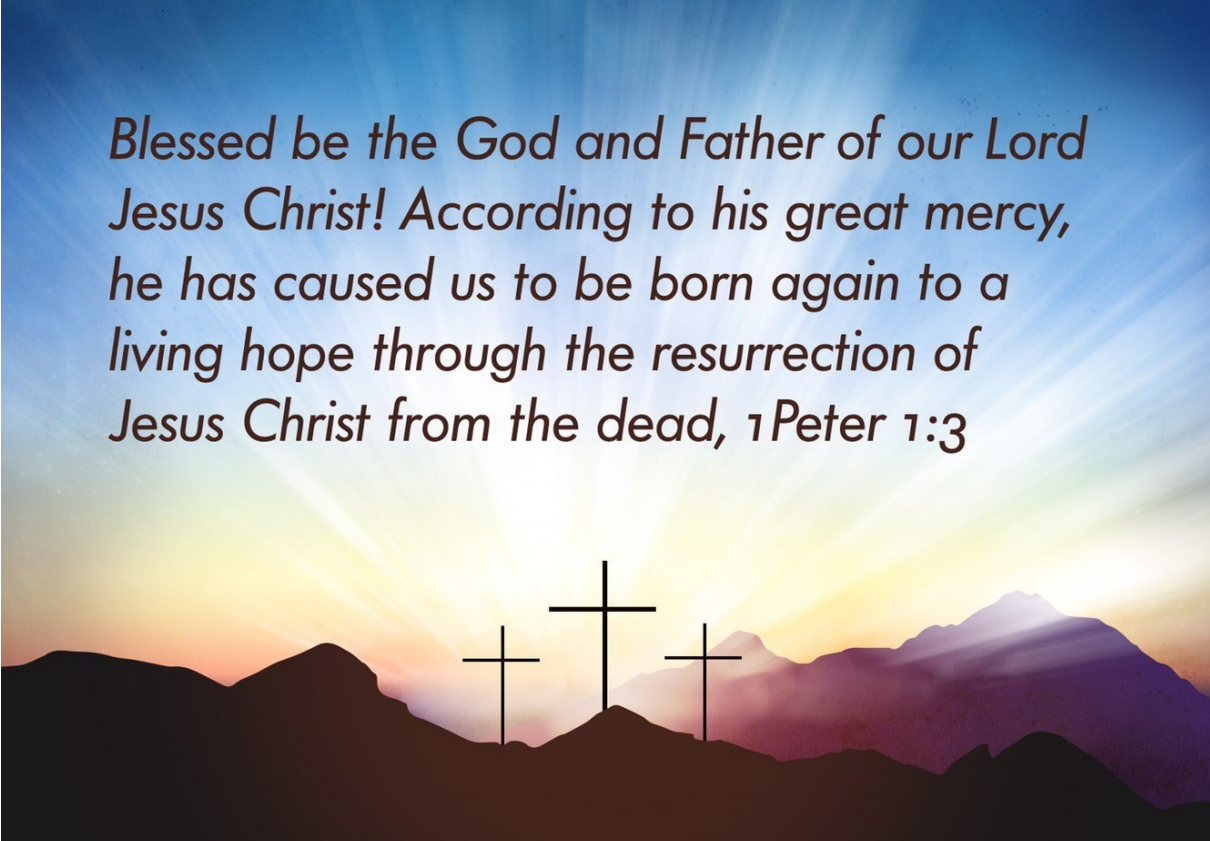


Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy,
he has caused us to be born again to a
living hope through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead, 1 Peter 1:3*

APRIL 16, 2023

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
April 16, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday of Easter

Prelude: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

-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: Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

All: **God has given us a new birth in the living hope
of the resurrection.**

One: God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

All: **In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials.**

One: For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him;
and although we have not seen him, we believe in him.

All: **For the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

God of signs and wonders,
you have revealed to us that
Jesus Christ is your son and our Savior.
Strengthen our faith, we pray,
that we may have life in Christ's name. **Amen.**

***Opening Hymn:** "Thine Is the Glory"

No. 122

*Invitation to Confession

God has been made known to us
in deeds of power, signs, and wonders,
and will not abandon us if we confess
the truth about our lives.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

God, you have made known to us the ways of life.
Yet, too often, we put other things above you
and turn away from the ways of life
and toward the ways of death.
Forgive us and guide us back into your presence,
that we may know the fullness of joy. Amen.

