**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**\*HYMN #435**—*There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy*

****\*CALL TO CONFESSION****

****\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (in unison)**

**Rabbi, Teacher Jesus, you who taught thousands and yet were willing to learn from the least of these, we confess that we pretend to know when in truth we still wonder. Forgive our pretense, that we may open ourselves to unexpected teachers, to fresh ideas, to one another, and to you.  Forgive our hardened hearts and closed minds. Forgive us when we trap you in our intellect, forgetting to live as your people of good news outside the church building. Guide us to be not only hearers of your word, but doers of your word.  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 *Blessing of the Backpacks and Recognition of Sunday School Leaders***

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT—Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23** *Wise Sayings of Solomon* (Pew Bible, O.T., p. 570)

**PSALTER-- 125** (read responsively) (Pew Bible, O.T., p. 540-541)

Leader: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

**People: As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time on and forevermore.**

Leader: For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, so that the righteous might not stretch out their hands to do wrong.

**People: Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts.**

Leader: But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways the Lord will lead away with evildoers. Peace be upon Israel!

**EPISTLE—James 2:1-10, 14-17** *Warning Against Partiality*(Pew Bible, N.T., p. 215-216)

*Faith Without Works Is Dead*

**ANTHEM *Come to the Lord and Give Praise*** Patrick M. Liebergen

**GOSPEL—Mark 7:24-37** *The Syrophoenician Woman’s Faith*(Pew Bible, N.T., p. 40)

*Jesus Cures a Deaf Man*

**SERMON** Rev. Krista Rasco

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Apostles’ Creed*  (Hymnal, p. 35)

**\*HYMN #727–***The Servant Song*

**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 *Lost Romance Blues*** Dennis Alexander

**\*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 #547–***Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

**\*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** ***Dreaming Song*** Tony Caramia

 *\*Please stand if able*

**Assisting in Worship Today**

Jordan Conner--Head Usher; TBD--Candle lighter; Arlene Allen--Liturgist.

**Assisting in Worship Next Sunday (Sept. 16)**

Ric Estes-- Head Usher; TBD--Candle lighter; Susan Reeves—Liturgist.

Sermon Focus for next two Sundays: Sept. 16—Psalm 19; Sept. 23—Proverbs 31:10-31

**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 Catherine King Robertson Bennie Neve Ron Davis**

**Jan Burns Audrey Hucks Larry Ratliff Jack Gray**

**Jean Angotti Jim Calvert Tammi Fucci Adele Reeves**

**Bob Wilkins Joe Dipiazza Deryl McKenzie Danny Spruel**

**Kristen Anderson Family of Freda Lambert Nancy Smith Petra Strassberg**

**Announcements**

**• A big thanks to the Christian Education Committee for breakfast this morning. Our worship service this morning will include a Rally Day tradition—the “Blessing of the Backpacks” in recognition and blessing of the new school year.**

**Upcoming Events**

**• Wednesday, Sept. 12, 6 p.m.—Session meeting**

**• Sunday, Sept. 16, 6 p.m.—Come back to FPC in the evening for our popular Ice Cream Social, sponsored by the Membership Committee.**

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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(903) 886-3783

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fpccommerce](http://www.facebook.com/fpccommerce)

**Pastor:** Rev. Krista Rasco **Clerk of Session:** Wally Tucker

**Choir Director:** Micah Krajca **Pianist:** David Vergara

**Nursery Attendant:** Carolyn McFarland

**Session Members**

 **2018 2019 2020**

 Martha Clevenger Brenda Estes Nancy Green

 Jordan Conner Tina Fletcher Bob Johnson

 Wally Tucker Russ Garmon Neal Stewart

 Bettina Zvanut Lily Selvaggi

**Service for the Lord’s Day**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**Commerce, Texas**

**September 9, 2018**

**16th Sunday after Pentecost / Rally Sunday**

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*The Woman of Canaan at the Feet of Christ*,

oil on canvas, by Jean Germain Drouais (1763-1788).

**GREETINGS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE *Butterflies in the Starlight*** Jennifer Linn

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

**People: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another.**

Leader: Where are Jesus' disciples, who thirst to know God's ways?

**People: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another.**

Leader: Our church school is this sacred space and our classroom is the world.

**People: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another.**

Leader: Thanks be to God for new beginnings, for new opportunities to learn together.

**People: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another.**

Leader: Let us worship God!