

Welcome All  
to  
Sunday Worship Service



July 2, 2023

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church  
July 2, 2023, 10:30 a.m.  
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 8

Prelude "Land of Our Loyalty"

*Lee Rogers, 1944*

Welcome and Announcements

\*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord,

All: **and proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

One: Your steadfast love endures forever.

All: **Your faithfulness is as high as the heavens.**

One: Happy are those who sing your praise

All: **and extol your righteousness all the day.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Steadfast God, you greet us as a loving parent  
and patiently love us beyond all measure.

Great is your faithfulness.

May we offer that same kindness and hospitality  
to all whom we encounter,  
knowing it is Christ whom we greet  
as we welcome others. Amen.

\*Opening Hymn: "God of the Ages"

No. 262

\*Invitation to Confession

Let us confess our sins to God,  
whose loving-kindness endures forever.

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*



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

O Lord, you taught us to love you  
and our neighbor,  
but we have not lived in right relationship  
or walked in the light of your love.  
Forgive us for the wrongs we have done;  
we know that the wages of sin is death.  
Yet we trust in your gift of forgiveness,  
which is freedom and life in Christ. Amen.

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

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

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Sisters and brothers, be at peace,  
for you have been freed from sin  
that you may serve with righteousness,  
to the glory and praise of God.

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.

No. 572

No. 579

**Prayer for Illumination**

Loving God, as we hear your Word this day,  
send your Spirit to equip and inspire us,  
that your grace-filled hospitality may be  
the center of our lives. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading:** Jeremiah 28:5-9

P.P. 730-731 in the Old Testament

Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

**Organ Anthem:** Here at Thy Table, Lord

*Lani Smith, 1985*

**Second Scripture Reading:** Matthew 10:40-42

P. 11 in the New Testament

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

**Sermon:** Christian Hospitality

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 10:40: "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

*Silence and stillness*

**\*Congregational Hymn:** "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

No. 399

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory:** Eternal Father, Strong to Save

**\*Doxology**

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

Faithful God, we give you thanks  
that you have entrusted us with  
the gift of hospitality and generosity,  
and that you have set us free  
to be generous givers  
of the gifts you so freely give to us.  
May our offerings this day  
draw us closer to you  
as we share them with others  
for righteousness' sake. Amen.

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

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**

*John Bacchus Dykes, 1861*

*No. 592*

*From A Brief Statement of Faith*

## **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:

**THE MYSTERY OF FAITH: UNISON**

**Great is the mystery of faith:  
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:** Holy and astounding God,  
At this table, in this meal,  
we have been met by Christ—  
the reflection of your glory,  
the imprint of your being.

**All:** **As we go from this place  
may our lives be a joyful song,  
proclaiming the good news  
of your righteousness and peace  
for all the world. Amen**

**\*Closing Hymn:** "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said" No. 393

**\*Charge**

**\*Benediction**

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

**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**

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

**'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:** Lift Every Voice and Sing

*- J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921*



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

### **God of the Ages**

God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;  
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;  
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;  
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase;  
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,  
Lead us from night to never-ending day;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

### **We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

We walk by faith, and not by sight;  
No gracious words we hear  
From Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke;  
But we believe him near.

We may not touch His hands and side,  
Nor follow where he trod;  
But in His promise we rejoice,  
And cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
And may our faith abound  
To call on You when You are near,  
And seek where You are found.

That, when our life of faith is done,  
In realms of clearer light  
We may behold You as You are  
With full and endless sight.

### **Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said**

Take up your cross, the Savior said,  
If you would my disciple be;  
Take up your cross with willing heart,  
And humbly follow after Me.

Take up your cross; let not its weight  
Fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up  
And brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, heed not the shame,  
And let your foolish heart be still;  
The Lord for you accepted death  
Up on a cross, on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,  
And calmly every danger brave:  
It guides you to abundant life  
And leads to victory o'er the grave.



**Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests**

Gloria Aouelle	Bette Austin	Joey Farrell	Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)
Maria Pezeski (Mother of Leila Galvan)	Bain Rogers (Bob & Gayla Whitakers Grandson)	Mikey Ruddock	Carol Wisdom (Daughter of Lea Lenz)

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

**FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service**

**Monday, July 3, and Tuesday, July 4**  
The Church Office will be closed in observance of Independence Day

**Thursday, July 6**  
2:00 PM Mission and Outreach

**Sunday, July 9**  
9:30 AM Kingdom Kids— Sunday School for children ages 5-12  
10:30 AM Sunday 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

**Pastor's Notes**

During these scorching hot days in South Central Texas, nothing seems more inviting than glass of cool water, does it? The same was equally true in First Century Palestine, and it was perhaps the ultimate symbol of hospitality.

This morning's Scripture reading from Matthew is clearly about being welcoming and hospitable, although Biblical scholars debate whether Jesus was speaking exclusively of welcoming disciples and missionaries who were proselytizing the Good News in his name or whether his words can be read more expansively to apply to all of God's creation who should be welcomed and extended hospitality in Christ's name. One scholar notes, for instance, that when Matthew quotes Jesus as referring to "prophet," "righteous person," and "little ones," he may be literally designating different types of Christian missionaries that were familiar to the first readers of the Gospel.

Other scholars argue, however, that Christ's injunction to host itinerant missionaries can be located within a larger pattern of welcome to the vulnerable stranger. Paul wrote, for instance, "extend hospitality to strangers" (Romans 12:13), and the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews counseled, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2). Your preacher favors this latter interpretation. Jesus was warm and welcoming in so many situations with so many different people. I look no farther that the feeding of the 5,000 to understand that Jesus was a model of hospitality to everyone around him (Matthew 14:16-20).

Christ, who admonishes us to love our neighbor, would also want us to welcome the stranger, every stranger. Christian hospitality is neither narrow nor exclusive; it is as wide and inclusive as Christ's love for us-- all of 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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