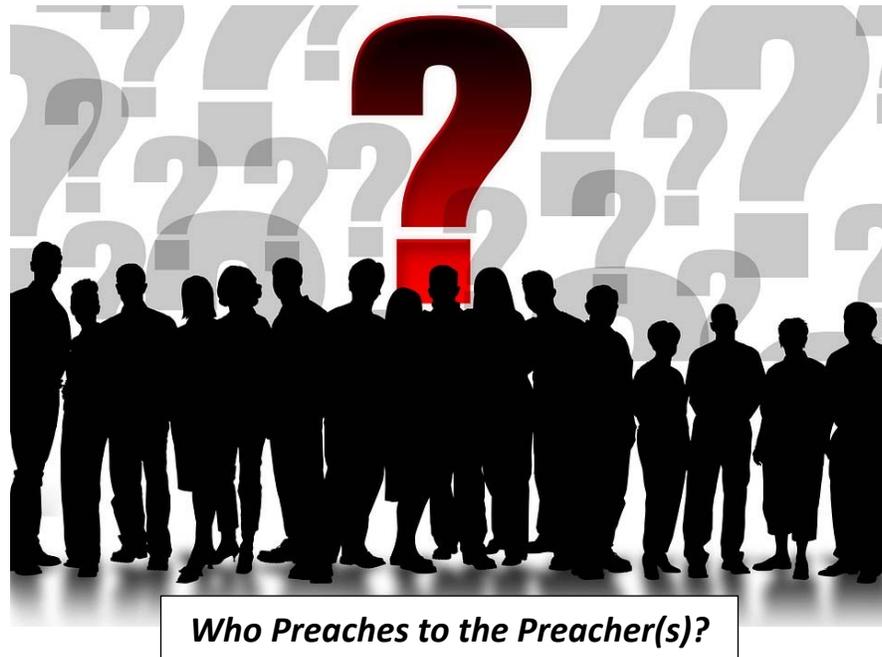


SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

September 20, 2020
10:45 a.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Take the Name of Jesus with You

arr. Cindy Berry

WELCOME

We welcome you to worship today.

In the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 52, at verse 7, we find these words:

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, saying, ‘Your God reigns as Sovereign.’”

HYMN No. 462

I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.**

**REFRAIN I love to tell the story; 'till be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

**I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. REFRAIN**

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. REFRAIN**

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Confessing to God how we have failed to live faithfully, with sin and brokenness being part of our identity and relationships every day, let us begin with praying in silence ... (pausing in silence for prayer)

O gracious and ever-present One, we can list our failings and offenses in relation to you and to others, and still never remember them completely. Forgive us, though, of all our sin. Restore us to a repaired and empowered life, for serving you moment-by-moment and day-by-day in the way and spirit of Jesus Christ, always to the glory of your holy name . . .

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. 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDRETH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 10:14c

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

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

Who Preaches to the Preacher(s)?

HYMN NO. 361 (*st. 1 & 2*)

O Christ, the Great Foundation

AURELIA

O Christ, the great foundation on which your people stand to preach your true salvation in every age and land: pour out your Holy Spirit to make us strong and pure, to keep the faith unbroken as long as worlds endure.

Baptized in one confession, one church in all the earth, we bear our Lord's impression, the sign of second birth. one holy people gathered in love beyond our own, by grace we were invited; by grace we make you known.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

O One upon the throne of the Universe, outpouring your very self in redeeming love among persons of all backgrounds and in all times and places: Receive our thanks for your gifts in abundance and for abundant life. Tune the melodies of gratitude and appreciation within us: for the sacrifices of previous generations; for the strengths of democracy; for liberation from whatever enslaves; for the generosity of time, talent, and resources which persons contribute to aid one another and increase the common good; for opportunities of service and fellowship witnessing to and reinforcing your blessing of care and love for each girl and boy, woman and man.

Deliver each individual and every group from fears and self-absorption; from envy and resentment; from apathy and miserliness; from debilitating illness and injury – physical and emotional; from resistance to reconciliation and new relational possibilities; from capitulation to cultural pressures and destructive influences.

