



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

September 6, 2020
8:15 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas
Link to worship videos available at: www.fpcbryan.org

ORIENTATION TO WORSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Holy Spirit Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

*Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth,
Cause Your church to hunger for your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;
Lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for all the world to see.*

WELCOME

We welcome you to worship today.

In the book of the prophet Joel, we find these words:

"I, the Lord, am your God,
and I shall pour out my spirit on all flesh,
so that people both younger and older shall prophesy,
and dream, and see visions – all by my spirit!"

HYMN NO. 268 (AAHH)

This Is My Father's World

TERRA BEATA

**This is my Father's world, And to my list'ning ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world! I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas— His hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father's world— The birds their carols raise;
The morning light, sun shining bright, declares its Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world! He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass— He speaks to me ev'rywhere.**

**This is my Father's world— O let me ne'er forget
That tho' the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world! The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav'n be one.**

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Let us pray . . . **Eternal Sovereign, we are present before you for worship this morning to lift praise to you. Lead us in exploring our lives as individuals and collectively. Forgive us all wherein we have failed you, failed your people in many ways, times, and places, and how we have failed ourselves. As we approach you confessing our wanderings, brokenness, and sin, hear our prayers in these moments of silence.**

By your grace, forgive, help, heal, and transform us for reconciled and partnering relationships with all others, so that – day by day – we faithfully share your love, respect, and resources in the way and spirit of Jesus Christ.

Friends, let us hear and share with gladness the blessed news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 581

Glory Be to The Father

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:1-13

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION The Pentecost Miracle: By Way of Care-full Listening and Evolving Understanding

HYMN NO. 288 (*GtG, sing two times*)

Spirit of the Living God

LIVING GOD

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER adapted from prayer by H.E. Fosdick

Let us pray . . . God of all times, and places, and people: We thank you for women and men, girls and boys, who, from your grace, give us encouragement both to walk bravely amid the hardships of life and to believe in our best when we feel like we are facing failure.

We are grateful to you for all those living on earth, and all those departed hence, whose love has been our peace and strength; for the beauty of their lives through which you have shined your light; and for Jesus Christ who called us, saying that we are more than servants, because we are friends in your grace through him.

Because friendship is so excellent a gift, O God, extend its reach. Reclaim from violence and strife positive healthy relationships of races and nations and communities. Redeem all people from both suspicion and rivalry toward relationships of both good will and trust. Grant the experience of your healing in particular ways to all who are ill, or injured, or in grief. Once again, hear us praying from the words Jesus taught:

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.

HYMN NO. 727 (*GtG, st. 2,4,6*)

Make Me a Servant, Lord

THE SERVANT SONG

**We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

+ + + + +

The prayerful support and sympathy of the congregation are extended to:

- Katherine & Todd Knight, and their children Haley and Jake, Richard & Monique Arnold, and their children, Elizabeth, Victoria, and Kenny, following the death of their mother and grandmother, Mary Arnold, on August 29. Expressions of love may be sent to:
 - Katherine and family, 4406 Crayke Place, College Station, Texas 77845
 - Richard and family, 3650 NW Witham Hill Drive, Corvallis, Oregon 97330.
- the family of Annell Schoenvogel following her death on August 31. Expressions of love may be sent to her grandson, Trey Schoenvogel, 1400 Royal Adelaide Dr, College Station, Texas 77845.

“Well done, good and faithful servant!” – Matthew 25:23

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES. We’re reaching out to our adopted school **ANSON JONES ELEMENTARY**. On their list of student needs are: **composition books (wide-ruled), No. 2 pencils, crayons (24-ct), markers (Crayola, 8-ct), Pink Pearl erasers, and jumbo glue sticks.** Due to COVID-19, Anson Jones is also requesting: **2-gallon zipper bags, case 12-oz. bottled water** (as drinking fountains are not being used), and **disinfecting wipes**. Place your donations on the marked table in the Patio thru Wednesday, September 30. Monetary donations also accepted. Make checks payable to FPC-Bryan or go to www.fpcbryan.org, click **Give** to donate through our online payment portal (“**Special Gifts**” MEMO: **Anson Jones**).

Our brothers and sisters in Peru remain in shutdown since March. All the various organizations and churches supported by U.S. based Presbyterian mission teams are exhibiting signs of stress. A **COVID-19 Peru Relief Fund** has been established to provide food and assistance to the poorest in Lima (Peru) served by Pastor Pedro Garcia with Joining Hands Network. Here’s how you can help! Make checks payable to FPC-Bryan or go to www.fpcbryan.org, click **Give** to donate through our online payment portal (“**Special Gifts**” MEMO: **COVID-19 Peru Relief**).

