

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



OCTOBER 9, 2022

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
October 9 2022, 10:30 a.m.
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude: Praise The Lord Who Reigns Above

-Eugene Butler, 1982

Welcome and Announcements

***Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: God has sent redemption to us
and made with us a covenant.
Holy and awesome is God's name.
All: **Praise the Lord!**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

God of our salvation,
you are the source of wisdom and joy.
Your love and mercies are not limited
to one time or to one people.
You continue to heal and to save,
transcending the artificial boundaries and barriers we set.
For such expansive love,
it is our right, duty, and joy
to offer you all our thanks and praise,
now and forever. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "For the Beauty of the Earth" (*verses 1-4*)

No. 473

***Invitation to Confession**

Even when we are faithless, Christ remains faithful.
Trusting in his grace, let us confess our sins.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*



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

Gracious Lord Jesus,
have mercy on us.
We keep our distance from you,
for we are broken and sick with sin.
Yet you see us, and cleanse us, and make us whole.
Forgive us when we forget to return to you—
have mercy when we fail to praise your name,
and fill us with the faith that makes us well. 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 have died with Christ
and we have been raised with him to new life.
Nothing in life or in death can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

Prayer of Illumination

Sovereign God,
though we are bound by many tethers,
your Word is not chained.
Set us free by this Word
let loose in the world.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
make us worthy, make us righteous,
make us workers of the gospel,
unashamed and unafraid to share.

No. 579

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 66:1-12

P. 528 in the Old Testament

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise.
Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!
Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.
All the earth worships you;
they sing praises to you,
sing praises to your name.”
Come and see what God has done:
he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.
He turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.
There we rejoiced in him,
who rules by his might forever,
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—
let the rebellious not exalt themselves. *Selab*
Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living
and has not let our feet slip.
For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the net;
you laid burdens on our backs;
you let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

Organ Anthem: Lift Thine Eyes

-Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1841 arr. Russell Robinson

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 17:11-19

P. 80 in the New Testament

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’s feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

Sermon: The Liturgy of Gratitude

Rev. Jim DeMent

Luke 17:16: He prostrated himself at Jesus’s feet and thanked him.

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me” No. 366

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks -Donald Fisbel, 1973

***Doxology** (*unison*) No. 592

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

Like the shepherds in Bethlehem’s field,
like the leper healed who returned to Jesus,
like the Jews and Gentiles of the early church,
we praise and glorify your name, O God.
You have given us more than we could have imagined!
For tidings of joy, for wholeness received,
for the gift of belonging, we thank you.
Make of us, as well as these gifts,
offerings of good news to the poor,
hope to the hopeless,
and signs of your power to reconcile, redeem, and make whole.
We ask all things in the name of Christ. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) From verses in the New Testament

This is the good news
which we have received,
in which we stand,
and by which we are saved,
if we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins
according to the scriptures,
that he was buried,
that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared
first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;
he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** “Let All Things Now Living” No. 554

***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: O That I Had a Thousand Voices -Johann Balthasar Konig, 1738



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

For the Beauty of The Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies. *Refrain*

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind’s delight,
For the mystic harmony
For all gentle thoughts and mild, *Refrain*

For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light. *Refrain*

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild. *Refrain*

Refrain:
Christ, our Lord, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to Thee,
And reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, Thine alone,
I'd live, myself to Thee entirely give.

O Love, how gracious is Thy way!
All fear before Thy presence flies;
Care, anguish, sorrow melt away,
Where-e'er Thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see,
Nothing desire, or seek, but Thee.

O grant that nothing in my soul
May dwell, but Thy pure love alone;
O, may Thy love possess me whole,
My joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
My every act, word, thought, be love.

Let All Things Now Living

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
'Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:
'Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

*Please remain for a brief
Congregational Meeting
to be held immediately following this
worship service.*

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

Monday, October 10

2:00 PM Mary & Martha Circle

6:00 PM Session Meeting

Wednesday, October 12

10:00 AM Bible Study with Jim Stokes

7:00 PM Communicants Class with Pastor Jim

Thursday October 13

9:30 AM Adele Carsner Young Circle

Sunday, October 16

9:30 AM "The Protestant Reformations"

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

Your pastor was unable to find any information about the artwork on our Bulletin cover. It is a, perhaps relatively modern (and somewhat impressionistic?), representation of Jesus' encounter with the 10 lepers. If you count carefully, you can see, from behind, that there are ten wretched souls pleading for Jesus to heal them.

We know from our New Testament Scripture reading this morning that Jesus was traveling through the region between Samaria and Galilee, at best an area that was a no-man's land for Jews and Samaritans alike. Because lepers were ostracized by both groups, they had no alternative but to congregate among other wretched humans like themselves. It is entirely likely, therefore, that the group cured by Jesus was comprised of both Jewish and Samaritan lepers.

In a story similar to the parable of the Good Samaritan, it was a Samaritan (someone greatly despised by the Jews) who returned to thank Jesus for making him whole. Misery is non-discriminatory; leprosy is an equal-opportunity disease. Gratitude, however, is unique. Jesus may heal the many, but it is only those "whose faith has made [them] well" (Luke 17:19) who respond in gratitude to Jesus, the source of their deepest healing.

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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