

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

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

WWW.FPCOFVICTORIA.ORG | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FPCOFVICTORIA

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
September 25, 2022, 10:30 a.m.
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude: When in Our Music, God Is Glorified

-Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

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: Happy are those whose help is in the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

All: **The Lord God reigns forever,
for all generations.
Praise the Lord!**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Loving God, giver of all good gifts,
you have created us for life together,
and in Christ you have revealed to us
that the true riches of faith are good works,
generosity, and a desire to serve.
Strengthen us this day to pursue all righteousness,
godliness, and love
with perseverance and gentleness,
that we may take hold of the life that is really life,
and dwell with you eternally. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

No. 260

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

***Invitation to Confession**

If we call out in need,
the Lord will answer.
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor,
trusting in the Lord who sets prisoners free.

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

**We have sinned, O God,
hoarding what we have,
grasping for more,
and ignoring those who hunger and thirst.
We stay with our own kind;
we are complacent in the face of systems that oppress.
Forgive us;
purify us;
remake us,
that we might love as you love. Amen.**

***Kyrie Eleison**

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

The Lord welcomes all
who return from the exile of greed and self-interest.
Be at peace,
for in Christ we find our way home again.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

Prayer of Illumination

Nurturing God,
you give life to all things
and long to satisfy the needs of your children
in their desire for healing and wholeness.
Send your Spirit upon us this day,
that as we hear your word we may meet Jesus,
the one in whom all our hungers are fed. **Amen.**

No. 579

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

P. 548 in the Old Testament

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.”
For he will deliver you from the snare of the
hunter
and from the deadly pestilence;
he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and defense.

You will not fear the terror of the night
or the arrow that flies by day
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble;
I will rescue them and honor them.
With long life I will satisfy them
and show them my salvation.

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 16:19-31

P. P. 79-80 in the New Testament

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Sermon: Invisible Suffering

Rev. Jim DeMent

Luke 16:20: “And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table;”

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** “O For a World”

No. 386

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: I Would Be True

-Joseph Yates Peek, 1843-1911

***Doxology** (*unison*)

No. 592

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

We give you thanks and praise, generous God,
for every good gift that comes from your hand:
for food and clothing,
for life and health,
for family and friends,
above all for the treasure of your grace.
Make us rich in good works,
generous and ready to share,
taking hold of the life
that really is life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

From the Confession of Belhar, 1986

We believe in triune the God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
who gathers, protects, and cares for the church
through Word and Spirit.

This God has done since the beginning of the world
and will do to the end.

We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one
who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people.

We believe that God,
in a world full of injustice and enmity,
is in a special way the God of destitute,
the poor, and the wronged.

We believe that the church must witness against
and strive against any form of injustice,
so that justice may roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** “Live Into Hope”

No. 293

***Charge**

***Benediction**

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

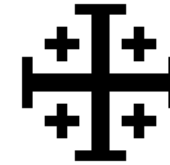
-Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880/William G Tomer, 1880

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: All Praise to God for Song, He Gives

-Dale Wood, 1986



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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He,
Lord Sabaoth His name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill,
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

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.

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

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

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

Live Into Hope

Live into hope of captives freed,
Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
The year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hop the blind shall see,
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear
A vision of God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty,
The right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread,
To hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.



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

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 28

10:00 AM Bible Study with Jim Stokes

7:00 PM Communicants Class with Pastor Jim

Sunday, October 2

9:30 AM "We Are Called"

Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class

10:30 AM Worship Service

**Lords 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 a work by the Flemish artist, Gaspar van den Hoecke (1603-1641), and is entitled, "Lazarus and the Rich Man's Table."

For the second Sunday in a row, we encounter a parable by Jesus that speaks of harsh consequences for wealthy people. Again, however, Jesus never seems to condemn the rich just for being rich. Indeed, the man who gave Jesus his tomb was wealthy (Joseph of Arimathea, Mark 15:42-46). It is the behavior of the wealthy that Jesus cautions us against. It is the temptation of money and our efforts to obtain, increase, and keep it that distract us from service in God's kingdom.

The rich man in our parable this morning is much to be pitied. Even when separated from paradise by a large chasm, he cannot help but condescend to Lazarus. Rather than speaking to him directly (just as he would never have done in life), he speaks to 'Father Abraham,' telling him to have Lazarus come and cool his tongue. That is not how Jesus would have us behave. See the poor, help the poor-- that is when we share the grace that so richly abounds in our God and that has been so freely given to us through the life, death, and resurrection of his son, Jesus Christ.

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