

February 23, 2020

# First Presbyterian Church

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



## 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

8:30 Lay Leader: Clay Carlisle

11:00 Lay Leader: Chelsea Campbell

# *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.

Please silence all phones and devices

## **Gathering**

Preparation for Worship

Donald English

*We now begin to see why Jesus in Mark's story would not try to persuade people to commit themselves by impressing them about messiahship, or encouraging them to spread stories about his identity or of his miracles. Only now are the grounds for faith properly in place. Jesus interpreted messiahship in terms of the suffering servant because death and resurrection, as the redeeming work for the many, was what he was really here to achieve. They could not truly know till they understood that. This is why seeing, they did not perceive, and hearing, they did not understand.*

Voluntary

I Need Thee Every Hour

Dale Wood

Call to Worship

Psalms 19

Come into this sacred space to worship God

**whose teaching is perfect; whose directions are sure.**

Come into this holy place to worship God

**whose standards are right; whose commandment is clear, whose judgements are true.**

Come with holy fear, to be given life, and to be made wise,  
to have your heart stirred and your eyes opened wide.

**Come, let us worship God.**

Introit (11:00)

Sing to the Lord a New Song

arr. Hal Hopson

Hunter Hendrickson, Music Ministry Intern

*Sing to the Lord, sing a new song.*

*All the earth, in joyful chorus, sing, O sing a new song.*

*Lift up your voice, let all rejoice, give praise to the Lord.*

*With harp and trumpet, sing forth your joyful praise.*

*Let hills rejoice, let rivers clap their hands; let fields with gladness ring, unite in joyful praise.*

*Sing hallelujah, amen!*

§ Hymn 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

§ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

**Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called us to be a servant people, but we do not do what you command. We are often silent when we should speak, and useless when we could be useful. Have mercy on us, O God.**

**Forgive us and free us from sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 462

I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

Community Joys and Events

### ***Proclaiming***

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 33:13–22

Old Testament page 507

Children’s Time (11:00)

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

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 16:1–8

New Testament page 54

The Sermon

How Will It End?

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

Largo e spiccato from Concerto in D Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach

§ 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.**

§ Responsive Affirmation of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 45

How does Christ’s resurrection benefit us?

**First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share  
in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death.**

**Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life.**

**Third, Christ’s resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection. Amen.**

### ***Sending***

§ Hymn 246

Christ is Alive!

TRURO

§ Charge and Benediction

the congregation joins hands

Postlude

Concerto in D Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach



## *Comments for Contemplation*

### How Will It End? Psalm 33:13–22; Mark 16:1–8

1. The gospel according to Mark may be the most important gospel account that we have. Both Matthew and Luke used Mark directly and extensively in writing their own gospels, indicating great deference and \_\_\_\_\_ for what Mark had written. It is believed that the author of this gospel may well have been John Mark, the cousin of Barnabas, who is mentioned in no fewer than seven places in other New Testament writings.
2. Last week we saw how the cross is central to Mark's point of how we are to understand Jesus as the Son of God. We also began to understand that we must see an ultimate and spiritual reality as we look at the crucifixion, because those who look only with their physical eyes, and do not look with humble hearts and eyes of faith, do not see the incredible act of love and atonement taking place before them. In the cross of Jesus Christ, we begin to appreciate that the ultimate reality of God's redemptive love and \_\_\_\_\_ transcends the worst tragedy we can imagine.
3. Perhaps like Manchester, John Mark died before he was finished, either killed by the hand of henchmen of the emperors Nero or Vespasian, or simply by natural causes. Perhaps the original manuscript of Mark, a codex which we do not have, was damaged in transporting it around the house churches in Rome, and the end was torn off and \_\_\_\_\_, leaving us only with verse eight which even sounds in the Greek as if it ends in mid-sentence.
4. But there is one other consideration we have to grapple with, and that is the notion that either Mark or the Lord or both intended for us to have only these eight verses to deal with as we consider the empty tomb ourselves. Could it be that Mark intended, as he has elsewhere in this book, to surprise us, to shock us, and to shake us up a bit with this abrupt ending? Imagine for a moment. If this \_\_\_\_\_ were all we had from the gospels in terms of knowing of Jesus' resurrection, would you believe it?
5. The truth is, if it weren't for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we would not be here today, and there would be no Christian church anywhere in the world. We would not celebrate Christmas because it was the resurrection of Jesus that created the community that researched and wrote down the \_\_\_\_\_ narratives about Jesus. The theology of the incarnation, which is highlighted at Christmas, is nevertheless dependent on the theology of the cross and resurrection, which is highlighted at Easter.
6. The stunning part of this abrupt ending to Mark, is that it seems to be addressed to us relatively comfortable Americans in the 21st century; because we also have trouble believing and obeying. How many of you are still just starting to believe what the Bible teaches? How many of you, are still just getting to know the Lord in a personal way? How many of you, when told to share the good news of Jesus and his love, are still seized with terror and amazement, and say \_\_\_\_\_ to anyone because you are afraid?

