

October 25, 2020

# First Presbyterian Church

Reformation Sunday



## 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

Shina Heo

Preparation for Worship

*Almighty God, in the self-giving love of Christ you have revealed the path of salvation.  
Give us courage to deny our selfish desire and bear the cross of discipleship, that we  
may live as those who have no fear of death and receive the joy of everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Call to Worship

The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.

**Praise the Lord!**

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Praise the Lord!**

§ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

**God of mercy, we confess that, like the disciples, we set our minds not on divine  
things but on human things. Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than  
we need. Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers.  
Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation.  
Forgive us that we may gain new life in you, for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we  
pray. Amen.**

§ Assurance of Pardon

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

Anthem

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God  
Russell Farnell, tenor

Hans Leo Hassler

Community Joys and Events

## *Proclaiming*

First Scripture Readings      1 Chronicles 21:24; Romans 12:1-2    Old Test. pg 380, New Test. pg 161

Second Scripture Reading      Matthew 16:24-26      New Testament page 18

The Sermon      Committing our Lives to Christ/Being a Living Sacrifice    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.**

## *Sending*

§ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Toccatà

Charles-Marie Widor



## *Comments for Contemplation*

### TRANSFORM – The Change To Which Jesus Calls Us Committing our Lives to Christ/Being a Living Sacrifice

1 Chronicles 21:24; Romans 12:1–2; Matthew 16:24–26

1. In the time of Jesus, this city was known as Caesarea Philippi, and that is where the exchange in Matthew, chapter 16, takes place. It may have looked something like this second picture (2) when Jesus and his disciples were there. Faithful Jews normally avoided this area because of the wide variety of pagan rituals and sinful practices of the bizarre religions that worshiped here. But Jesus intentionally brought his disciples to this place to \_\_\_\_\_ himself to them as the Lord’s Messiah.
2. Jesus then gives them one the most paradoxical and yet profound lessons ever taught in history. He told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” If you were hearing that for the first time, what would you be thinking? Wait, we don’t get a prominent position in your kingdom, Jesus? We have to deny ourselves, rather than \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, and what do you mean by taking up a cross?
3. But let’s not be blind. Rest assured that you are not the only one pulling. God is faithful, and many of us are listening to Him. For four years we have talked about needing to do a capital campaign to repair, refurbish, renew and re-do this wonderful building that I call our \_\_\_\_\_ station. Now the time has come to do it, so we can reach out to new generation.
4. King David understood that giving to the Lord’s work was a matter of the heart, and it was costly, and required involvement and sacrifice from the giver. David insisted on paying full price for the things a man named Ornan wanted to donate for sacrifice. David said to Ornan, “I will not take for the Lord what is yours, nor offer burnt offerings that \_\_\_\_\_ me nothing.”
5. Friends: the Lord is calling us to be living sacrifices, who live out our commitment to God in our everyday lives, caring for others, losing our lives for Jesus, offering not animals, but our very selves, souls and bodies for the sake of the gospel. We are to be transformed, not by the \_\_\_\_\_ of our minds, but by the renewing of our minds, so that we can truly discern God’s will, which is good and acceptable and perfect, unlike our own wills.

## Thanksgiving Basket Program

October 18 through November 15 First Presbyterian Church is again joining Arlington Charities in feeding the needy during Thanksgiving.

This year our Thanksgiving program has changed. Instead of shopping for the food we will be donating money to Arlington Charities.

We estimate that each basket costs about \$40.00, including the turkey and pie donation. In years past if you have filled multiple baskets for this program, simply make your monetary donation in the amount of \$40.00 per basket. As always, donations in any amount are welcomed.

Please make checks payable to **Arlington Charities**, designated “**Thanksgiving 2020.**” Please mail your checks to FPCA or put them in the offering basket.

Thanks ~ The Mission and Evangelism Team

## 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!

## 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 Silly Hat Parade

In lieu of dressing up in scary costumes for Halloween, the preschool will have its annual Silly Hat Parade on October 30, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The children will wear a hat that they have made or bought and wear it to school. They will parade from their classrooms down the hallway into the Fellowship Hall to show off their “silly hats.”

## 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.