

January 29, 2017

First Presbyterian Church

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



Glorify. Grow.

Mission Statement:

We, as the Church, are the Body of Christ equipped through prayer by the Holy Spirit to glorify God; through passionate worship, nurturing fellowship, sacrificial service, respectful evangelism, and active discipleship, we encourage and challenge all ages of our congregation and community to grow in relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

8:30 Lay Leader: Phil Austin

11:00 Lay Leader: Adrian Rodriguez

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 Carole and Allen Ray for all men and women
who serve in all branches of our armed forces, and
by Barbara Hughes in honor of the volunteers.

Gathering

Preparation for Worship

"The gospel is not a truth among other truths. Rather, it sets a question mark against all truths." - Karl Barth

"Where I found truth, therefore found I my God, who is the truth itself." - Augustine

*"A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked
and yet would remain silent." - John Calvin*

Prelude

Brightest and Best

Robert Hobby

Call to Worship

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right; and speak the truth from their heart.

Those who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Let us worship God!

Introit (11:00)

Worship Him as One

C. O. Beck

§ Hymn 331

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

NATIONAL HYMN

§ Prayer of Confession (silence, then said together)

Dear Lord, if we claim to have fellowship with Christ, yet walk in darkness, we are liars. Too often we rely on cultural norms, subjective feelings, polls, and social media for truth rather than your Word. Other times, we possess the truth that comes from your Word, but do not live it, share it, or defend it.

Forgive and restore us. Help us to be examples of your Son, Jesus, living not just for ourselves, but for others. Amen.

§ Assurance of Pardon

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

§ Gloria Patri

MEINEKE

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 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

Community Joys and Events

Proclaiming

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, we are hungry for truth, for justice, for love. Nourish us this day with spiritual food-- your Word, your love, your Spirit, your daily bread for our life's journey, in the company of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 1:14–18

New Testament page 92

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)

Be Thou My Vision
Matt Annen, tenor

Bob Chilcott

Anthem (11:00)

The King of Love, My Shepherd Is

Harry R. Shelley

*The King of love my shepherd is whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.
Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth;
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.
Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me;
And on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.
In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.
Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
And oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.*

Scripture Reading

John 8:31–38

New Testament page 101

Sermon

4. The Preservation of the Truth

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

Serenade

Noel Rawsthorne

§ Doxology (Hymn 675)

TALLIS' CANON

**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.**

§ Affirmation of Faith

The Confession of 1967

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with humankind. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another. Amen.

Sending

\$ Hymn 649	Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound	AMAZING GRACE
\$ Charge and Benediction		the congregation joins hands
\$ Postlude	Toccata on “Amazing Grace”	J. Christopher Pardini



Comments for Contemplation

Sermon Series: *The Six Great Ends (or Purposes) of the Church*

4. Preservation of the Truth John 1:14–18; John 8:31–38

1. But when we claim that something is true, we have a different situation, especially when it is said of a religion. Christian as well as other religious claims, are so serious and so demanding personally that adherence to them cannot properly be described as a matter of personal _____.
2. Rather than starting from the place where I felt I had to defend everything that all Christians said about Christianity, I realized that God had revealed himself in history and in Scripture and in nature and experience and could also defend Himself when people were genuine seekers after truth. Jesus Christ and the Christian faith will stand on their own for those willing and ready to make a heartfelt _____ of them.
3. While Christians would agree with postmodernists that there are cultural conditions to most truth claims, we would not agree that all such claims are simply an assertion of power and that there is no ultimate truth to be known and understood. For Christians ultimate truth can be _____ but not owned.
4. The truth that we know is not simply a proposition that can be stated in a sentence. For Christians, the truth is a person, the person of God incarnate, made known to us in Jesus Christ who is the way, the _____ and the life.
5. Jesus said to those Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free.” He is then asked about how they will be made free, since they are not enslaved. Jesus responds by talking about being enslaved to sin. And that thought ends with verse 36: “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free _____.”
6. And when a scholarly article about a new discovery or a new truth emerges, it must be reviewed by one’s peers in the same field before it is published in a peer-reviewed journal. So also in the Christian life, we come to know the truth of Jesus Christ in a _____ of Christians that struggles together.

This week @ FPCA

Sunday 1/29

8:30 a.m.	Worship in Chapel
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary
12:00 p.m.	Congregational Meeting
12:30 p.m.	All-Church Soup Dinner
2:00 p.m.	PCGRC

Monday 1/30

3:30 p.m.	Blanton Kids Beach Club
6:30 p.m.	MPAC Meeting in Parlor

Tuesday 1/31

3:30 p.m.	Ellis Kids Beach Club
6:30 p.m.	HOPE Tutoring

Wednesday 2/1

7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
10:00 a.m.	Quilting Group
6:15 p.m.	Ring of Praise Handbells
7:00 p.m.	Library Group
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday 2/2

6:00 p.m.	The Well
6:30 p.m.	HOPE Tutoring
6:30 p.m.	Preschool Open House

Information for the February 5th bulletin should be turned in to the church office today, or emailed to kim@firstprestexas.org by this Monday.