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

Sunday 2/23

8:30 a.m.	Worship in Chapel
9:30 a.m.	Larry Thomas
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
9:45 a.m.	New Member Class
11:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary
12:10 p.m.	Transform Vision Summary
2:00 p.m.	PCGRC

Monday 2/24

3:30 p.m.	Kids Beach Club-Blanton
6:00 p.m.	MPAC Meeting

Tuesday 2/25

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

Wednesday 2/26

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

Thursday 2/27

4:10 p.m.	Wyldlife
6:30 p.m.	HOPE Tutoring
7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting

Friday 2/28

9:00 a.m.	Senior Flexibility Class
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Saturday 2/29

10:00 a.m.	Financial Peace University
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Information for the March 8 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, Elaine Bahn, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Vannah Caylor, Frank and Allena Coburn, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Michael Deardorff, The Farnell Family, Don Farrell, The Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, Olivia Gottmann, Andrew Hydock, James Irons, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Barbara Mooers, J.D. Paulk, Betsy Pense, Nita Price, Jim L. Quick, Jillian Reynolds, Joan and Homer Reynolds, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Karl Winter

***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, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Jason Polk, Ryan Powell, Ryan Regalado, Peyton Steeno, Christopher Young, Robbie Wallace

***Prayers for our home-bound members:***

Esther Albright, Suzette Armstrong, Shirley Bragg, Bobbie and Tom Fowler, Jack Gray, Marge Harrand, Barbara Hughes, Barbara Kraemer, Jeanne Malone, Allen and Charlene Miller, Cary and Ruth Moore, Carrie and Cosme Pacot, Ann Pitstick, Al Smithson, Betty and Jack Snowden, Lorraine Swanson, Brooks and Connie Taylor, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight, Mary Jane Wright.

***Prayers for those who do not know Christ***

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

## ***Staff Directory***

Rich McDermott	Senior Pastor	<a href="mailto:rich@firstprestexas.org">rich@firstprestexas.org</a>
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## ***Fixin' to Join: An Adventure in Christian Community***

**Today begins the 4-week New Members class  
at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

### **Week One: "Your Story: A Journey with the Living Christ"**

—This is a chance to share our journeys of faith with one another and learn about one another.

### **Week Two: "On Being a Christian in a Post-modern World"**

—What it means to be a Christian and why it is so vitally important in today's world.

### **Week Three: "Christian, Protestant, Reformed, Presbyterian"**

—This will help us understand the blessings and issues of our particular tradition in the family of faith.

### **Week Four: "On Being Sent: Relational Ministry, Missional Discipleship and Incarnational Witness"**

—A chance to learn about gifts, equipping, ministry and mission.

## **YouthCUE Concert Live Stream**

Our newest ensemble, the Youth Music Ministries Voices will join church choirs from all over Texas in Waco this Sunday for a festival of youth choirs.

You are invited to watch the live stream online by clicking on this link on Sunday, February 23rd, at 3:00 p.m.

<https://clevr.me/hosted/youthcue>



# **TRANSFORM**

## **Lenten Services**

- \* Ash Wednesday Service - February 26, 6:30 p.m.  
in the Chapel
- \* Palm Sunday - April 5, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- \* Maundy Thursday Service - April 9, 7:00 p.m.  
in the Chapel
- \* Good Friday Service - April 10, 7:00 p.m.  
in the Sanctuary
- \* Easter Sunday - April 12, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. services  
Easter Breakfast will be between services from  
9:30 to 10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

## **Join us for a TRANSFORM Vision Summary**

If you missed coming to one of our three Round Table Discussions for our TRANSFORM Capital Campaign, then please join us for your chance to hear a summary of the Vision (but without the tour and the meal and the longer discussions).

**Dates and times for a TRANSFORM Vision Summary:**  
(especially for those who missed the Round Table gatherings)

Today at 12:10 PM in the Fellowship Hall (After 11:00 Worship)

## **Rev. Larry Thomas in Room 204**

Reverend Dr. Larry Thomas will continue speaking during the Sunday school hour through February. His topics will be:

February 23: "The Shroud of Turin"

Larry's talk will begin at 9:30AM in Room 204. Everyone is invited.

## **HOPE Tutoring - NIGHT OF HOPE Fundraiser**

HOPE Tutoring is having its annual NIGHT OF HOPE fundraiser Saturday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Tickets are \$45 each for dinner, AHS Jazz Band, speaker Dr. Bill Coppola-TCC SE and silent auction and raffles.

Online reservations at [www.hopetutoring.org/noh](http://www.hopetutoring.org/noh) or contact Dawsons, Le Blancs or Peñas if you have questions.