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with our international partners where **Hurricane Laura** impacted Haiti and the Dominican Republic, in addition to the affected U.S. presbyteries. Here’s how you can help! Make checks payable to FPC-Bryan or go to www.fpcbryan.org, click **Give** to donate through our online payment portal (“**Special Gifts**” MEMO: **Hurricane Laura, DR000194**).

Especially in this time, visit the church website, www.fpcbryan.org, for the newsletter, announcements, worship bulletins, devotionals for children and adults, updates, etc.

Like us on **Facebook** at: www.facebook.com/FPCBryan

NEW!!! on **Instagram**: www.instagram.com. Search for and follow **fpcbryantx1867** and/or **fpcbryan_youth**

Help FPC-Bryan’s YouTube channel achieve 344 more subscribers to be eligible for a custom url!

On www.youtube.com, search for First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Texas, then click **SUBSCRIBE**

Our newsletter, **The Chimes**, continues to be available online, emailed to FPC-Bryan friends and members, and mailed to local FPC-Bryan members with the printed bulletin and sermon to those without technology.

The next issue of the newsletter will be distributed on Wednesday, September 9.

This newsletter will cover news from September 17-30.

STAY CONNECTED! with others in this community of faith at Church Updates—FPC-Bryan’s online tool for church-related announcements, ways to serve, and current prayer needs. This online tool is “**REAL TIME**,” and users receive a weekly reminder email on Thursdays to view new posts.

Login and create your password-protected account at <https://fpcbtx.churchupdates.org/login>. For more information, contact Karen in the church office, 979.823.8073 or office@fpcbryan.org.



A WARM WELCOME!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today.

WORSHIP NOTES

PREACHER

Rev. Ted Foote

LITURGISTS

Rev. Emily K. Béghin

Rev. George E. Klett

USHERS/GREETERS

Lois Basenfelder; Fan Cloud;
Ruth Ann Gholson; Nicole McKinley;
Sally Kate Morse; Jerry Norris;
Jasen Petersen; Roger Reese

MUSICIANS

Michelle Lassiter, *Pianist*
David Kipp,
Director of Music Ministries

COVER ART

“The New Covenant
is Empowered by the Gift
of the Holy Spirit”
One of 11 faceted windows
in sanctuary of
First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas

SOUND

Jerry Norris

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST,

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

8:15am ON-SITE OUTDOOR WORSHIP *-

on the northeast part of Gordon and 31st Streets Parking Lot

ONLINE WORSHIP-To view, visit www.fpcbryan.org

9:30am Loose Leaf Church School Class-via Zoom

7:00pm Youth (GR 6-12) Sunday Fun Day-Fellowship Hall

(Youth and parents, watch your inbox for details via email!)

LABOR DAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2020

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED | CHILDREN'S CENTER CLOSED

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

10:00am Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team-CCF/via Zoom

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

7:00pm Circle VII-P/via Zoom

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST,

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

8:15am ON-SITE OUTDOOR WORSHIP *-

on the northeast part of Gordon and 31st Streets Parking Lot

ONLINE WORSHIP-To view, visit www.fpcbryan.org

9:20am Seekers Church School Class-P/via Zoom

9:20am The Word Church School Class-303/via Zoom

9:30am Loose Leaf Church School Class-via Zoom

7:00pm Youth (GR 6-12) Sunday Fun Day-Fellowship Hall

(Youth and parents, watch your inbox for details via email!)

* *Loving childcare available in Room 108 in the church*

**For regularly scheduled meetings/gatherings,
please be in touch with your group's
moderator, leader, coordinator, or facilitator
to determine alternate meeting options/platforms.**

The Covenant Windows

Designed from Biblical stories by the Smith Glass Co. of Ft. Worth in 1966, eleven windows gird the nave, proclaiming the theme of God's covenant with God's people. The five windows at the congregation's left, moving toward the entrance, portray the covenants of the Old Testament. In counterbalance, the five to the right of the chancel depict the covenants of the New Testament. The window above the main entrance behind the balcony is an expansive Nativity scene.

A covenant is a solemn and binding agreement made by two or more individuals or groups, to do or to keep from doing, a specified action with understood accountability. God's compact with human beings is a commitment, a promise—absolute and certain.

The history of the people of Israel commences with the covenant of God with Israel. Abraham, at the direction of God, left Ur of the Chaldees and journeyed to a land where God promised to make his descendants a great people. The origin of Israel's religion is the covenant given to Moses at Mount Sinai and is referred to as the "old covenant."

The "new covenant" is God's gift of His Son in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. So it was that, in the beginning of the Third century, Tertullian began to refer to the two collections of scripture as the Old and New Testaments—by literal definition, the old and new covenants.

