

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



September 4, 2022

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
September 4, 2022
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude “Jesus, Bread of Life, I Pray Thee”

- Alfred E. Whitehead, 1887-1974

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 offered himself—
once and for all—
so that our conscience can be free from all things that lead to death.

All: **Let us freely go and worship the living God!**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Lord, you are our only hope.
Teach us to put our trust in you.
God, you are our ever-present help.
Teach us the path of righteousness
and turn us from the ways of the wicked,
for we know that you love those who do justice.
We will forever praise you for the glory of your righteous reign,
now and forever. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** “O Worship the King, All Glorious Above”

No. 476

*Invitation to Confession

Let us confess our sins to God,
from whom our help comes.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 1

P. 489 in the Old Testament

Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread
or sit in the seat of scoffers,
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.
The wicked are not so
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the
judgment
nor sinners in the congregation of the
righteous,
for the LORD watches over the way of the
righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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

**O God, you have been faithful,
yet we have not loved you with our whole hearts.
You showed us how to love our fellow human beings,
yet we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Turn us back to you, O God,
that we may follow your commandments;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

Beloved,
the Lord is loving, merciful, and just.
Therefore, we are reconciled to God and to one another,
that we might walk in peace and 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 Lord, you are our God.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
teach us through your Word to follow after you.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Anthem: “The One Is Blest”

-Scottish Psalter, 1615

Solo by: Becky Richter

Second Scripture Reading: Philemon 1-21

P. P.215-216 in the New Testament

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and
to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all
the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may
become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received
much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed
through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the
right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old
man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus,
whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now
he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I
wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my
imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that
your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was
separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a
slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both
in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has
wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my
own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother,
let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your
obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Sermon: A Plea for Forgiveness

Rev. Jim DeMent

Philemon 17: So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

No. 326

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Give of Your Best to the Master

-Mrs. Charles Barnard

***Doxology** (*unison*)

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

Dear God,
we offer you these gifts
that they might build up the work of your
kingdom.
Make us living witnesses to the way of your
righteous and forgiving reign.
For the glory and forgiving of your son, Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. 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.

Keep us faithful in your service
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we shall feast with all your saints
in the joy of your eternal realm.

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:** "Take My Life"

No. 391

***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: Halifax

-George Frederick Handel, 1748



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 2

Verse 3
Verse 4

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

O worship the King all-glorious above!
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
The chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.



In the United States, the first Monday in September is designated as Labor Day, which is dedicated to celebrating the social and economic achievements of American workers and their contributions to our country's welfare and prosperity.

For the dignity of labor who, whether beginning their careers, advancing their careers, or retired from their careers, we offer this prayer of praise and celebration:

Creating God,
You made the heavens and the earth
and your work was Good and we praise you.
May we continue your good work through our own labor—
helping to create your kingdom on earth as in heaven.

We pray on this Labor Day for all those who work.
Whether in the school, the factory, the mines, the armed services,
the business office, government, or on the farm,
may all workers carry themselves with honor,
know the respect of their managers,
be kept safe from harm, and be well paid for hard work
so that they might provide for their family and loved ones.

Today we also pray for those who are unemployed or underemployed.
Help us as a nation to continue to provide for those
who are suffering from unemployment
so that they do not lose hearth and home.

May all the labors of our lives benefit your creation
so that we might be co-creators of your world
filled with peace and enough for all. Amen

*You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.
- Psalm 128:2*

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;
All, all thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see Thy cross, there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

Take My Life

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in endless praise,
Let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

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 continues to gather momentum. As of Wednesday, August 31, 2022, we have added **30** butterflies on our Campaign Tree in the hall to the Choir Room! *Please*, if you have not already so, take a minute to fill out your pledge card and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Jim Stokes and Dawn Neel tell me that the response so far has been very encouraging. Help us exceed last year's Steward Campaign both in total number of pledges turned in and in the total dollar amount of those pledges.

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 mission of our 182-year-old church! Help us look forward to a future with hope!



Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Gloria Aouelle

Bette Austin

Kay Edwards

Nathan Galvan
(Son of Leila Galvan)

Billy Leske

Kathleen McCameron

Linda Patterson

Tommy Peebles
(Cousin of Robert Wyatt)

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

9:30 AM “We Are Called”

Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class

10:30 AM Worship Service

Monday, September 5

Office will be closed for Labor Day

Thursday, September 8

9:30 AM Adele Carsner Young Circle

Friday, September 9

5:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting

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 Bulletin cover displays a Roman mosaic, of unknow date and origin, depicting one aspect of the harsh life of a Roman slave. Hidden in antiquity are the terrible conditions endured by many such slaves. In the second century A.D., a Roman historian described a cruel Roman slave master, Vedio Pollio, who stocked a pool with vicious, sharp-toothed moray eels. Misbehaving slaves were thrown into the pool to be eaten alive whenever Vedio Pollio was displeased with them, sometimes for merely dropping a goblet that shattered on the floor.

Paul's letter to Philemon losses some of its power until we consider that, with Paul's support, Onesimus is returning to his master, Philemon, to plea for forgiveness, understanding full well that he may lose his life in the effort. Is that not how sometimes, in our guilt and misery, we approach Jesus for forgiveness-- not knowing if we are worthy of his mercy, certain that we do not deserve it, daring to hope that our Lord will spare us?

As Paul wrote a letter to Philemon to forgive Onesimus, Jesus ascended the Cross to gain our salvation. Can you imagine how Onesimus must have felt if Philemon spared him? How much greater is our joy when we realize that, when we are truly penitent, Christ grants our pleas for forgiveness! No longer slaves to sin and guilt, we can trust that Jesus has repaid our debts. Our freedom in Christ is assured!

Clergy, Music, and Administration

Rev. Jim DeMent, Interim Pastor
Robert Wyatt, Organist/Choirmaster
Erica Colding, Office Administrator

Office Hours

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