

May 26, 2019

# First Presbyterian Church

Sixth Sunday of Easter



## 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

Organist: Shina Heo

8:30 Lay Leader: Jonathan Terwilliger

11:00 Lay Leader: Ron MacLeod

# *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 Jay Graham for Sgt. Ted Ralph Bones,  
killed in action June 8, 1951, but not forgotten.

## *Gathering*

Preparation for Worship

*Eternal God, you remain constant through all of our striving, and patient with our ceaseless prayers.  
We seek your wisdom, yearn for your justice, and crave your blessing, for our own sakes and for the sake  
of the world. By the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Christ, who prays with us. Amen.*

Prelude

The Man Is Ever Blessed

Benjamin Culli

Call to Worship

How I love God's law! God's commandments and teachings are always with me.

**How sweet are God's words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

God's new covenant is written on our hearts so that we may all know God,  
young and old, powerful and powerless alike.

**How sweet are God's words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

In the Word we hear the good news of the gospel:

**Salvation is ours through faith in Christ Jesus.**

Let us worship God.

Introit (11:00)

We've a Story to Tell

MESSAGE

§ Hymn 396

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

HOLY MANNA

§ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

**Gracious God, we confess that we do not meditate on your commands and teachings all day long.  
We do not keep your word before us always and in all things. Instead, we turn away from your  
demanding truth and wander toward easier options. Forgive us, we pray, for pursuing our own  
desires rather than yours.**

**Forgive us for growing weary in following you; for failing to pray and work tirelessly for justice;  
for losing hope in your power to transform the powers of this world. Tune our ears to the  
sound of your justice. Turn our hearts to your commandments and word of grace. Do not  
remember our sin, but remember your mercy forever. We pray in Christ's name. 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 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

Community Joys and Events

## ***Proclaiming***

Scripture Reading	Acts 12:20–23	New Testament page 131
Children's Time (11:00)	Children (age 3 to fourth grade) are invited to go to Kids For Christ (KFC) in room 216.	
Anthem (11:00)	Simply, Alleluia	Tom Fettke
Scripture Reading	2 Timothy 3:14–4:5	New Testament page 213
The Sermon	The Reliability of the New Testament	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.**

The Offering of our Tithes, Gifts, and Lives

Offertory	Christ the Lamb of God	Marcel Dupré
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§ 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 Second Helvetic Confession 5.001

**We believe and confess the canonical Scriptures of the holy prophets and apostles  
of both Testaments to be the true Word of God, and to have sufficient authority of themselves,  
not of men.  
For God himself spoke to the fathers, prophets, apostles, and still speaks to us through the Holy  
Scriptures. Amen.**

## ***Sending***

§ Hymn 295	Go to the World!	SINE NOMINE
§ Charge and Benediction	the congregation joins hands	
Postlude	Sonata No. 4 I Allegro con brio	Felix Mendelssohn



(12:00) Narthex at Noon

## *Comments for Contemplation*

### The Reliability of the New Testament

Acts 12:20–23; 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5

1. F.F. Bruce reminds us that “the Christian gospel is not primarily a code of ethics or a [philosophical] system; it is first and foremost good news, and as such it was proclaimed by its earliest preachers.... And this good news is intimately bound up with the historical order, for it tells how, for the world’s redemption, God entered into history, the eternal came into time, [and] the kingdom of heaven invaded the realm of earth, in the great events of the incarnation, \_\_\_\_\_ and resurrection of Jesus the Christ....”
2. The four gospels and the letters of Paul had been settled on as inspired scripture for over 150 years by the time of Nicaea in A.D. 325. The 27 books that are in our New Testament today were ratified by this Council, but they were not chosen by them. In a very real sense, the books of our New Testament were chosen by the Lord through their use in the churches, because they emerged among the churches as the documents through which the church received \_\_\_\_\_ and apostolic testimony to Jesus Christ.
3. We have over 5,000 manuscripts and fragments of the New Testament documents, many of them dating to within a couple of centuries of the time when they were written in the first century. The oldest fragment we have is a part of the gospel of John, and it dates about A.D. 130, or within 40 years of the composition of the gospel.... All of Paul’s letters were written in the fifties and early sixties, and the gospels were not long after that. The text of the New Testament is, without qualification, the best-attested text of any \_\_\_\_\_ in ancient history.
4. We read from Acts 12:20-23 this morning about the death of King Herod Agrippa I (10 B.C.-A.D.44), who was the grandson of King Herod the Great, and who had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword (Acts 12:2). This story might seem legendary to some because it is recorded in grotesque and highly improbable terms. Jim Edwards writes that “because Agrippa allowed himself to be revered as divine, the book of Acts tells us that ‘an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.’ However, the \_\_\_\_\_ historian Josephus not only corroborates this ghastly account, but embellishes it.
5. And he gives a warning that may be for us as well. “For the time is coming,” Paul writes, “when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths.” I hope that everyone here knows the importance of reading, knowing and studying the Bible, so that God can speak to us through it. Do you know that you can rely on the Bible and can you tell others why it is \_\_\_\_\_?