***Kyrie Eleison**

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

My friends, God is our refuge
and will not abandon us.
In Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to God.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

Prayer of Illumination

Guiding God,
send your Holy Spirit upon the reading of your Word
that it may serve to show us the path of life
and lead us into your presence
where there is fullness of joy. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

P. 119 in the New Testament

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Guitar Anthem: The Old Rugged Cross

-George Bennard, 1873-1958

David Faskas

Second Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

P. 232 in the New Testament

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Sermon: The Joy of Our Inheritance

Rev. Jim DeMent

1 Peter 1:3-4: By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, . . .

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** “Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna”

No. 104

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Beneath the Cross of Jesus

-F. C. Maker, 1881

***Doxology** (*unison*)

No. 592

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

Generous God,
you are our portion and our cup.
In you our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice,
and our bodies rest.
Bless and multiply our offerings and pledges
that they may bring the joy of your presence
more deeply into the world. Amen.

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

The Creed of the United Church of Canada

We are not alone,
we live in God’s world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

No. 84

***Charge**

***Benediction**

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

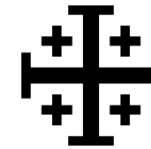
-Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880/William G Tomer, 1880

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: Because You Live, O Christ

-17th Century Dutch Melody



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

Thine Is the Glory

Thine is the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son;
Endless is the vict’ry
Thou o’er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.
Refrain

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life!!
Life is nought without Thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conqu’rors, through
Thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.
Refrain

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb.
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let His church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth;
Death hath lost its sting.
Refrain

Refrain:
Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o’er death hast won.

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!
 Celebrate this day of days!
 Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
 All creation is amazed.
 In the desert all-surrounding,
 See, a spreading tree has grown.
 Healing leaves of grace abounding
 Bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
 From the caverns of despair.
 Walk with gladness in the morning.
 See what love can do and dare.
 Drink the wine of resurrection,
 Not a servant, but a friend.
 Jesus is our strong companion.
 Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
 Nevermore shall be the same.
 Break the bread of new creation
 Where the world is still in pain.
 Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
 "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
 God the First and Last is with us.
 Sing Hosanna, everyone!

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

In the cross of Christ I glory,
 Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
 All the light of sacred story
 Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
 Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
 Never shall the cross forsake me:
 Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
 Light and love upon my way,
 From the cross the radiance streaming
 Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
 By the cross are sanctified;
 Peace is there that knows no measure,
 Joys that through all time abide.

Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Gloria Aouelle	Bette Austin	Joey Farrell	Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)
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)**

FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

Sunday, April 23

9:30 AM “Prayer and Poetry”
 Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class

9:30 AM Kingdom Kids– Sunday School for
 children ages 5-12

10:30 AM Worship Service. PDS Sunday

Monday, April 24

6:00 PM Mission Study Task Force

**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

Peter’s letters have long fascinated Biblical scholars. For one thing, how could a humble, possibly illiterate fisherman write such polished Greek prose? For another thing, the letters appear to be written by a supreme church leader to numerous far-flung churches scattered over nearly a quarter of a million miles—most of modern-day Turkey. Peter says he is writing from a “sister church here in Babylon” (1 Peter 5:13; Babylon likely being the Jewish pejorative for “Rome”) to the Roman provinces of “Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia” (1 Peter 1:1). And finally, Peter does not appear to have to a personal connection with any of these churches, as Paul did, for example, with the churches in Galatia.

Peter mentions he is writing “with the help of Silas” (1 Peter 5:12). This was a common practice of the day (even Paul dictated his letters), and it could explain the polished Greek. Moreover, church leaders writing in the AD 90s and AD 100s constantly referred, with deference, to Peter as the author of these letters (which were likely written in the AD 60s).

Given the wide distribution of Peter’s letters and the authority with which they were written and received, might Peter have been the first “highest leader” in the organization of the Christian movement after the Resurrection? After all, Jesus gave Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 16:19). Might these letters have been written by the first pope?

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