

*Service for the Lord's Day
First Presbyterian Church
Commerce, Texas
March 18, 2018
Fifth Sunday in Lent*

**VICTORY
OVER
DEATH**

*Unless a
GRAIN of
WHEAT
FALLS
Into the earth ...*

John 12:24



GREETINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

A Faded Letter

William Gillock

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us gather to worship.

People: O God, we wish to see Jesus! We come to worship, to pray, and learn.

Leader: We come looking for Jesus in Scripture lessons, in our own life experiences, in helping our world, in prayers for each other.

People: We seek to follow in the way of Jesus.

Leader: We lay bare before God and one another our own wilderness journey filled with some gladness and hope, with reluctance and sorrow, with fear and confusion.

People: O God, speak to us, show us, touch us with your presence!

Leader: Let our Lenten journey lead us to Jesus, so that we may show Jesus forth in our lives, our faith community, and our world.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN #725—*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *by Rev. Teri Peterson*

(in unison)

We want to see you, Jesus...but sometimes we are too afraid to ask for help.

We want to see you...but we aren't sure if those people should be allowed to come, too.

We want to see you...but we don't love the way you talk about sacrifice and death, or about outcasts and sinners. We want to see you...but we also want to know how it'll go first.

Forgive us. Fill us with courage to step forward and seek, with openness to those around us, with vision to see your big picture, with trust to follow you. In Christ's name, and for his sake. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

(Hymnal, p. 581)

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

YOUTH MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT—**Jeremiah 31:31-34** *A New Covenant* (Pew Bible, O.T., p. 691)

PSALTER—**Psalm 51:1-12**(read responsively) (Pew Bible, O.T., p. 492-493)

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

Leader: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

People: **Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

Leader: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

People: **You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Leader: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

People: **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

Leader: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

People: **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Leader: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

People: **Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

EPISTLE—**Hebrews 5:5-10** *Jesus the Great High Priest* (Pew Bible, N.T., p. 207)

ANTHEM

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

GOSPEL—John 12:20-33

*Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus
Jesus Speaks about His Death*

(Pew Bible, N.T., p. 100)

SERMON

Rev. Krista Rasco

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed

(Hymnal, p. 35)

HYMN OF THE MONTH #434—*Restore in Us, O God

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Hymnal, p. 35)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God..

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise . . .

OFFERTORY

Legend

William Gillock

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen (x 7).

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN #223—*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING -- *Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. Amen

POSTLUDE

Innocence

Friedrich Burgmüller

**Please stand if able*

Assisting in Worship Today

Ric Estes—Head Usher; TBD--Candle lighter; Walt Davis—Liturgist.

Assisting in Worship Next Sunday (March 25)

Scott Stewart—Head Usher; TBD—Candle lighter; Neal Stewart—Liturgist.

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops	Gordon Hunter	Bruce Campbell	Sara Grace Pullen
Melba Blount	Amy Lopez	Joe Yeakley	Grace Byrd
Gayle Shumate	Gladys Gray	Mildred Miller	Gaye Furry
Preston Helton	Loretta Kibler	Donald R. Smith	Catherine King Robertson
Bennie Neve	Ron Davis	Jan Burns	Dub Holcomb
Jackie Book	Martha and Dan Reynolds	Audrey Hucks	Larry Ratliff
Martha Clevenger	Jack Gray	Jean Angotti	Joyce Isaacs
Jim Calvert	Tammi Fucci	Family of Judy Vanderpool	Adele Reeves
Jordan and Clelie Senne	Family of Jackie Lair	Family of Janice Hale	Family of Madeline Sullivan
Brandon and Kate Pullen Hall	Family of Richard Fulkerson		Family of Larry Tracy
Bob Wilkins	Joe Dipiazza	Barbara Tucker	

Announcements

- ◊ Flowers for today's service are provided by Bettina Zvanut from her garden. If you would like to provide flowers for an upcoming worship service, please let the church secretary know in advance.
- ◊ Barbara Tucker's rehab in Dallas from knee replacement surgery has been extended for a week.
- ◊ Today's bulletin includes inserts for ordering Easter Lilies and a special Lenten offering envelope.
- ◊ Holy Week begins next Sunday (Palm Sunday) with special liturgies. Plan to be here if you can.
- ◊ Until further notice, Rev. Rasco's office hours will be Tuesday and Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment. She can be reached at 903-453-1424

Upcoming Events

- ◊ Wednesday, Mar. 21, 6 p.m.—Session meeting
- ◊ Thursday, Mar. 29, 6:30 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Worship Service
- ◊ Sunday, April 1, 9:30-noon—Easter breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt, and Easter Worship Service.

We extend to you a very special welcome. We hope our time together will serve to nurture you in your Christian faith. If you are interested in learning more about the Christian faith, the Presbyterian Church and the ministry and mission of this church, please contact the church office.

First Presbyterian Church

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Pastor: Rev. Krista Rasco

Clerk of Session: Wally Tucker

Choir Director: Micah Krajca

Pianist: David Vergara

Nursery Attendant: Carolyn McFarland

Session Members

2018

Martha Clevenger
Jordan Conner
Wally Tucker
Bettina Zvanut

2019

Brenda Estes
Tina Fletcher
Russ Garmon
Lily Selvaggi

2020

Nancy Green
Bob Johnson
Neal Stewart