

October 4, 2020

# First Presbyterian Church

## The 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.

Preaching: Rev. Rich McDermott

Liturgist: Rev. Chris Campbell

# *The Worship of God*

11:00 a.m.

The greenery is offered to the Glory of God.

**Words in bold are spoken by the congregation.**

§ Invites all who are able to stand.

Please silence all phones and devices

## **Gathering**

Gathering Music

Preparation for Worship

*Holy God, Maker of heaven and earth, out of your great love for the world you sent us your beloved Son – but we sent him to his death. Have mercy on us, O Lord; forgive us, renew us, restore us so that we may be the people of your vineyard and bear good fruit for your holy realm; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

Call to Worship

Whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

**I regard everything as loss because to the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.**

As the Scriptures promise: the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

**This is the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes.**

§ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

**Loving God, you have planted us like a vineyard on a fertile hill. You cleared away the stones, planted us with choice vines, and kept watch over us by night and day. But we have not yielded the good fruit that you expected or desired. We are overgrown with sin, choked with violence and injustice.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Uproot our evil, prune away our sin, and shower upon us the gift of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

§ Assurance of Pardon

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

Anthem

Break Thou the Bread of Life  
Jane Leathem, soprano

William Sherwin

Community Joys and Events

## ***Proclaiming***

First Scripture Reading	Acts 22:17-26	New Testament page 143
Second Scripture Reading	Acts 23:6-12	New Testament page 144
The Sermon	Courage to Bear Witness For Christ	Rev. McDermott

## ***The Table***

The Offering of our Tithes, Gifts, and Lives

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

The Bread and Cup

*11:00 – Eat the bread as it is served. Hold the cup to drink together. While passing the elements, you may say, “**the body of Christ, broken for you,**” and, “**the blood of Christ, shed for you.**”*

Prayer after Communion

## ***Sending***

§ Charge and Benediction

Postlude	Preludium in C Minor	Johann Sebastian Bach
----------	----------------------	-----------------------



***Sermon Notes***

Courage to Bear Witness For Christ      Acts 22:17-26; Acts 23:6-12

## Offering

If you would like to give your tithes and offerings in person today, please use the envelope provided in the bulletin. You can drop the envelope off in the offering plate while departing the sanctuary when the service is completed. Please feel free to continue giving as you have during this time whether that is mailing checks or giving online. We are most thankful for your generous support!

## Important Hygiene Information to Remember

For now, in order to keep our church gatherings safe during the era of the coronavirus, remember, please:

1. If you are sick, stay home.
2. If your health is compromised, stay home.
3. Wash your hands with soap and water (20 seconds) regularly throughout the day, and especially before gathering.
4. Minimize touches to your face.
5. Wear a face covering and maintain social distance from those outside your family.
6. Use hand sanitizer if hand washing is unavailable.

At this point in time, we believe these are the appropriate measures to take, and we urge you to continue to come to worship and praise the Lord as one Body in Christ. We realize these may need to change in the future. Thank you for your understanding.

## Candy Donations Needed for Alternative to Trunk or Treat

We will have a Fall Candy Celebration on October 31 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. This will be an alternative to Trunk or Treat. It will be a good time to do something special for our FPCA families and the community. Our goal is to put together 500 bags of candy. Each bag will also have a flier in it telling a little about FPCA and letting people know that we love them and how they can join us in-person or online for worship. We will set-up a table or trunk and have a couple of people giving out the bags on October 31 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. We will meet in the church parking lot by the Preschool. It will be great to see the people, give them a cheerful hello, and the opportunity to get out and do something fun and different. We need candy to make this happen. If you would like to help by donating candy you can bring it to the church office or Preschool during the week or drop it off when you come for a worship service.

## Preschool Teachers Needed

We are currently looking for qualified teachers to fill part-time positions for our Infant, Toddler, and Pre-K classes. If you are passionate about working with children and want to provide them a safe environment that they may grow socially, emotionally, cognitively, and are given opportunities to learn about God's love, then First Presbyterian Preschool Arlington is just the place for you. We are accepting applications Monday through Friday from 7:30am -5:30pm. You may apply online at [www.fppsarlington.com](http://www.fppsarlington.com), call us at 817-274-4051, or simply stop by the office. We are looking forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Preschool Staff

## Moment for Hope Invitation

CAN YOU DO A MOMENT FOR HOPE? Would you like to try doing a Moment For Hope? As you probably know, we encourage our people from FPCA to reflect upon a hopeful passage taken from Scripture. It is a 3-5 minute recording of yourself, using your smartphone turned sideways, which then you can upload to Google Drive on your phone and share with [eric@firstprestexas.org](mailto:eric@firstprestexas.org) (Eric Gottmann, our social media director). If you are interested in giving it a try, we can help you. Please volunteer by sending an email to Kim Lewis, [kim@firstprestexas.org](mailto:kim@firstprestexas.org). Thank you so much!

## Fall & Winter Youth Ministry Plan

It has been a blessing to see how our youth ministry continues to maneuver through this pandemic with grace! We know that ministry for our youth will continue to look a little different during this season, but we will continue to press forward. Go to this link: [tiny.cc/xjoxsz](http://tiny.cc/xjoxsz) to see what we have planned for the youth ministry this fall and winter. Blessings in Christ, Adrian Rodriguez