The New Covenant is Empowered by the Gift of the Holy Spirit

In the seventh week after Christ's ascension into Heaven, in the time of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit of God in awesome might descended with the sound of the rushing wind upon the disciples and a tongue of fire touched each of them. It was in this moment the Church found its meaning, realized its great power, and learned of its mission.

The swirl of stained glass at the top of the window represents the rushing wind while the red tongues of fire are found throughout the scene. Each disciple is depicted here as tradition has described him. Beginning at the top right and in descending order, the disciples are Matthew, James the Less, Jude, Matthias, Andrew, Thomas, Simon Zelotes, Philip, John, Bartholomew, James the Greater, and Peter.

CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATING FORM



We invite your prayers for the Nominating Committee which will meet to nominate candidates to serve as Elders (12—Class of 2022); 2021-2022 Nominating Committee members-at-large (5); Foundation Trustees (3—Class of 2026).



2020-2021 CONGREGATION'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(a committee of the congregation)

Moderator (Ruling Elder)A.J. Renold; Vice Moderator (Ruling Elder).....Sally Kate Morse
Members-at-large to be determined

RULING ELDERS

CLASS OF 2020

Lois Basenfelder	Jasen Petersen
Dave Haverland	AJ Renold
Phyllis Lee	Don Spencer
Jo Monroe	Rod Thornton
Jerry Norris	Julie Young
Beth Pennebaker	Steve Zimmerman

CLASS OF 2021

Fan Cloud	Marcia Miculek
Ruth Ann Gholson	Sally Kate Morse
Adam Hartman	Bookman Peters
Anton Leontyev	Roger Reese
Karon Mathews	Janice Sahn
Nicole McKinley	Yunior Torres Camargo

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. — I Corinthians 12:4

Gifts and requirements for serving as a church officer are: Elders are called to exercise special functions in the Church. God gives these persons suitable gifts for their various duties. In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities, natural and acquired, those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world. (*Book of Order* G-2.01)

ELDERS are those, in a Presbyterian Church, who compose the Session which is the governing body of the church. They are responsible for decisions of the daily life of the church through committees such as Administration, Caring Support, Christian Education, Membership Building & Evangelism, Missions—Local and Beyond, Property, Stewardship & Finance, and Worship.

TRUSTEES are those who compose the Board of Trustees of First Presbyterian Church of Bryan Foundation.

Please list your suggestions for nominees whom you feel will be the best suited to serve in a new class of leaders at First Presbyterian Church:

Nominee(s) for Elder (Class of 2022) _____

Nominee(s) for Nominating Committee Member-at-Large (2021-2022) _____

Nominee(s) for Foundation Trustees (Class of 2026) _____

**Place the form in the offering box or
email suggestions to office@fpcbryan.org by Sunday, September 20.**

The Pentecost Miracle: by Way of Care-full Listening and Evolving Understanding

Acts 2:1-13

September 06, 2020

Ted V. Foote, Jr.

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas

The tenth covenant-themed faceted glass window in the First Presbyterian sanctuary illustrates the experience of Pentecost from the book of the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2. If we take the reading from verses two and three, we sense the artist's portrayal, from top to bottom. "Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled the entire house where disciples were sitting. Observed distributed among them were tongues, as of fire, lowered upon each of them." They were there in that room. Each of them with their respective and unique life stories, genetics, and experiences. Each one of them in a different posture while praying. Not one the same as the other in many aspects of life. No different from you and me.

The faceted-glass artist, Gordon Smith, presents God's wind from heaven, in the top part of the window, as if it is a "blue-norther" seen a few miles to the northwest in October somewhere on the Great Plains of the North American hemisphere. The sound of the wind is heard in the room where Jesus' disciples were praying. Then we are told that some indication of the blessing of God's Spirit was observed, like a flame or tongue of fire resting above everyone else's head. Not one could see the flame over one's own head, and if I had been there I might have instinctively reached up to see if I could feel one over my head; but if I gave it a second thought, I might not have reached to feel above me. Did I really want to learn that a gift-flame of God's Spirit hovered above me as well? There is something less unsettling about observing others' experiences and reactions than evaluating one's own life situation. In other words, I can see God's gifts of the Spirit in your life – faith, hope, love, generosity, tenacity, courage, humility, doubt, curiosity, and respect. I can see God's gifts of the Spirit in your life without feeling a strong need to evaluate God's gifts to me. Yet if our lives are like those disciples praying to figure out God's guidance when Jesus is physically no longer with them, then some personal discernment is required, isn't it? What is involved in that personal discernment?