## ***This week @ FPCA***

Sunday 5/26

8:30 a.m.	Worship in Chapel
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary
2:00 p.m.	PCGRC

Monday 5/27

**Preschool & Church Office Closed for  
Memorial Day**

Tuesday 5/28

9:00 a.m.	Senior Flexibility Class
10:00 a.m.	Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday 5/29

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

Friday 5/31

9:00 a.m.	Senior Flexibility Class
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Information for the June 9 bulletin should be turned in to  
Kim at the church office by this Monday.

## ***Prayer Ministry***

### ***Prayers for those with health and other concerns:***

Apana Agha, Esther Albright, Elaine Bahn, Jack Bos, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Carl Carpenter, Vannah Caylor, Kevin Chin, Frank Coburn, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Michael Deardorff, Laura, Moses and Abe Duffney, Wasim Abusaeef, Don Farrell, Bobbie Fowler, Tom Fowler, The Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, Jack Gray, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes, Gary Lindley, Pat May, J. Fred Miller, Allen Miller, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Cosme Pacot, J.D. Paulk, Betsy Pense, Sue Perry, Nita Price, Jim L. and Jo Ann Quick, Sarah Rabb, Jim Reynolds, Joan and Homer Reynolds, Al Smithson, Brooks and Connie Taylor, Kyle Terwilliger, Sara Van Lieshout, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Richard Whitenight, Karl Winter, Mary Jane Wright, Bob Zakrzewski

### ***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, Peyton Steeno, 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 Marge Dawson at mdawsonarltx@att.net or 817-980-6825.



## Preschool and Church Office Holiday

The Preschool and Church Office will be closed Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day.

## Summer Celebration and Youth Bake Sale

The Summer Celebration (church picnic) will be Sunday, July 7,  
at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Coinciding with the dinner, the Youth will have a Bake Sale at 12 noon outside the Fellowship Hall.

We are in need of baked goods to be donated and any  
generous monetary donations on that day will help support kids for camp.

Come join us for some great food and fellowship!

## Vacation Bible School - Registration

Monday - Friday June 10-14  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
for children 4 years old to 6th grade.

**You can register online at:  
[firstprestexas.org/vbs](http://firstprestexas.org/vbs)**

Down On The Farm petting zoo will be here  
Monday & Friday from 8:30-9:30 a.m.

## Preschool Summer Camp 2019

June 10 through August 2  
Ages 6 weeks through 3rd Grade  
Monday-Friday 8:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Contact the Preschool to Register at  
817-274-4051

## Youth - Summer Camp/Conference Donations

It's that time of year again and we are preparing to take our youth back to The Great Escape (middle school camp/conference). Please help us get our youth to camp this year, especially those from Carter Jr. High.

The cost to take a middle school student to camp is \$435. Any donation that the Lord puts on your heart to give will help us greatly. The youth and youth leaders thank you in advance for your all of your support!

## Snacks for Camp/Conference Trips

Another area of need for our youth summer camp/conference trips is snacks and bottled water. We are working with local grocery stores to see if they will donate snacks and water, but we will need as much help as possible.

If you would like to donate any snacks or water, please drop them off any time between now and Friday, June 20th at the church office or Adrian Rodriguez's office. Thank you so much for your help!

## Rent-A-Student

Do you have some work you need done around the house? Need someone to take care of that work for you? Well look no more! The Well Students, our very FPCA Youth, would like to take care of those tasks for you. All donations will go towards helping kids go to camp/conference this summer.

Please contact Adrian Rodriguez at [adrian@firstprestexas.org](mailto:adrian@firstprestexas.org) or 817-734-2726 to schedule an appointment.

## Senior Flexibility Class

Come get fit with us! The Senior Flexibility Class meet on Tuesday and Friday from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There is no charge, but participants will be responsible for purchasing and storing their own exercise equipment. If interested, contact Thomas Dombrowsky at 817-287-9773 or [tomasdom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tomasdom@sbcglobal.net).