways to order human life  
 That surround each person's sorrow  
 With a calm that conquers strife.  
 Make us partners in our living,  
 Our compassion to increase,  
 Messengers of faith, thus giving  
 Hope and confidence and 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 is well underway. 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. So far, we have **24** butterflies on our "Campaign Tree!" If you have not already done so, please take a moment to complete and send us your pledge card so we can joyfully post another butterfly on the bulletin board!

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, September 4**

10:30 AM Worship Service

*Lord's Supper*

**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**

The painting on our Bulletin cover is by the Italian Renaissance master Paolo Veronese (1528-1588). Entitled "The Feast in the House of Levi" (c. 1573), the work depicts a lavish banquet at which Jesus, seated in the center, is present. Although suffused with the cultural and architectural trappings of Venice in the sixteenth century, the painting still captures the opulence of a classical feast even as far back as first century Palestine (see Luke 5:29).

Have you ever noticed that the Jesus of Luke's Gospel seems preoccupied with eating? So much so, in fact, that by way of challenging him, the Pharisees asked Jesus, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" (Luke 5:30). In Luke, there are more references to eating, banquets, tables, and reclining at tables than in any of the other Gospels. "At table," Jesus teaches, reproves, and mingles with those who are marginalized by society. It is in Luke's Gospel that our Lord invites us to eat and drink "at my table in my kingdom" (Luke 22:30).

In this morning's scripture reading from Luke, Jesus is invited to eat a meal on the Sabbath at the house of a leader of the Pharisees. What a perfect occasion to tell a parable about seating arrangements at a wedding feast! Pay particularly close attention when Jesus tells us a parable that includes a table. He may be speaking of our seating arrangements at the table in God's heavenly kingdom!

**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