

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



February 5, 2023

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
February 5, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Prelude “Walk in the Light”

*Henry W. Greatorex, 1851
arr. Gordon Young, 1968*

Welcome and Announcements

***Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Call to Worship

One: Jesus proclaims,
“You are the light of the world; . . .
You are the salt of the earth.”

All: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Holy God,
you gave the law to show your people the way of righteousness.
Help us receive your commandments as grace
and live as your obedient children
that your goodness may shine through us,
to the glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

No. 281

***Invitation to Confession**

Let us confess our sins before God,
our help in times of trouble.

**Please stand in body or spirit*

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

Almighty God,
we have asked for your righteous judgment against others,
but we have not acknowledged the sin in our own lives.
We have worshiped you with our lips,
but have dishonored you with our actions.
We have prayed for you to end the suffering in our world,
yet we have not practiced compassion and generosity toward others.
Our religion has become the source of quarreling
rather than a testimony to your grace.
Forgive our self-righteousness and give us integrity of heart,
that we may shine forth the light of your salvation,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Kyrie Eleison** (*unison*)

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

In mercy God forgives us our sin
and grants us genuine repentance
through His grace and power.

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

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our understanding by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that as the Word is proclaimed
we may receive holy wisdom
to understand the gifts you have bestowed on us.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 112:1-10

P. 563 in the Old Testament

Praise the LORD!
Happy are those who fear the LORD,
who greatly delight in his commandments.
Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.
They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.
It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.
They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.
Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.
They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn is exalted in honor.
The wicked see it and are angry;
they gnash their teeth and melt away;
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

Anthem: O That I Had a Thousand Voices

Johann Mentzer, 1704
arr. Johann Balthasar Konig, 1738

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:13-20

P. 4 in the New Testament

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.
“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Sermon: “A Theology of Discipleship”

Matthew 5:13-14: “You are the salt of the earth; . . . You are the light of the world.”

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

No. 426

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: This Little Light of Mine

***Doxology**

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

Loving God,
we give thanks for all you have given to us
and praise you for your astounding goodness.
Receive the dedication of our hearts, minds, and bodies
for the ministry of your church.
Bless our offering for the work of your kingdom,
and give us wisdom for the right use of all you have provided,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

From A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us in the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying,
“Come, Lord Jesus!”

Prayers of the People

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just to give you thanks
in every time and in every place, almighty God.

We give you thanks for the gift of creation
and especially for the gift of our life.

We are grateful that you have made us in your image
and that you pardon us when we act
as though you have no authority over our lives.

We are grateful that you sustain us in your great love.

And so, with all your people,
with angels, archangels,
and with all the company of heaven
we praise and magnify your glorious name,
joining our voices in the eternal hymn:

SANCTUS: UNISON

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ,
who was born of Mary
and shared the joys and sorrows
of the life that we know.

You anointed Jesus Christ with your Spirit
to preach good news to the poor,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
to give sight to the blind, and to liberate the oppressed,
proclaiming the year of the Lord’s favor.

In Christ's baptism, suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
and made a new covenant with us
by water and the Spirit.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine,
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming,
proclaiming the mystery of faith:

GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF FAITH: UNISON

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your people
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
so that the bread we share and the cup we bless
will be for us the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ
and with all who share this feast,
united in ministry in every place.

As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Make us one with Christ,
one with our neighbors,
and one in service to all the world.

Keep us faithful in your service
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we shall feast with all your saints
in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Eternal God,
we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.

All: **Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit
to give ourselves for others
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn:** "Today We All Are Called To Be Disciples"

No. 434

***Charge**

***Benediction**

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

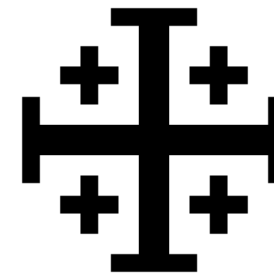
Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880/William G Tomer, 1880

**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: Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

-Welsh Melody



We have reproduced below 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

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Lord, speak to me that I may speak
In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek
Thine erring children, lost and lone.

Oh, lead me, Lord, that I may lead
The wandering and the wavering feet;
Oh, feed me, Lord, that I may feed
Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.

Oh, teach me, Lord, that I may teach
The precious thing Thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.

Oh, fill me with Thy fullness, Lord,
Until my very hearts overflow
In kindling thought and glowing word,
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

Today We Are Called to Be Disciples

Today we all are called to be
Disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captive free,
To make plow-share out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
To make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first,
Our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and its birth
Ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth,
Responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud,
We sow not peace but strife,
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud
That threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down
As in a mighty stream,
With righteousness in field and town
To cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore
An earth where conflicts cease,
A world that was created for
A harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God
Act out the living Word,
And walk the road the saints have trod
Till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we
Give thanks in one accord
To God who calls is all to be
Disciples of the Lord.



[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](#)

Sunday, February 12
10:30 AM Worship Service
12:00 PM Congregational Meeting during Super Bowl
of Soups and Snacks fellowship luncheon

[FPC Victoria Servant Leadership
Session Members](#)

Jim DeMent, Moderator
Donald Anderson, Mission & Outreach
Frances Byrne, Caregiving & Fellowship, Personnel
Leila Galvan, Christian Education
John Horadam, Building & Grounds
Lynn McAuley, Asst. Clerk, Caregiving & Fellowship
Camille Miller, Worship
Patrick Patterson, Building & Grounds
Becky Richter, Christian Education, Mission & Outreach
Bonnie Wilkinson, Clerk of Session, Membership

[Other](#)

Dawn Neel, Treasurer & Chair of Finance Committee
Melissa Samudio, Presbyterian Day School
Jim Stokes, Assistant Treasure

[Pastor's Notes](#)

The painting on our Bulletin cover is a contemporary portrayal of Jesus preaching during his Sermon on the Mount. The original, by the English artist, Thomas Saunders Nash (1891-1968), hangs in the Manchester (England) Art Gallery.

Your pastor is drawn to the vivid colors in this stylized rendition of a familiar Biblical scene. Moreover, although the landscape, wardrobes, and other details portrayed in the painting can by no means be considered “authentic” when compared to the original event, the artist does invite us to consider the various members of the crowd who are listening to Jesus’ teaching. There is a group of individuals sitting (several are even stretched out!) at Jesus’ feet. These must be Jesus’ disciples whom he called to gather around him, although the picture inaccurately shows Jesus standing (Matt. 5:1).

Also consider the other groups depicted in this painting. Why do the women in the lower-left foreground appear to be weeping? Could the group in the lower-right foreground be among the scribes and Pharisees whom Jesus criticizes in this morning’s Scripture reading? As with all good religious art, this painting allows us to consider where we belong in the scene. In my sermon this morning, I invite us to be so bold as to imagine that we are among those seated at Jesus’ feet. In truth, however, at various times in our faith journey we could likely identify with any of the different groups who are listening to Jesus, trying to discern what he has to teach us, trying to understand, “What is this good news Jesus brings us?”

[Clergy, Music, and Administration](#)

Rev. Jim DeMent, Interim Pastor
Robert Wyatt, Organist/Choirmaster
Erica Colding Administrator

[Office Hours](#)

Monday — Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
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