In May of 1978, my church intern supervisor, George Kluber, gave me a lasting gift from his guidance at First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena, Texas. George was preparing to preach on Pentecost Sunday – in a town where the general Christian religious culture was preoccupied with wanting to know the true faith experience and credentials of each person. George said, "Ted, I am convinced the real miracle of Pentecost was not disciples' speaking in a certain unknown spiritual language. The real miracle of Pentecost was in the hearing and understanding of those who sensed and perceived the story and grace of God in Jesus Christ. They heard and understood as God intended – through the various languages spoken and other people speaking."

Nine hundred years ago, the French religious character, Anselm, taught that anyone's faith-journey across the years is a pilgrimage of "faith seeking understanding." That never means there is a single, "true," "correct" belief-perspective, experience, or answer. It means, as George Kluber coached me, that care-full listening to others leads to an evolving understanding of God's gifts of the Spirit in one's particular life, gifts which then can be care-fully, respectfully shared. When we listen to others with care, we grow in understanding their lives and ours.

David Brooks is an author and columnist whose book published in 2019 is titled "The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life." In "The Second Mountain" Mr. Brooks tells of his being convinced that the first mountain in life for people is most often the quest and climb for success, accomplishment, and even recognition. The second mountain is a quest and climb for others, when success, accomplishment, and recognition are hardly part of the journey at all. Being

part of and participating in a broad-effort for contributions to the world beyond oneself is the essence of the second mountain-quest. I'm paraphrasing, but he writes that he has no shame about describing the life-journeys of several people, because he is convinced that we learn best from listening to the lives of others. We might say, from a look at the Pentecost window by Gordon Smith from 1966, we are guided in our own journey by listening to and observing God's gifts in the lives of others, through their trials, challenges, and errors, as much if not more than through their successes.

One person of whom Mr. Brooks writes is Frederick Buechner. When Mr. Buechner was 27 years old, his "first mountain" life as an acclaimed novelist was unfolding. One Sunday he heard George Buttrick preach at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in Manhattan. Dr. Buttrick remarked that Jesus Christ is "not crowned amid splendor, but amid confession, and tears, and great laughter." When Fred Buechner heard the phrase, "Jesus, who was crucified, was crowned amid confession, and tears, and great laughter," it was clearer to him than ever before that the world is changed through humanly acknowledged failure and ironic paradox. From death comes new life! Young Mr. Buechner then began to move from the first mountain of "prioritized accomplishment in career" to the second mountain of service-among-others. Fred Buechner says he began realizing that God's sub-surface mysterious grace is the power which sets free the Spirit of Jesus who was crucified, so that God who suffers among God's people "gets the last laugh," this being the caring laughter of God heard with ears of faith as Life Made New emerges.

A few years later, thinking back on that worship service at Madison Avenue Church, Fred Buechner would write these words: "We all can wake up in our beds at dawn and ask, 'Can I believe it all again today?' Or we can ask that question after hearing and reading about atrocities in the news. 'Can I believe toward God's new life again today?' At least five times out of ten the answer should be, 'No, I am not convinced of God's new life today.' The 'no' is as important as the 'yes,' maybe more so. The 'no' is what proves you're human in case you ever doubt it. Yet if some morning the answer happens to be 'Really Yes,' it will be a Yes that's choked with your confession, your tears, your great laughter" (The Second Mountain, pgs.250-51). Mr. Brooks quotes Fred Buechner, and both argue the importance of listening to one's own life. The story of Pentecost suggests that God has gifted each person BOTH to listen to one's own life and to others' lives with care, full of care, listening full of care. The result will be on-going, evolving understanding. Faith seeking understanding of self, of others, of the God who comes among us like a blue norther with flames of grace-gifts distributed among all.

Poet Denise Levertov, 39 years ago wrote: "I have a small grain of hope — one small crystal that gleams clear colors out of transparency. I need more [hope]. I break off a fragment to send you. Please take this grain of a grain of hope so that mine won't shrink. Please share your fragment so that yours will grow. Only so, by division, will hope increase, like a clump of irises, which will cease to flower unless you distribute the clustered roots, unlikely source — clumsy and earth-covered — of grace" ("For the New Year, 1981"). Clumps of dirt-covered iris bulbs needing to be distributed and rooted in a new location are material sources of grace and material gifts of grace — as Pentecost flames are visionary and symbolic, perceived as being over the heads of others when praying, when sharing the space of a room and when sharing a still wider world. That miracle continues, as George Kluber said, whenever God's people discern that all receive God's gifts in different ways, and faith seeks understanding in different ways. Listen for being filled: God's care leads to serving in the way of Jesus Christ. Faith seeking understanding is continually experienced and evolves. — All honor and praise be to God.