

September 23, 2018
First Presbyterian Church
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Following Jesus, Transforming Life

Mission Statement:

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington is transforming life by glorifying God, following Jesus, and loving our neighbor.

Ask an usher for a large print bulletin, Bible, or hearing enhancement device.

Prayer cards, visitor information cards, and offering envelopes can be found in the pews. Please place them in the offering plate.

Preaching: Rev. Rich McDermott

Liturgist: Rev. Chris Campbell

Guest Organist: Elise Choi

8:30 Lay Leader: Phil Austin

11:00 Lay Leader: Tommy Copeland

The Worship of God

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Words in bold are spoken by the congregation.

§ Invites all who are able to stand.

The flowers are given to the glory of God
by Ann Turney in honor and appreciation
of Isobel and David Peden.

Gathering

Preparation for Worship

John 6:66–69

Because of this, many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.

So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?”

Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.

We have come to believe and know that you are the holy one of God.”

Voluntary

Adagio from Toccata in C Major

J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

His mercies never come to an end;

They are new every morning;

Great is his faithfulness!

Let us worship God.

Introit (11:00)

This Is the Day That the Lord Has Made

Timothy McKinney

§ Hymn 49

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

§ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

O Lord our God, you know us better than we know ourselves. As we come before you now, believers and doubters alike, we all share a deep need, for we are all lost without your grace. Search us, O God, and know our hearts, test us and know our troubled thoughts. Give us true repentance.

Forgive us all our wrongs. Transform us by your spirit to live for you each day, to learn to serve each other and, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord, to come at last to heaven.

Amen.

§ Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel! **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

§ The 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.

§ Passing the Peace

Greet those around you with, **“The peace of Christ be with you.”**

§ Hymn 51

To Abraham and Sarah

LLANFYLLIN

Community Joys and Events

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading

Genesis 12:1–7, 15:1–6, 18

Old Testament page 10

Children's Time (11:00)

Children (age 3 to fourth grade) are invited to go to Kids For Christ (KFC) in room 216.

Anthem (8:30)

We're a Fellowship of Believers
Donna Vickers, soprano Cheryl Harris, piano

Jay Althouse

(11:00)

O How Amiable

Ralph Vaughn Williams

*O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts!
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter in to the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.*

Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:

*Even thy altars O Lord of hosts, my king and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house, they will be always praising thee.*

*The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us.
Prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handiwork.*

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

Scripture Reading

Genesis 17:1–8, 15–22, 21:1–7

Old Testament page 13

The Sermon

Abraham: God Builds a Nation

Rev. McDermott

Responding

Pastoral Prayer 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.

Offertory

All Praise and Thanks to God Most High

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

§ 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.**

§ 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 on 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.**

Sending

§ Hymn 837

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

SHOWALTER

§ Charge and Benediction

the congregation joins hands

§ Postlude

Toccatà

David H. Hegarty



Comments for Contemplation

Abraham: God Builds a Nation

Genesis 12:1–7, 15:1–6, 18; Genesis 17:1–8, 15–22, 21:1–7

1. We will discover today that even our spiritual forebears, who seem like giants in the faith, struggled with being faithful to God, and that they are, in a sense, very regular people like you and me. That means that today, we have the same access to God that Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel all had, and the same potential to change the course of history. But just like it was for them, it will depend on our _____ in the God who revealed himself to Abraham, nearly four thousand years ago.
2. And we Christians who see ourselves as an adopted branch who are also the heirs or inheritors of this blessing, are also blessed, not simply to relish and bask in our personal and special relationship with God, but in order that we might be a blessing to other people and to all families of the planet. Some of you have heard us speak about being a “missional” church, a church that seeks to embrace the “*missio Dei*,” the mission of God, understanding that we are indeed *sent* to be a _____ to others, and not simply to pat ourselves on the back about how blessed we are.
3. Abram traveled to Canaan to a place called Shechem, one of the most ancient towns in the world, that you can visit even today. There was a sacred oak at Moreh, near Shechem. And Abram built an altar to the Lord there. Included in the Story is a verse from Hebrews 11, indicating that Abram did not know where he was going. How many people have you met that come to Arlington, not knowing exactly why, not knowing if they would find a job? I have met a few. These days, some do and some don't find jobs. But for many of them, coming here was an act of _____.
4. As Christians we also know that God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, so that he might pay the price that we owed for our sins, and that whoever believes in him would not perish but would have everlasting life. And that Son would ultimately be raised to life just as Isaac was rescued for life. And the horror of child sacrifice and of crucifixion would be redeemed forever, through the elimination of child sacrifice and the eventual end of crucifixion, and the proclamation of the gospel of _____ grace.
5. The covenant that God made with Abraham is an unconditional one, and it is a covenant of grace. I will give you this land, I will make you great in number and in respect, and I will bless you. No conditions, but, in order to receive it you have to believe it. So Abraham, the father or ancestor of a multitude, believes God and it was accounted to him, or reckoned to him as righteousness, or as a right relationship with God. Paul makes the point that Abraham was _____ by grace through faith just as we are saved by grace through faith.