Prayer Ministry

Esther Albright, Chona Pacot Anwar, Yvonne Babb, Polly Baugh, David Boice, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Crystal Castaneda, Kevin Chin, Jerry Colleps, Lee Carol Copeland, Dorothy Curtis, Ted Dysart, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Tom Fowler, Lila Glenn, David Goff, Susan Graham, A. Jack Gray, Dick Haney, Margery Harrand, Edna and Ken Harris, Brandon Hay, Bill Hayden, Doyle Malone, J. Fred Miller, Allen Miller, Mary Ellen Miller, Pat Mingle, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Bill Moulton, Bill Olsen, Jim L. Quick, Albert Ross, Eulabel Sheldon, Linda Smith, Al Smithson, Bob Spriggs, Brooks and Connie Taylor, BJ Thomas, Jerry Thomas, Allen Underwood, Donna Vickers, Jessica Villarreal, Mary Jane Wright

Prayers for family serving in the armed forces:

Sean Ansley, Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, Eric Dill, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Mike Mancini, Jack Murtha, 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 or his cell phone: 970-218-3689.

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

Sunday Flowers

Dear Congregation: Back in July 2016 we notified you that FPCA will provide flowers only when people sign up and there is a dedication. You all responded wonderfully! We know you love having fresh flowers to make our worship spaces even more beautiful. We have hit a pretty big lull to start out 2017 though, so just a reminder - if you would like to sign up to provide a floral arrangement, there are two flower charts: one outside the Chapel and one outside the southern entrance to the Sanctuary. Flowers are placed first in the Chapel for early service and then moved to the Sanctuary for all to enjoy. Then you may take all or part of them home, or request they be distributed by the Congregational Care Team. The standard cost is \$50.00 per arrangement.

Thank you! FPCA Worship Team

Upcoming Youth Activities

Parents and youth (6th-12th grade) please join us on Sunday, February 5, 2017 at 12:30 p.m. to discuss and gather information about our next Confirmation Class starting on February 12, 2017. Look forward to seeing you there. Please call or email Adrian Rodriguez at 817.274.8286 or adrian@firstprestexas.org.

Save the date: Jr. High Youth Camp trip will be June 18-23

High School Youth Camp trip will be July 10-July 14.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting is today after the 11:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend.

All Church Dinner

Come to the Taco Soup dinner is today in the Fellowship Hall following the Congregational Meeting.

Porchlights

Porchlights is a church fellowship activity. Groups of members join together for dinner one time each month. Porchlights groups host the meals in their home. A Streetlight group visit various restaurants.

If you have not been in Porchlights before but would like to try it now, please call:
Claudia Johnson 817-253-4541 or Sandy Thomlinson 817-522-2080.

If you are interested in being a part of Streetlights, please call Lucy Cleaver 817-480-4519.

Come for dessert and to choose groups today at 3:00 p.m. in the church Parlor.

The Prodigal God Small Group Experience for Lent

Why do this small group study? Has anyone ever told you that “religion” is diametrically opposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ? Timothy Keller, in his book and video called “The Prodigal God” says that very thing. You can begin an unforgettable journey of discovering one of the most powerful yet most misunderstood parables of the Bible -- The Parable of the Prodigal Son. The Prodigal God curriculum and small group experience will help you uncover the essential message of the parable: that the gospel is neither religion nor irreligion, neither morality nor immorality, but something else entirely. If your experience of church and religion has been mostly about obeying rules and trying to become a good and moral person, then this study is for you.

You can: 1) *lead*, 2) *host*, or 3) be a *member* of a small group that meets weekly for six weeks during Lent. We are hoping that most of our small groups will meet in homes or offices or restaurants where we can invite people (“*curious outsiders*”) that might be hesitant to come to a church building. Books and Discussion Guides will be made available for purchase for each participant. The DVD’s will be provided to those leading the small groups and a brief training will be provided for those leading and hosting. Leaders and Hosts can decide the best time and place to meet for six weeks. If you would like to be a part, please contact Kim Lewis in the church office at 817-274-8286, or email her at kim@firstprestexas.org. There will also be opportunities to sign up on Sunday mornings, starting in February.

The Six Great Ends of the Church

Come join Pastor Rich in both preaching and teaching a new series on “The Six Great Ends [or Purposes] of the Church.” The Class will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 AM for six weeks, and includes a DVD video with a variety of Presbyterian leaders from around the country. The sermons will follow the same topics. The Six Great Ends have guided American Presbyterians for over 100 years.

The preaching and teaching topics are:

Jan. 8: Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind;

Jan. 15: Shelter, Nurture and Spiritual Fellowship of the Children of God;

Jan. 22: Maintenance of Divine Worship;

Jan. 29: Preservation of the Truth;

Feb. 5: Promotion of Social Righteousness;

Feb. 12: Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the World.

Mark your calendars and join us for this important series of classes and sermons that will challenge us to a broader view of our mission as Jesus’ followers.

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be
June 5-9, 2017

Preschool Open House

The First Presbyterian Preschool will hold an Open House on Thursday, February 2nd at 6:30 p.m.