In the way and spirit of Jesus Christ, change and guide us: to cherish your wisdom; to sense the communion you create among those of past and present; to embrace your majestic desire for communities of respect and peace; and to celebrate the risks of discipleship you encourage us to exercise.

Hear us also praying now, as Jesus taught the community of faith to believe and give voice:

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.

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord, to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword, to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace. But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

May we in service to our God act out the living word, and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard. As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

I Love to Tell the Story

arr. Carol Tornquist

+ + + + +

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES. Through Wednesday, September 30, we're accepting your donations for 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, jumbo glue sticks, 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. Monetary donations are 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**).

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 (PDA) is working to help those affected by **HURRICANES** and **WILDFIRES**—the collective impact is adding up in the United States. 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: **PDA, 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**

Want to be notified when new videos are uploaded to our YouTube channel?

Go to 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 mailed to local FPC-Bryan members with the printed bulletin and sermon to those without technology.

Until further notice, it will not be mailed to its full distribution list.

The deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is Noon today, and will be distributed on Wednesday, September 23. This newsletter will cover news from October 1-14.

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

Adam Espinoza; Shelley Espinoza;
Randy Gholson; BJ Hendler;
Madeline Hendler; Kaitlyn Hendler;
Nicole McKinley

MUSICIANS

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

FLOWERS

In honor of
Jane & Hap Wert
on their 55th wedding anniversary

SOUND

Jerry Norris

COPYRIGHT LICENSES

CCLI 196019

OneLicense.net A-718836

CVLI 504246321



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST,

SEPTEMBER 20, 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

12:00pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST,

SEPTEMBER 27, 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.**

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 Vickie Buenger, Melissa Gathings, Alice Hickerson, John Lee, and Bill Watson

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.

You do not need to confer with those whose names you suggest. The Congregation's Nominating Committee will ask potential nominees of their willingness to serve. 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.**

Who Preaches to the Preacher(s)?

Romans 10:14c
Ted V. Foote, Jr.

September 20, 2020
First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas

When two persons marry, whether they bring children to the marriage or not, they bring their past and their present. That may be property and other assets. In the case of church communions or denominations, they may bring statements from their respective traditions. Back in 1910, the United Presbyterian Church of North America (UPCNA) adopted a statement called “The Great Ends of the Church.” Their summary from Scripture described six aspects of the life and mission of the Church of Jesus Christ, any flavor or type. In 1958, when the UPCNA merged with the Presbyterian Church in the USA, their statement of “The Great Ends of the Church” came to the marriage of those two denominations. When that denomination – coming into blended existence in 1958 – merged with the old “Southern Presbyterian Church” in 1983, The Great Ends of the Church was brought forward again as part of the new “blended family,” which is how it is part of First Presbyterian-Bryan’s heritage. For the next six weeks, we will be exploring those six, one at a time.

The Great Ends of the Church, first “the proclamation of the Gospel for the salvation of humankind.” The 1611 King James Version translation of the Bible from Greek to English utilizes the words, “How shall they hear without a preacher?” And if you and I ask, “How shall we hear what?” the “what” is the Gospel / the life-changing news of God’s love embodied in Jesus Christ.

It’s important not to “overly churchify” this question. A more literal translation might be, “How shall they hear without a proclaimer (“kayrusso” in the Greek) / without a messenger of what is good and sacred?” You can understand how “preacher” is limiting in a church setting. It tends to refer to the paid church-or-Bible-or-preaching professional. When I served as pastor of First Presbyterian in the east Texas town of Henderson, Oscar Orr and Max Reinbach used to call me, “Preacher.” That’s all: “Preacher.” Oscar, who was 45 years older than I, called me that until the day he died. Max (about my age) still calls me that today on the rare occasions we visit.

