

Welcome All
to
Sunday Worship Service



JULY 30, 2023

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
July 30, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 12

Prelude: Prelude Religioso Op. 20, No. 2

-F. Kublan, 1937

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: Blessed be God whose word gives hope
and shapes our dreams,

All: **whose love has conquered death.**

One: Blessed be God who orders our way
and guides our steps,

All: **who leads us into life.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

God, you have given us a dream of your
world made whole,
a heavenly realm that is near in heart
and close at hand,
and it is ours to choose each day.
May our smallest acts of courtesy, when
transformed by your love,
grow abundantly into a realm of
joy and hope for all. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

No. 276

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

***Invitation to Confession**

If God is for us, who can be against us?
Let us confess our sins to the One who
searches us and knows us.

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

**Gracious God,
we confess that we have turned away from you
and have not lived with upright hearts.
Forgive us for failing to follow you.
Guide our feet to walk in your ways
and serve your world
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

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

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

Be at peace and remember always,
all things work together for good
for those who love God.

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.**

Prayer of Illumination

Enlightening God, the unfolding of
your Word gives light
and provides wisdom to all who
seek your truth.

Open our minds and hearts by the presence of
your Holy Spirit,
that the mystery of your heavenly realm is
made evident here on earth. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

P. 306 in the Old Testament

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

Piano Anthem: "The Love of God" from Romans VIII

Allen James, 1952

Second Scripture Reading: Romans 8:26-39

P. P 162-163 in the New Testament

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sermon: A Trilogy of Hope

Rev. Jim DeMent

Romans 8:31: What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

No. 384

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: God of Our Life

-Charles Henry Purday, 1860

***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*)

We dedicate our lives to you this day
and seal that promise by way of this offering.
We give out of the abundance of our hearts,
that the treasure of your kingdom
may be shared with many. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith (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:** "Jesus, Thou Boundless Love to Me"

No. 366

***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 God, to Whom We Turn

-Abasuerus Fritsch, 1679

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, Creator
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee.
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Light that follows all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee.
I lay in dust, life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red,
Life that shall endless be.

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me,
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to Thee,
And reign without a rival there.
Thine wholly, Thine alone, I'd live,
Myself to Thee entirely give.

O Love, how gracious is Thy way!
All fear before Thy presence flies;
Care, anguish, sorrow, melt away,
Where'er Thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see,
Nothing desire or seek, but Thee.

O grant that nothing in my soul
May dwell, but Thy pure love alone!
O may Thy love possess my whole,
My Joy, my Treasure, and my Crown.
All coldness from my heart remove;
May every act, word, thought, be love.



Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Gloria Aouelle	Bette Austin	Beverly Bright	Joey Farrell
Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)	Maria Pezeski (Mother of Leila Galvan)	Bain Rogers (Son of Ginny & Wilson Rogers)	Mikey Ruddock
Carol Wisdom (Daughter of Lea Lenz)			

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

FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

Thursday August 3

2:00 PM Mission and Outreach

Sunday, August 6

9:30 AM Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class
*Being Reformed Faith Seeking
Understanding: Christian Hope*

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

10:30 AM Sunday Worship Service.
The Lord's Supper

**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

Let no one underestimate the faithfulness and devotion of the dedicated congregation of believers at First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas! This will be the fourth Sunday in a row that we will be bearing down on some foundational Christian theology as expounded by Paul in his Letter to the Romans. In the heat of a South Central Texas summer, we have come to grapple with Paul's explanation of the earth-changing, life-changing impact of the appearance of the son of God in flesh among us.

With the appearance of Jesus Christ among mortals, the world has been transformed, and so have we, says Paul. Building on this fundamental understanding, Paul sets out, using all of his considerable logic, persuasive ability, and rhetorical skill to explain to the fledgling Christian community in Rome what Christ's resurrection means for all who believe in him and strive to follow in his way.

In this morning's reading from the Letter to the Romans, we are reacquainted with some of the most familiar passages in all of the non-Gospel books of the New Testament. Darting freely from rhetorical explanations to sheer poetry, Paul speaks to us today, as he has to Christians across the millennia, of the mystery, the promise, and the assurance of our faith, all of which give us profound hope in the Good News revealed to us by Jesus Christ.

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
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