

Welcome All  
to  
Sunday Worship Service  
PDS Sunday



APRIL 23, 2023

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church  
April 23, 2023, 10:30 a.m.  
Third Sunday of Easter  
Presbyterian Day School Sunday

**Prelude:** Medley of Children's Church Songs

-arr. Robert Wyatt

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

**Call to Worship**

One: Followers of Jesus, by his cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin.

All: **Alleluia!**

One: By his rising we are free from the fear of death.

All: **Alleluia!**

One: By his love we are made new in the living and enduring Word of God.

All: **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

**Prayer of the Day** (*unison*)

Almighty God,  
Jesus, our risen Lord, was made known to  
the disciples in the breaking of the bread.  
Open the eyes of our hearts  
that we may recognize his presence,  
and with his disciples cry, "The Lord has risen, indeed!"  
Through Christ, who lives and reigns with you  
in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn:** "Low in the Grave He Lay"

**\*Invitation to Confession**

Trusting in God's love in Jesus Christ,  
let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

Almighty God,  
our world is filled with corruption:  
power disguises itself as truth;  
convenience masquerades as goodness;  
selfish pleasure imitates love.  
We confess to you, O God,  
that we have been caught in the web of the world's sin.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
save us from these deceptions and free us for glad obedience,  
that we may see the joy of Jesus' resurrection  
and receive the promise of everlasting life. Amen.

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

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

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

God has promised salvation to us, to our children,  
and to all who are near and far.  
Believe in God, Friends!  
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

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.

No. 579

**Prayer of Illumination**

Lord,  
you opened the meaning of the Scriptures  
to the disciples on the road to Emmaus  
and set their hearts ablaze.  
By the power of your Spirit  
kindle our hearts as we hear your word proclaimed,  
that we may receive you with joy. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading:** Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

**Anthem:** We welcome the young disciples from our Presbyterian Day School to sing:

*Good Morning, Lord  
We Are the Clay  
I'm in the Lord's Army*

**Second Scripture Reading:** John 10:11-18

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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

**Sermon:** The Good Shepherd

Rev. Jim DeMent

John 10:14-15: 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.

*Silence and stillness*

**\*Congregational Hymn:** “Jesus Loves Me”

No. 304

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory:** Morning Has Broken

*-Gaelic Melody arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985*

**\*Doxology** (*unison*)

No. 592

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, all heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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

Almighty God,  
by your grace, accept the fruit of our labor  
and the offering of our lives.  
Let us be a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
in union with our risen Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you forever.  
Amen.

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

*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:** “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

No. 267

**\*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:** Do Lord

*-H.H.G. Tovey*

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

**Low in the Grave He Lay**

Low in the grave He lay—  
Jesus my Savior!  
Waiting the coming day—  
Jesus my Lord!  
*Refrain*

Death cannot keep his prey—  
Jesus, my Savior!  
He tore the bars away—  
Jesus my Lord!  
*Refrain*

Vainly they watch His bed—  
Jesus, my Savior!  
Vainly they seal the dead—  
Jesus my Lord!  
*Refrain*

**Refrain:**  
Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

**Jesus Loves Me!**

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong;  
They are weak, but he is strong.

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
As he loved so long ago,  
Taking children on his knee,  
Saying, "Let them come to me."

**Refrain:**

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

**All Things Bright and Beautiful**

Each little flower that opens,  
 Each little bird that sings:  
 God made their glowing colors,  
 God made their tiny wings.

*Refrain*

The purple-headed mountain,  
 The river running by,  
 The sunset, and the morning  
 That brightens up the sky,

*Refrain*

**Refrain:**

All things bright and beautiful,  
 All creatures great and small,  
 All things wise and wonderful,  
 The Lord God made them all.

The cold wind in the winter,  
 The pleasant summer sun,  
 The ripe fruits in the garden:  
 God made them, every one.

*Refrain*

God gave us eyes to see them,  
 And lips that we might tell  
 How great is God Almighty,  
 Who has made all things well.

*Refrain*

**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)

Ginny & Wilson Rogers  
 (Daughter of Bob & Gayla Whitaker;  
 Son of Bruce & Elizabeth Rogers)

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 30**

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 Sunday Worship Service.

12:00 Noon Luncheon and Mens Bake Sale

**Monday, May 1**

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**

Our Bulletin cover is graced with a picture of our Presbyterian Day School young disciples participating in last year’s PDS Sunday (which occurred on the first Sunday of April last year, as the presence of the communication table tells us).

Jesus loves the little children, and so does First Presbyterian Church! We are not alone in that sentiment, of course, but because our Lord and Savior has told us “for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs” (Matt. 10:14), we especially cherish our ministry of support for the Presbyterian Day School.

As our Bulletin cover says every Sunday, “Welcome All,” and we extended that warm and sincere welcome to the PDS students and their families who are worshipping with us this morning. We also ask God to extend his blessings and mercies not only to all the students and families associated with PDS but also to the faculty and staff of PDS who stive so hard to be good teachers, good leaders, and, yes, good shepherds to all those in their care.

In a society where terror, even in Christian day schools, can be a stark reality, we are humbled and grateful that the parents of our PDS young disciples entrust their precious children to us to teach them not only their colors and their ABC’s but also to instill in them the life-enduring message that Jesus loves them. Here at FPC you will find that message reinforced for all of us, of every age, as we navigate the challenges of our modern world. If ever you need encouragement, if ever you need to spend some time with a loving Christian congregation, in a family atmosphere, please come worship with us. ALL are welcome at First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas.

**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

