

October 11, 2020

First Presbyterian Church

The Nineteenth 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

Preparation for Worship

Almighty God, you brought creation into being through Christ, and in Christ all things find their purpose. Open our eyes to see the world as your gift and to use your gifts for the sake of Christ, that through the witness of our lives the gospel may be proclaimed to all people. Amen.

Gathering Music

Shina Heo

Call to Worship

God is good and loving to the faithful.

Give thanks and praise for all that God has done for us.

God is good!

Praise the Lord!

§ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

Merciful God, we confess that we have been distracted with many things and have not loved you with our whole heart and strength. We have not paid attention to your Word. We have allowed the poor to be neglected and the weak to be oppressed. We have been impatient in worship and insincere in our dealings with others. We have ignored sins of injustice and disregarded warnings of judgment.

Forgive us, we pray, and teach us repentance. Free us from our habits of pride, and make us steadfast in faith, that we may live as those who are reconciled with you in Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom we pray. Amen.

§ Assurance of Pardon

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

Anthem

O Lord, You Are My God and King
Russell Farnell, tenor

Hubert Parry

Community Joys and Events

Proclaiming

First Scripture Reading	Eph. 3:14–21; Col. 1:15–20	New Testament page 193
Second Scripture Reading	Matt. 22:34–40	New Testament page 25
The Sermon	TRANSFORM – The Change To Which Jesus Calls Us DEEPENING DIVINE RELATIONSHIP/GROWING LOVE FOR JESUS	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.

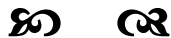
§ Affirmation of Faith

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Sending

§ Charge and Benediction

Postlude	Fugue in E Minor	Johann Sebastian Bach
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Comments for Contemplation

TRANSFORM – The Change To Which Jesus Calls Us Deepening Divine Relationship/Growing Love for Jesus

Eph. 3:14–21; Col. 1:15–20; Matt. 22:34–40

1. God loves me, Jesus is my Savior, I've been forgiven for my sins, and my life in heaven will come eventually. So glad I have that taken care of. Check. While there is the beginning of a relationship with Jesus here, there is no maturity, there is no reciprocity, no gratitude, no sense of awe and praise and worship and humility. A mature relationship with God in Jesus Christ must celebrate with others what God has done, and that person is then propelled into the world to make a _____.
2. The earliest Christian confession was atomic in its brevity: **Jesus is Lord**. This carpenter from Nazareth, who called and taught disciples, who healed people, who died on a cross like a common criminal and who was miraculously raised from the dead was actually the one true God incarnate, God in the flesh, the same God who _____ himself to Moses at Mt. Sinai as the Lord, the God of Israel. This God was revealed to the world as our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Historian O.M. Bakke wrote a study called *When Children Became People: The Birth of Childhood in Early Christianity*, in which he noted that in the ancient world, children didn't get named until the eighth day or so. Up until then there was a chance that the infant would be killed or left to die of exposure....This custom changed because of a group of people who remembered that they were followers of a man who said, 'Let the little _____ come to me.' [Ortberg]
4. "In time the movement he started would give rise to libraries and then guilds of learning. Eventually Oxford and Cambridge and Harvard and Yale and virtually the entire Western system of education and scholarship would arise because of his followers. The insistence on universal literacy would grow out of an understanding that this Jesus, who was himself a teacher who highly praised truth, told his followers to enable every person in the world to _____." [Ortberg]
5. And Isaiah gets it, just as we should or at least, we will one day, get it, when he says, "Woe is me, I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" So here we have the essence and the beginning of worship: A sense of the utter holiness and apart-ness of the God that we worship, of our unworthiness to stand before this God, and a _____ of our sin in the presence of God and God's holiness.

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.

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!

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 (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. Thank you so much!

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, call us at 817-274-4051, or simply stop by the office. We are looking forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Preschool Staff

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.

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 to see what we have planned for the youth ministry this fall and winter. Blessings in Christ, Adrian Rodriguez