

Welcome All
to
Sunday Worship Service

THEOPHANY
A VISIBLE MANIFESTATION OF GOD

JANUARY 15, 2023

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
January 15, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude: I Waited for the Lord

-Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

Welcome and Announcements

***Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: Sing a new song,
a song of thanks and praise,

All: **for God has done wondrous deeds,
and is great beyond compare!**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Holy God,
you sent your son to be the light of the world,
so that all may know the brightness of your love.
Fill us with your grace this day
that we too may bear witness to his light
and serve your coming reign.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "To God Be the Glory"

No. 485

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

***Invitation to Confession**

Let us confess our sins to God,
for the Holy One is steadfast in love
and always ready to forgive.

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

**Mothering God,
we have chased after foolish things,
and spent our strength on vanity;
our labor has been in vain.
Deliver us from arrogance
and forgive our self-concern,
that we may find our reward with you,
as servants of your dream.
Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

***Kyrie Eleison**

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

Happy are those who put their trust in God,
and delight to do God's will,
for God makes our footing sure
upon the rock of Christ.

Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

Prayer of Illumination

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove:
Open our ears to the truth of your word,
that the testimony of Christ may be strengthened among us
and the glad news of deliverance revealed. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 40:1-11

P. P. 513- 514 in the Old Testament

I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the LORD.
Happy are those who make
the LORD their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.
You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts
toward us;
none can compare with you.
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.
Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.
Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."
I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O LORD.
I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your
salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your
faithfulness
from the great congregation.
Do not, O LORD, withhold
your mercy from me;
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness
keep me safe forever.

Piano Anthem: There's a Voice in the Wilderness

*-James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961/
Henry Hugh Bancroft*

Second Scripture Reading: John 1:29-42

P. 92 in the New Testament

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Sermon: Theophany

John 1:34: “And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

Silence and stillness

Rev. Jim DeMent

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

No. 326

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

-1551 Genevan Psalter

***Doxology** (*unison*)

No. 592

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

We give you thanks, O loving God,
that you have placed in the hearts of your faithful people
the gift of generosity and the desire to do your will.
Use these gifts to proclaim good news to every nation
and restore all people to Christ. Amen.

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

From Colossian 1:15-20, an ancient hymn of the Church

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** “Arise, Your Light Is Come”

No. 411

***Charge**

***Benediction**

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

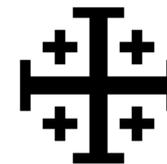
-Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880/William G Tomer, 1880

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: Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire

-1848 Plainsong



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

To God be the Glory

To God be the glory,
Great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Refrain

Oh, perfect redemption,
The purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God.
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

Great things He hath taught us,
Great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His Voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

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.

Arise, Your Light is Come

Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God,
Which shines on you today.

Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captives' liberty,
Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-hearted ones
And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.



Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Gloria Aouelle	Bette Austin	Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)	Kathleen McCameron
Maria Pezeski (Mother of Leila Galvan)	Mikey Ruddock	Michael Tarkington (Son of Martha Tarkington)	Carol Wisdom (Daughter of Lea Lenz)

**For caregiving concerns—please contact:
Lynn McAuley (979.248.6238)**

FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

Monday, January 16
6:00 PM Session Meeting
Sunday, January 22
9:30 AM “The Prophets Still Speak”
Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class
10:30 AM Worship Service

**FPC Victoria Servant Leadership
Session Members**

Donald Anderson
Jim DeMent, Moderator
Francis Byrne
Leila Galvan
John Horadam
Lynn McAuley
Camille Miller
Patrick Patterson
Becky Richter
Bonnie Wilkinson

Pastor's Notes

Advent is the first season in the liturgical year and includes the four Sundays prior to Christmas Day. Then we have the twelve calendar days of Christmastide, commencing on December 25th and ending on January 5th. These are also commonly known as the “Twelve Days of Christmas,” with January 5th as the “Twelfth Night.”

Epiphany (known in some cultures as the “Day of the Kings”) falls on January 6th, and in the Reformed tradition, the Sundays between Epiphany and the beginning of Lent (on Ash Wednesday) are counted as the first, second, etc., Sunday after the Epiphany. The first Sunday after the Epiphany is known as the “Baptism of Christ,” and the last such Sunday (the Sunday immediately prior to Ash Wednesday) is celebrated as the “Transfiguration of the Lord.”

Traditionally, during the Sundays after the Epiphany, the church celebrates the fact that God is manifest (epiphany) in the human being named Jesus of Nazareth (incarnation). The reason we know this is that Scripture tells us that God appeared to John the Baptist, Jesus and others (theophany) during Jesus’ baptism. All four Gospels recount the story of Jesus’ baptism and the divine manifestations associated with it (God’s voice from heaven, the Holy Spirit alighting on Jesus like a dove). We know that Jesus is the Son of God, because God himself breached the liminal divide between heaven and earth to tell his creation that this was so. As we consider God’s manifestation to humanity in general, it is appropriate to reflect on those instances, those experiences when, whether boldly or subtly or initially unbeknownst to us, God has also manifested himself more personally in our own life.

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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