

November 15, 2020

First Presbyterian Church

The Twenty-Fourth 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: Betsy McDermott

Organist: Shina Heo

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

O God, the gift of your Son is the life-changing treasure that is truly beyond all value. Your generosity and goodness astound us! Inspire us to teach your commandments and share your gospel, that all may enter into the joy of Christ. Amen.

Gathering Music

Shina Heo

Call to Worship

Clothe yourselves with faith and love; be confident in your salvation in Christ Jesus.

The Lord is with us!

Let us worship God.

Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

Almighty God, you have shown us the ways of justice and nurtured us with love. Even so, we have not lived according to your will. When we are oppressed or unjustly accused, we cling to fear and forget to trust in your deliverance. When we are giddy with power and abuse the rights of others, we hold tight to our privilege and forget your laws.

Have mercy on us, Lord, for we are weak and prone to disobedience. Hear our confession, and respond to us with kindness, that we might turn to you again, walk in the light, and live in peace; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

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

Anthem

Peace Like a River
Russell Farnell, tenor

Mach Wilberg

Community Joys and Events

Proclaiming

First Scripture Reading	Isaiah 45:18–19	Old Testament page 675
Second Scripture Reading	John 1:14–18, 8:31–36	New Testament page 92, 101
The Sermon	What the Church Has To Say That No One Else Can Say The Truth Shall Make You Free	Rev. McDermott

Responding

Offering Moment

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

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sending

§ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Built on the Rock

arr. Benjamin Culli



Comments for Contemplation

What the Church Has To Say That No One Else Can Say The Truth Shall Make You Free

Isaiah 45:18–19; John 1:14–18, 8:31–36

1. It is somewhat amazing to me to hear virtually everyone, on all sides of the political spectrum today, claiming that they are speaking the truth, even when they are saying totally opposite things. It is disheartening that the discourse in our country is so over-the-top and shallow. That is part of the reason why we Christians have to be wise as serpents and innocent as _____. We need to be the adults in the room. We need to be seekers of the truth, the truth that makes us free.
2. But when we claim that something is true, we have a different situation, especially when it is said of a religion. Christian as well as other religious claims, are so serious and so demanding personally that adherence to them cannot properly be described as a matter of personal _____. If we are going to claim that Christianity is true, and we do, then we should understand how it is true, and how that truth can transform us and others, because it does.
3. Rather than starting from the place where I felt I had to defend everything that all Christians said about Christianity, I realized that God had revealed himself in history and in Scripture and in nature and experience and could also defend Himself when people were genuine _____ after truth. Jesus Christ and the Christian faith will stand on their own for those willing and ready to make a heartfelt examination of them.
4. While Christians would agree with postmodernists that there are cultural conditions to most truth claims, we would not agree that all such claims are simply an assertion of power and that there is no ultimate truth to be known and understood. For Christians ultimate truth can be _____ but not owned.
5. In the Christian life, we come to know the truth of Jesus Christ in a community of Christians that struggles together, usually in a small group of believers, to discern God's _____ and God's way in Scripture, in nature, in history and in spiritual experience. We need each other in the Church to rightly know Jesus and to follow him. It's how we come to know the truth that sets us free.

Thanksgiving Basket Program - Last Week to Participate!

Today is the last day to be a part of the Thanksgiving Baskets!

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

Give Thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:18 says “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” What are you thankful to God for? Please join us in sharing what you are thankful to God for. We will have tri-fold boards available to pick-up in the narthex after church on November 15 and in the church office November 16-20 (9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.). Please take one for your family or household to take and decorate or display things that you are thankful to God for.

If you are coming to church on Sunday, November 22, please bring the tri-fold board already decorated by you and your family to show what you thank God for and we will display it in the narthex or along the parking lot for people to see after church. If you won’t be at church on November 22, you can drop off your decorated tri-fold board in the church office November 16-20 (9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) and we will display it on the 22nd.

FPCA Newsletter

The Newsletter is available outside the Chapel and in the Narthex. The News continues to be in the church-wide email each month. The Newsletter is also on our church website. By using this digital method to send the Newsletter, the church is saving with both printing and mailing costs. If you prefer to have a copy mailed to you, please give the church office a call and let them know.

Offering

If you would like to give your tithes and offerings in person today, please use the envelope provided in the pews. 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.