



First Presbyterian Church El Campo, Texas

First Presbyterian Church seeks to provide a spiritual home that proclaims God's presence and love to all people by creating a welcoming environment for Christian spiritual growth through worship, fellowship, and education, joyfully celebrating God's love as disciples serving the community and the world.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
May 22, 2022 **6th Sunday of Easter**

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *All Creatures of Our God and King*
(with *All Things Bright and Beautiful*) arr. Anna Laura Page

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 96)

One: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

All: Sing to the Lord; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

One: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

All: For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

One: For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

All: Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

*HYMN #611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays.

Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,

Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.

Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.

Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.

Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

“Music is an integral part of the worship service—congregational singing especially so. Music as an art engages the heart, mind, and soul in ways that often mediate an experience of the holy. As worship seeks to inspire a deepened faith that equips us to be ever more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, music serves worship well.”

(M. Waschevski)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not sung your praises. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen. (Silent Confession.)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God loves us with an amazing grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN #649 *Amazing Grace* (stanzas 1,2,4)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that
Saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
Now am found, was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
Grace my fears relieved. How precious did that
Grace appear the hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me; his
Word my hope secures. He will my shield and
Portion be as long as life endures.

HEARING OF THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

#188 *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.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, saying, “Let them come to me.”
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Both last Sunday and today, our scripture readings came from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE) translation of the Bible. It is a 2021 edition of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) by National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. While the NRSV has been called the most accurate of English-language translations. The NRSVUE took into account the most up to date scholarly research to translate the ancient texts as accurately as possible while reflecting the cultural differences across time and conditions, creating a text as literally as possible and as freely as necessary.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:12-16, NRSVUE

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

*HYMN *A Medley of Spirituals: Swing Low, Sweet Chariot;
Down to the River to Pray; Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

**Swing low, sweet chariot,
coming for to carry me home;
Swing low, sweet chariot,
coming for the carry me home.**

I looked over Jordan and what did I see?

**Coming for to carry me home;
A band of angels coming after me;
Coming for to carry me home.**

**Swing low, sweet chariot,
coming for to carry me home;
Swing low, sweet chariot,
coming for the carry me home.**

**As I went down to the river to pray,
Studying about that good ol' way.
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord, show me the way!**

**O sisters, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down.**

"Like many African American spirituals, [*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*] mixes the language of biblical narrative with veiled but effective allusions to the hope of escape from slavery, either by crossing rivers into free states or by participating in organized efforts like the Underground Railroad." (GtG, #66)

**O brothers, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.**

**As I went down to the river to pray,
Studying about that good ol' way.
And who shall wear the robe and crown?
Good Lord, show me the way!**

**O sinners, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down.
O sinners, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.**

[REFRAIN]

**Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit
Moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, ev'ry time I feel the Spirit
Moving in my heart, I will pray.**

**Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke,
Out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,
I asked my Lord if all was mine.
[repeat REFRAIN]**

**Jordan river, chilly and cold,
It chills the body but not the soul.
There is but one train upon this track;
It runs to heaven and then right back.
[repeat REFRAIN]**

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Timothy 1:15-17, NRSVUE

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Praise to God is the joyful response to the incomparable gifts of God in our creation, our redemption in Jesus Christ, and our continual sustaining in the Holy Spirit. Thus, praise sung or spoken is central in Christian worship.

*HYMN #12 *Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise* (stanzas 1 and 4)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angles adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 2:1-6, MSG

It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

*HYMN

I'll Fly Away

**Some glad morning when this life is o'er,
I'll fly away;
To a home on God's celestial shore,
I'll fly away.**

REFRAIN:

**I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away.
When I die, Hallelujah, bye and bye,
I'll fly away.**

Back to the Church in the Wildwood, composed & arranged by Mary McDonald, is an energetic Gospel number that begins with an original song reminiscing about church singing in the good old days. Then comes four Gospel favorites: *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*, *Sweet By and By*, *Shall We Gather at the River*, and *The Church in the Wildwood*. A lively piano part supports the voices and keeps things moving. One word describes this medley -- fun!

**When the shadows of this life have gone,
I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown,
I'll fly away.
[Refrain]**

**Just a few more weary days and then,
I'll fly away;
To a land where joy shall never end,
I'll fly away.
[Refrain]**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:16-18, NRSVUE For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

#157 *I Dance in the Morning* (stanzas 1,3,5)

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I
Danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
Came down from heaven and I danced on the earth. At
Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the
Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame. The
Holy people said it was a shame. They
Whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and
Left me there on a cross to die.

Refrain

They cut me own and I leapt up high.
I am the life that will never, never die. I'll
Live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Refrain

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN #354 *Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory*

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword.
God's truth is marching on.

Refrain

Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory,
Glory hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

God has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat
And is sifting out all human hearts before the judgment seat;

O be swift, my soul, to answer; O be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on.

Refrain

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
As he died to make us holy, let us live to make all free,
While God is marching on.

Refrain

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *Back to the Church in the Wildwood*

Mary McDonald

*THE DOXOLOGY

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #664 *Morning Has Broken*

Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has
Spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the
Morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first
Dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet
Garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, born of the
One light Eden saw play! Praise with elation; praise every
Morning, God's recreation of the new day!

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Seek Ye First

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And his righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you,
Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you.
Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Blessed Assurance

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Erin McGee, Preaching
Ted Lashley, musician, adult choir director
Meredith and Taylor Martin, Ushers

SANCTUARY FLOWERS - Flowers placed by Suzanne & Tom Hauser - given to the Glory of the Lord and in thanks for our 50th Wedding Anniversary, and for our three children, their spouses and our granddaughter.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Monday, May 23	6:15 pm Session
Wednesday, May 25	6:30 pm Gathering for Parents
Thursday, May 26	6:15 pm Preschool Board Mtg.
Sunday, May 29	11:00 am Worship

Prayer List

Yvonne Nilson
David Urbis

Diana Whitley
Alexander Stillman

Blair Couey
Ramona Cudd Griffith

We will keep members and friends on our prayer list for one month. After that, please email the church communications assistant to add that person to the list again.

Gathering for Parents of Elementary, Middle, and High School Students

Parents, mark your calendars for these 3 Wednesdays - May 25, June 1, and June 8. We will gather at the church (with childcare provided by RSVP) at 6:30 pm for dinner and discussion. Come join the conversation! Questions? Contact Erin!

Vacation Bible School, June 13-16 at CLC; 9am - 3pm

Children entering grades K-5th may participate and older youth may volunteer: sign up at www.firstpresbyterianec.org beginning May 6.

DONATIONS needed from our church: Tues & Wed: breakfast and supper for 8 counselors & lunch for kids; plus snacks and water bottles. Sign up in the church office or get in touch with Arlette, arlettepustejovsky@gmail.com.

Thank you!