

# Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



AUGUST 20, 2023

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

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church  
August 20, 2023, 10:30 a.m.  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 15

**Prelude:** Praise Ye the Father

*-Charles F. Gounod, 1818-1893*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Moment for Mission**

*Lynn McAuley*

**\*Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

**Call to Worship**

One: My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples, says the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Almighty God,  
whose compassion embraces everyone,  
gather the outcast and the lost,  
heal the wounds of fear and distrust,

and make us a community of reconciliation  
that we may embody your merciful love  
and rejoice in your astounding grace  
in Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Litany for Mission** (*The lyrics to hymn 421, "The Church of Christ in Every Age"*)

One: The Church of Christ in every age  
Beset by change but Spirit led,

All: **Must claim and test its heritage  
And keep on rising from the dead.**

One: Across the world, across the street,  
The victims of injustice cry

All: **For shelter and for bread to eat,  
And never live until they die.**

One: Then let the servant Church arise,  
A caring Church that longs to be

All: **A partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
And clothed in Christ's humanity.**

One: For he alone, whose blood was shed,  
Can cure the fever in our blood,

All: **And teach us how to share our bread  
And feed the starving multitude.**

One: We have no mission but to serve  
In full obedience to our Lord:

All: **To care for all, without reserve,  
And to spread his liberating Word.**

**\*Opening Hymn:** "Praise, My Soul the King of Heaven"

*No. 478*

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

**\*Invitation to Confession**

God declares:  
Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come  
and my deliverance be revealed.

Confident in our deliverance,  
let us confess our sins before  
God and one another.

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

**Holy God,  
we confess we have not been obedient  
to your will for us.  
We have sought justice for ourselves  
but neglected justice for others.  
We have insisted on our rights  
but have not lived rightly in our relationships.  
We have desired mercy for our sins,**

**but we have not offered mercy to those  
who have sinned against us.  
By the power of your Holy Spirit  
free us from the prison of our disobedience.  
Help us to love as you have loved us  
that our lives may testify to  
your abounding grace  
though Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.  
Receive the gift of forgiveness and share that gift with others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**  
Believe in God, Friends!  
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

*No. 579*

**Mission Hymn Reading:** *(The Lyrics to hymn 422, "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending")* *Lynn McAuley*

God, whose giving knows no ending,  
From your rich and endless store:  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
Costly cross, grave's shattered door,  
Gifted by you, we turn to you,  
Offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever,  
Gracious donor of our days.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,  
Gain through powers your grace conferred;  
Ours to use for home and kindred,  
And to spread the Gospel Word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing,  
As we heed Christ's ageless call,  
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
Serving you by loving all.

Skills and time are ours for pressing  
Toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
All at peace in health and freedom,  
Races joined, the Church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
Lest we strive for self alone;  
Born with talents, make us servants  
Fit to answer at your throne.

**Vocal Anthem:** "Because I Have Been Given Much" *Grace Noel Crowell, 1936 / Phillip Landgrave, 1975*  
Solo by Robert Wyatt

**Prayer of Illumination**

Lord,  
by the power of your Spirit  
give us your words of life  
that our faith may increase and our hearts  
be made whole. **Amen.**

**Second Scripture Reading:** Matthew 15:1-20

P. P 16-17 in the New Testament

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before they eat." He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.' But you say that whoever tells father or mother, 'Whatever support you might have had from me is given to God,' then that person need not honor the father. So, for the sake of your tradition, you make void the word of God. You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said:

"This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.' "

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

**Sermon:** Jesus Confronts Tradition

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 15:6: "So, for the sake of your tradition, you make void the word of God."

*Silence and stillness*

**Congregational Hymn:** "More Love to Thee, O Christ"

*No. 359*

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory:** Master, No Offering, Costly and Sweet

*-Edwin P. Parker, 1836-1925*

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

**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,  
receive the fruits of our labor  
and the dedication of our lives.  
Make them an acceptable sacrifice in union  
with Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.  
We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
We trust in God, the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.  
With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*From A Brief Statement of Faith*

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn:** "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

*No. 422*

**\*Charge and 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:** Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him

*-John H Willcox, 1827-1875*

*No. 592*

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 2

Verse 3  
Verse 4

**Praise, My Soul the King of Heaven**

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To His feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore His praises sing:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor  
To His people in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike He tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him:  
Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

**More Love to Thee, O Christ**

More love to Thee, O Christ,  
More love to Thee!  
Hear Thou the prayer I make  
On bended knee.  
This is my earnest plea:  
*Refrain*

Once earthly joy I craved,  
Sought peace and rest;  
Now Thee alone I seek,  
Give what is best.  
This all my prayer shall be:  
*Refrain*

Then shall my latest breath  
Whisper Thy praise;  
This be the parting cry  
My heart shall raise.  
This still its prayer shall be:  
*Refrain*

**Refrain**

More love, O Christ, to Thee,  
More love to Thee,  
More love to Thee!

**God, Whose Giving Knows No End**

God, whose giving knows no ending,  
From Your rich and endless store:  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
Costly cross, grave's shattered door.  
Gifted by You, we turn to You,  
Offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever,  
Gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing  
Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:  
All at peace in health and freedom,  
Races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
Lest we strive for self alone:  
Born with talents, make us servants  
Fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure too You have entrusted,  
Gain through powers Your grace conferred  
Ours to use for home and kindred,  
And to spread the gospel Word.  
Open wide our hands, in sharing,  
As we heed Christ's ageless call,  
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
Serving You by loving all.



**Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests**

Gloria Aouelle	Bette Austin	Beverly Bright	Joey Farrell
Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)	Ernestine Kidder	Maria Pezeski (Mother of Leila Galvan)	Timmy Richter (Son of Ruth Ann Barnard)
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**

**Tuesday, August 22**  
1:00 PM Book Club Meeting in the Parlor

**Sunday, August 27**  
9:30 AM Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class  
*Being Reformed Faith Seeking*  
*Understanding: Christian Hope*

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

**Other**

Dawn Neel, Treasurer  
Melissa Samudio, Presbyterian Day School  
Jim Stokes, Assistant Treasurer

**Pastor's Notes**

The art on our Bulletin cover is entitled "Christ among the Pharisees" and was painted c. 1660 by the Flemish master, Jacob Jordaens (1593-1678). The original was purchased at an auction conducted by Sotheby's Hong Kong in 2019 and remains in a private collection.

In Jesus' era, the Pharisees were the most influential Jewish religious leaders of their day. One of the principal tenets of their orthodoxy was that, in addition to the written law contained in the Torah, God also passed on a rich and detailed "oral tradition" to Moses and the Hebrews. Strict adherence to the many picayune details of this tradition was necessary in order to achieve ritual purity (and thus righteousness) sufficient to escape God's condemnation.

It would be supreme error, however, to confuse "the Pharisees" with "the Jews." Just as Luther was careful to distinguish the behavior of corrupt clerics from the doctrine of the true Church, we should be careful to separate the behavior of one ancient sect of Judaism from the Jewish faith.

Jesus condemned the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, but he walked and taught lovingly among the Jews of Palestine. In his famous "seven woes," Jesus ferociously condemned the "scribes and Pharisees" (Matthew 23:13-36, note especially v. 33, "You snakes, you brood of vipers! How can you escape being sentenced to hell?"). He was condemning their behavior which, by the practice of their traditions, was antithetical to the word of God. Jesus' words are a cautionary tale to us today. We must not let our slavish adherence to tradition impede our efforts to walk faithfully in the light of the Good News brought to us by Jesus .

**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