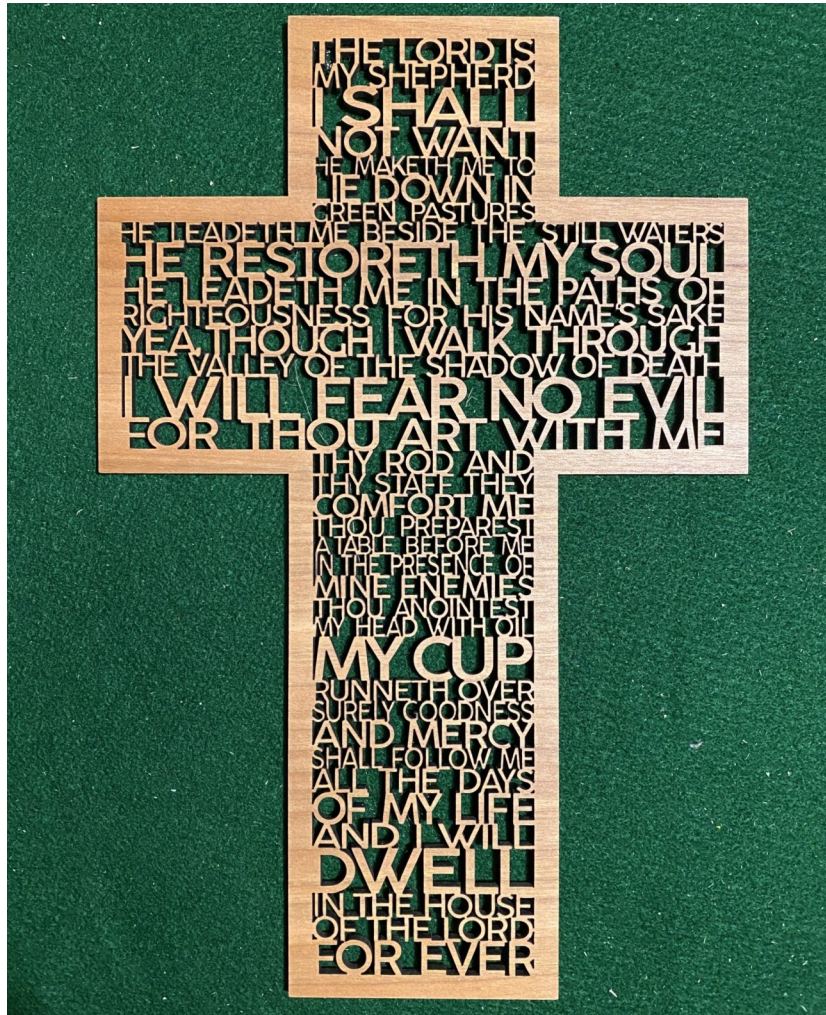


Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



MARCH 19, 2023

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
March 19, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude: O God, Eternal Source of Love

-Abasuerus Fritsch, 1629-1701, arr. J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

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: God does not see as mortals see.
We look on the outward appearance;
God looks on the heart.

All: **Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!**

One: Once we lived in darkness, but now
as children of light, we are called
to what is good and right and true.

All: **Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Good Shepherd,
you call us by name,
and we know your voice.
Open the gate for us,
that we may come and go freely,
have life, and have it abundantly. Amen.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

***Opening Hymn:** “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

No. 210

***Invitation to Confession**

Friends, in as much as God is our shepherd,
let us not fear,
but confess our sin
that God may restore our souls.

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

**Holy One, we confess to you and to one another
that we have not always followed Christ’s example.
We see ourselves as blameless,
but pass judgment on others.
We have sinned, and we are lost.
We have gone astray.
God of Mercy, lead us back into your fold
and guard our souls.
This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

***Kyrie Eleison**

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

The psalmist assures us
that God’s goodness and mercy will follow us,
even pursue us, all the days of our life.
As God’s forgiven people,
receive this goodness and mercy,
and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

Prayer of Illumination

Gracious God,
illumine our hearts and minds
as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed,
so that by the power of your Holy Spirit
we may see what is good and right and true.
And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you,
so that your glory becomes visible
in our words and deeds.
In Christ’s name, we pray. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: John 10:11-16

P. 103 in the New Testament

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

Anthem: The Twenty-third Psalm

-*Albert Hay Malotte, 1937*

Second Scripture Reading: Psalm 23 (KJV)

P. 501 in the Old Testament

The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Sermon: A Song of Confidence

Rev. Jim DeMent

Psalm 23:4: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me . . .

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

No. 387

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

-Southern Harmony, 1835

***Doxology** (*unison*)

No. 592

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

Holy and generous God,
you have anointed us and we are yours.
Bless these tithes and offerings
that they may become green pastures and still waters
for any and all who need your comfort and restoration. Amen.

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

1 Cor. 15:1–6; Mark 16:1–9; Matt. 16:16; Rev. 22:13; John 20:28

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:** “The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

No. 170

***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 Kong, 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 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

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
 Much we need Thy tender care;
 In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
 For our use Thy folds prepare:
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Early let us seek Thy favor;
 Early let us do Thy will;
 Blessed Lord and only Savior,
 With Thy love our bosoms fill:
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 Thou hast loved us, love us still;
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Thou hast promised to receive us,
 Poor and sinful though we be;
 Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
 Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 Early let us turn to Thee;
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 Early let us turn to Thee.

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
 He makes me down to lie
 In pastures green; He leadeth me
 The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;
 And me to walk doth make
 Within the paths of righteousness,
 E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
 Yet will I fear no ill;
 For Thou art with me, and thy rod
 And staff me comfort still;

My table Thou hast furnished
 In presence of my foes;
 My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
 And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
 Shall surely follow me;
 And in God's house forevermore
 My dwelling place shall be.

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

Monday, March 20
 6:00 PM Mission Study Task Force Meeting

Sunday, March 26
 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

**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 Treasurer

Pastor's Notes

The Scripture passage we are studying this morning is Psalm 23, arguably the most familiar passage in the entire Bible. Did you memorize it in Sunday School; can you remember a parent, grandparent, or other loved one who recited it to you from memory?

In American culture especially, the familiarity of Psalm 23 threatens to make it irrelevant. The challenge for those of faith is to hear the text anew-- to approach its understanding with a fresh vision. Although now almost uniformly associated with funerals, Psalm 23 was originally called a psalm of individual thanksgiving. It may have had a ritual role at Jewish festivals, perhaps sung or recited on the journey to a festival. So significant is Psalm 23 that it is only one of eight (out of 150) Psalms with the inscription, “A Psalm of David.”

Regardless of its history or role in liturgy, however, Psalm 23 is truly a Song of Confidence. Let us consider this familiar Psalm once more with open eyes, ears, hearts, and minds as we remember that our sovereign God is an ever-present help upon whom we can confidently rely not only at the time of death, but throughout all the days of our lives as well.

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