

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



FEBRUARY 26, 2023

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
February 26, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday in Lent

Prelude: Air in D

-Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Welcome and Announcements

*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: People of God, on this wilderness journey, what will you eat?

All: **The word of the Lord is our daily bread.**

One: People of God, in this time of temptation, how will you live?

All: **Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.**

One: People of God, at this kingdom crossroad, whom will you serve?

All: **We worship the Lord our God alone.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Wild God of wilderness,
as we devote these forty days to you,
shape us by your Holy Spirit
into the image of Christ our Lord,
so that we may be ready, by your grace,
to confront the power of death
with the promise of eternal life. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "Great Is Their Faithfulness"

No. 276

*Invitation to Confession

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven,
who no longer suffer in silence,
but name their sin and seek God's grace.
Let us confess our sin.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

Lord God,
you know the ways of good and evil.
You know the things that tempt us
and the things that give us life.
You know our nakedness,
and you know our sin.
We confess that we have disobeyed your word,
denying your providence and care
and relying on our own cleverness.
Have mercy on us, we pray:
cover us with your grace,
feed us with the bread of life,
and re-create us in your image;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Kyrie Eleison**

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven!
Be glad in the Lord and shout for joy!
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

No. 579

Prayer of Illumination

O Lord, may the words of your mouth
be our daily bread,
and may the leading of your Spirit
become our way;
in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

P. P. 2-3 in the Old Testament

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Antem: Yield Not to Temptation

-Horatid R. Palmer, 1834-1907

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

P. 3 in the New Testament

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

But by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him,

"Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Sermon: Temptation

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 4:1: Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

No. 80

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: O Lamb of God Most Holy

-*Nikolaus Decius, 1541*

***Doxology** (*unison*)

No. 592

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

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for the free and abundant gift of grace
you have given us in Jesus Christ.
Let the simple gifts of our lives
be a sign of our unending gratitude
for your undying love;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith (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:** "O God, What You Ordain Is Right"

No. 284

***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: The Agincourt Song

-*England, 1415, arr. R. Oroulx, 1937*

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 worshiping with us from home, we encourage you to sing along. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1

Verse 3

Verse 2

Verse 4

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, Creator.
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.
Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Refrain

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Refrain

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Jesus walked this lonesome valley,
He had to walk it by Himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for Him,
He had to walk it by Himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley,
We have to walk it by ourselves;
O, nobody else can walk it for us,
We have to walk it by ourselves.

O God, What You Ordain Is Right

O God, what You ordain is right,
Your holy will abiding;
I shall be still, whate'er You do,
And follow where You are guiding.
You are my God;
Though dark my road,
You hold me that I shall not fall;
Wherefore to You I leave it all.

O God, what You ordain is right;
You never will deceive me.
You lead me by the proper path;
I know You will not leave me.
And take, content,
What You have sent;
Your hand can turn my griefs away,
And patiently I wait Your day.

You must go and stand your trial,
You have to stand it by yourself;
O, nobody else can stand it for you,
You have to stand it by yourself.

O God, what You ordain is right;
Here shall my stand be taken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
Yet I am not forsaken.
Your watchful care
Is round me there;
You hold me that I shall not fall,
And so to You I leave it all.

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 Cabrera (Grandson of Martha Tarkington)	Carol Wisdom (Daughter of Lea Lenz)

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

FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

Tuesday February 28
1:00 PM Book Club Meeting

Sunday, March 5
9:30 AM “The Prophets Still Speak”
Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class
9:30 AM Kingdom Kids– Sunday School for children ages 5-12
10:30 AM Worship Service
The Lord’s Supper

**FPC Victoria Servant Leadership
Session Members**

Jim DeMent, Moderator
Class of 2023
John Horadam, Building & Grounds
Lynn McAuley, Ass’t Clerk, Caregiving & Fellowship
Bonnie Wilkinson, Clerk of Session, Membership
Class of 2024
Frances Byrne, Caregiving & Fellowship, Personnel
Patrick Patterson, Building & Grounds, Finance
Becky Richter, Christian Education, Mission & Outreach
Class of 2025
Donald Anderson, Mission & Outreach
Leila Galvan, Christian Education
Camille Miller, Worship

Other

Dawn Neel, Treasurer
Melissa Samudio, Presbyterian Day School
Jim Stokes, Assistant Treasure

Pastor’s Notes

In searching for an appropriate illustration for this morning’s Bulletin cover, your pastor had a wide selection of art from which to choose. Some portrayals of Jesus facing the Devil’s temptations in the wilderness showed Jesus exalted and triumphant. An evil apparition representing Satan was being vanquished as Jesus stood strong and resilient, often with his arms held out in conquest. Christ the Victor.

Other portrayals were more contemplative, showing Jesus deep in meditation and prayer, as if calling on some divine resource-- surely, God himself. Often the devil was missing in these paintings, indicating that perhaps Jesus was summing his strength prior to his encounter with temptation or otherwise indicating that perhaps Jesus was deep in prayerful gratitude after he had conquered the Devil. Christ the Pious.

On this occasion, however, your pastor’s eye was caught by the painting on our cover, entitled “In the Wilderness.” It is a work by the contemporary artist Ron Decianni (www.facebook.com/RonDiCianniArtistsCircle/), and in my mind it speaks to Jesus’ fatigue after facing the Devil. Christ the Exhausted! I like this portrayal because, if we are honest, facing temptation is exhausting regardless of whether we succumb to sin or whether we successfully resist it until the Devil returns (as he always does). During Lent we are reminded that no human strength is capable of resisting temptation and sin on every occasion. Let us remember that we need Christ’s power to help us resist the power of evil, and we are always in need of Christ’s forgiving grace when we fail.

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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