This week @ FPCA

Sunday 9/23

8:30 a.m. Worship in Chapel
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Fall Festival Luncheon
12:15 p.m. Children's Music Ministries
2:00 p.m. PCGRC

Monday 9/24

3:30 p.m. Blanton Kids Beach Club

Tuesday 9/25

9:00 a.m. Senior Flexibility Class
10:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
6:30 p.m. HOPE Tutoring

Wednesday 9/26

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Quilting Group
6:00 p.m. Ring of Praise Handbells
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday 9/27

6:30 p.m. HOPE Tutoring
7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Friday 9/28

9:00 a.m. Senior Flexibility Class
5:00 p.m. CNT Meeting

Information for the October 7 bulletin should be turned into Kim at the church office by this Monday.

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns:

Esther Albright, Richard Ankele, Elaine Bahn, Jack Bos, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Kevin Chin, Frank Coburn, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Tommy and Kathryn Copeland and family, Michael Deardorff, Laura, Moses and Abe Duffney, Neal Estes, Don Farrell, Bobbie Fowler, Tom Fowler, Joe and Lila Glenn, Jack Gray, Andrew Hydock, Tim Karnes, Pat May, J. Fred Miller, Allen Miller, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Cosme Pacot, J.D. Paulk, Bill and Sue Perry, John Pittman, Nita Price, Jim L. Quick, Marcia Rober, Aileigh Rodriguez, Al Smithson, Kyle Terwilliger, Fred Tucker, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Richard Whitenight, Karl Winter, Mary Jane Wright

Prayers for family serving in the armed forces:

Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, James Dailey, Eric Dill, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Mike Mancini, Amie Murtha, Jack Murtha, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Jason Polk, Ryan Powell, Ryan Regalado, Christopher Young, Robbie Wallace

Prayers for our home-bound members

Prayers for those who do not know Christ

If you have any congregational care needs, please contact Pastor Rich McDermott at the church office 817-274-8286.

For questions about specific concerns listed above, please contact Juanice Young at juanicey@gmail.com or 817-794-5626.

Thank You

Thank you to all who helped Tuesday with the start of the Sanctuary Pew Restoration. We have additional work days on Tuesday, September 25 and Tuesday, October 2 at 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Look for information in the newsletter and bulletin. Thank you, Facilities Team

Children's Ministry Volunteers are needed for the following areas:

Blanton Kids Beach Club needs small group leaders, people who can greet and visit with kids and listen to memory verses, and people who will pray for the school, teachers, students, parents and Beach Club.

Preschool and Kindergarten Sunday School class needs at least 1 and possibly 2 people to help the third and fourth Sunday of every month.

Starting in September we will be adding another elementary Sunday School class for 1st and 2nd graders. We need 2 people each week to lead this class. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kyle Terwilliger at kyle@firstprestexas.org or 817-274-8286.

Confirmation Class

The youth ministry will be starting a new confirmation class on Sunday, September 30, 2018 from 9:45am-10:45am in the Cross Cafe for students in 7th-12th grade. If you have a student that you would like to go through confirmation class or if you have any questions please contact Adrian Rodriguez at adrian@firstprestexas.org or 817.274.8286.

Fall Festival Luncheon

The Fellowship Committee invites you to the Fall Festival Luncheon today following the 11:00 a.m. service. David's Barbecue will be served. All are invited.

Get Yourself (and A Friend) to Church!

On September 23 and 30, 2018, we want EVERYONE to come to worship and, if possible, to bring a friend! Wear your name tag, or we will provide a paper one, so we can greet each other by name. Let's be as welcoming as we possibly can to all that we meet, and especially to our guests and visitors. Remember we are starting our series on THE STORY (a new way to learn the whole Bible) and it is a great opportunity to invite family members, neighbors and friends.

We would love to see all who are able to begin a new season of worshipping together consistently. So many of us only come once or twice per month. We urge everyone in the FPCA family to make it a goal to attend worship three or more times per month, and see if the Lord can use us in a new way for his glory, for our community and for our enjoyment.

THE STORY Sermon Series and Study

Join us as we continue our 31-week overarching tour of God's Word in the entire Bible (pausing for Advent and Christmas), using a 31-chapter book of Scriptures chronologically arranged called THE STORY.

Both the sermon series and several Sunday School classes will follow the themes of THE STORY, which requires reading less than three pages/day, or fifteen pages/week. Copies of THE STORY are available on Sundays in the red hall or in the church office, or you can order one through Christianbook.com.

Books are \$6, Study Guides are \$8. Come and discover how your story connects with God's story of steadfast love and mercy.

MISSION POSSIBLE

An evening supporting the local missions of

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington

Saturday, October 13

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Church Fellowship Hall ~ Tickets \$15 each

Music Ministry

Interested in leading worship through music?

Join the Chancel Choir,
Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble,
Agape Youth choir, or Children's Music Ministries!

Contact Russell Farnell for information:

817-274-8286 or

russell@firstprestexas.org

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Arlington's Walk to End Alzheimer's is right around the corner. The First Presbyterian Church (FPCA) is registered and Homer Reynolds is the team captain.

Saturday, October 6, 2018

at Tarrant County College, SE Campus
2100 Southeast Pkwy, Arlington, TX 76018

Check-in is 8:00 a.m.; Ceremony 9:00 a.m.

Walk at 9:30 a.m.

Register at alz.org/walk OR
alz.org/northcentraltexas or call 800.272.3900.

Come join us as we Walk to End Alzheimer's—a disease that cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed. But what if one day it could? By walking together, we can help make that day happen.

Questions? Call Homer or Joan Reynolds at 817-239-7240.