

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
September 18, 2022, 10:30 a.m.
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude: Allegro Con Moto

-Ernest H. Sheppard, 1937

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: Praise the Lord, O servants of the Lord!

All: **Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore.**

One: From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

All: **Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Faithful God, we give you thanks
that in Jesus Christ you have entrusted us
with the richness of your glory
and the treasure of your grace.
Make us faithful stewards of your good gifts,
that we may show your love to this generation
and welcome us into your eternal home,
where we will worship and serve you forever;
through Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Come Sing to God"

No. 181

*Invitation to Confession

Even though we continually turn away from God,
the Lord is eager to forgive.
Trusting in the promise of grace,
let us confess our sin.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

Gracious God, you know our sin:
We have squandered the gifts you have given us.
We have failed to forgive our debtors
as you have forgiven us.
We have been unfaithful and dishonest
in small things and great things alike.
We are shrewd in seeking wealth
and foolish in following your way.
Forgive our sins, O Lord,
for your name's sake.
Make us faithful stewards
of the grace you have given
and generous in forgiving others;
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**

Our loving God desires everyone to be saved
and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

Prayer of Illumination

God our Savior, as we hear your Word
send your Holy Spirit
to be our teacher of faith and truth
and show us how we are called to live;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

My joy is gone; grief is upon me;
my heart is sick.
Hark, the cry of my poor people
from far and wide in the land:
“Is the LORD not in Zion?
Is her King not in her?”
 (“Why have they provoked me to anger
with their images,
with their foreign idols?”)
“The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved.”

P. P. 708-709 in the Old Testament

For the hurt of my poor people
I am hurt,
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.
Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?
Why then has the health of my poor
not been restored?
O that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of my poor people!

Solo: Everyone Who Longs for the Boundless Love of God

-Sung-Ho Park, 2001

Solo by: Dawn Neel

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 16:1-13

P. 79 in the New Testament

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

Sermon: Dishonest Wealth

Rev. Jim DeMent

Luke 16:11: “If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?”

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** “There Is a Balm in Gilead”

No. 394

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Be Still, My Soul

-Jean Sibelius, 1899

***Doxology** (*unison*)

No. 592

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

Who is like you, O Lord our God?
You look with mercy upon the earth;
you lift up the poor from the dust
and give them a place at your table.
Teach us to sing your praise forever
and to show your love to those in need;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 and the Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** “We Give Thee but Thine Own” (*verses 1-4*)

No. 428

***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 sheep 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: Weisse Flaggen

-German Hymn, 1741

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 2

Verse 3
Verse 4

Come Sing to God

Come sing to God, O living saints,
Sing praises to God's name.
God's anger is not permanent,
God's love will never wane.
Though tears may tarry for the night
With sighs of deepest pain,
Yet joy comes with the morning sun,
A peace that is not vain.

In my success I felt secure.
How good You've been to me.
I said that is my own work,
Ascribing all to me.
But when You turned aside Your face,
My life filled with fears.
I begged for help, to You I cried
With loud and bitter tears.

What good is gained by my disgrace,
What profit in defeat?
My grave cannot confess Your name,
Nor praise for You repeat.
Now hear, O Lord, my plaintive cry;
Be merciful to me.
Accept my longing heart's request
And from death set me free.

You change my grief to joy-filled dance,
My sorrows You destroy.
In faithfulness You hear my cry
And fill my life with joy.
And so to You my heart shall sing,
My voice Your goodness raise.
You are my God, forevermore,
My life shall sing Your praise.

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Sometimes I feel discouraged,
And think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
Revives my soul again.

If you cannot preach like Peter,
If you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus
And say, "He died for all."

Don't ever feel discouraged,
For Jesus is your friend,
And if you lack for knowledge,
He'll not refuse to lend.

Refrain
There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sinsick soul.

We Give Thee but Thine Own

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly, as thou blessest us,
To Thee our first fruits give.

To comfort and to bless,
To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lonely in distress,
Is angels' work below.

The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace--
It is a Christ-like thing.



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

Wednesday, September 14

10:00 AM Bible Study
“Genesis,” led by Jim Stokes

Sunday, September 25

9:30 AM “We Are Called”
Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class
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

Our Bulletin cover displays a painting by the contemporary Russian artist, A. Mironov (1975 -), who is well known for his portraits and his depictions of scenes from the Bible such as this one where we see the rich man in Jesus’ parable discussing his accounts with his dishonest (or is it his shrewd?) steward. In my mind’s eye, this is the point in the parable when the rich man basically tells his steward, “I have discovered how you have been cheating me, and I commend you for how clever you have been in providing for your own welfare after I fire you!” (see Luke 16:8).

Notice, also, how comfortable both men appear in discussing the rich man’s financial accounts. These men are familiar with wealth; they have devoted their whole lives to acquiring it, managing it, and holding on to it. They have had no time or desire to serve God.

Interestingly, in the original Greek, Luke records Jesus as saying, “You cannot serve God and *money*” (Luke 16:13). I believe this is a more accurate translation than “wealth,” because, as we read in 1 Timothy 6:10, “For the *love of money* is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.” It is not wealth alone that condemns us, it is our pursuit of wealth (our love of money) that keeps us from following in the way of Jesus. In his parable of the dishonest steward, Jesus is warning us that when we serve money to accumulate wealth, we cannot serve God to acquire the “true riches” that await us in his kingdom (Luke 16:11).

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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