The Greek word when literally translated means, “one who proclaims.” Certainly that can be done in an address based on Scripture lasting seven or eight to twenty or more minutes. Also, though, you perhaps have heard the phrase attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: “Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.” This is a paraphrase, not necessarily from St. Francis himself, but a form of what is written in the book of order to be followed by all Franciscan brothers: “All the Friars – the brothers wherever they are – should preach by their deeds.”

If the Order of Franciscans are sniffing down the trail of something significant which is more than “churchifying” – which is more than saying that the recognized or paid specialist in Bible and theology is the “preacher” to be heard, we do well to ask: “Are there those who ‘preach to the preacher’”? And, if so, who are they?

Once in awhile, the phrase is spoken, “He (or she) is a preacher’s preacher.” This means someone is so gifted that her style (or his style) speaks to many others who are proclaimers of God’s good news in their religious communities. If we were sitting down over a glass of iced tea or a cup of coffee or hot tea, I could give you the short list of preacher / proclaimers who have most stirred my mind and soul at various points in my life through their addresses/sermons related to Scripture. Some of those names you might recognize, and some you might not recognize.

If I asked you who among the preachers you have heard and who have stirred your heart, mind and soul at different points in your life, you could tell me the names of those for you. You

might even tell me a sermon or two which you particularly remember. I might recognize some of the names, and others I would not recognize – because we have walked different paths.

“The deal” with any leader or preacher is a need for consistency and congruence of word and deed. Who hasn’t heard it said of someone? “She (or he) is a great preacher in the public address category but hardly seems to care for anyone outside a very tight group of friends.” Or who hasn’t heard it said of someone else? “He (or she) is not a great preacher, but is a caring, insightful, and positive pastor and friend and leader.” Maybe then, the importance is not eloquence and polish and shine as a preacher or proclaimer. Maybe the importance is closer to congruence of the Gospel and the way preacher/ proclaimer/ sharer of the Gospel relates. What is that person’s credibility? What is that person’s degree of openness to God’s Spirit in Christ? What is that person’s indication or reflection of commitment to the Gospel?

“How shall we hear if not for a preacher, proclaimer, sharer?” I do have the list of preachers who have been influential in the shaping of faith as faith has been part of my life and identity; yet I also have non-professional theologians and non-professional preachers/proclaimers/sharers of the Gospel who have influenced my life. They have lived in my home town, where I went to college, where I went to seminary, where I worked at camps, hospitals, and churches. They have been Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Roman Catholics, Jews, and Muslims, Republicans, Democrats, male, female, younger, older. They have been married, never married, divorced, widowed, etc. Every time such proclaimers of God’s good news have influenced me, I have seen the spirit and manner of Jesus evident in their relationships with me and with others, whether Jesus’ name was ever mentioned. They have each encouraged, shaped, and molded my journey in faith, hope, love, study, and service. Not one has pronounced me “finished or complete.” In fact, more than one has said to me, “Foote, you’ve got to put more thought into that. You’ve got to expand your perspective on that. You’ve got ‘a ways’ to go in the growth you need to accomplish,” and they have been correct.

So the answer to the question, “Who preaches to the preacher?” is, “You do. You and others.” Even as “non-professionally degreed” preachers, proclaimers, and sharers of the Gospel, you embody God’s grace alive in you in such a way that someone else sees the manner and spirit of God’s Gospel in you. Someone else sees in you the liberating good news embodied in Jesus Christ, even when Jesus’ name is never mentioned! Remember Abraham Lincoln’s concluding words during his first inaugural address on March 4, 1861, one month before the beginning of the Civil War: “As citizens of a single nation, we are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when those chords of memory are once again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”

Friends, Paul was not a heavenly angel, as such: not a celestial messenger come to earth to leave a message with the church members at Rome. Paul was, as you are, as I am, a preacher, proclaimer, and sharer of the manner and spirit of Jesus Christ. Whatever our differences of background, opinion, and preference, the better angels of our nature are the qualities God has placed within us. We cannot hear except as God helps us hear through one another. Who preaches, proclaims, and shares the manner and spirit of Jesus Christ with a given preacher or with anyone else? You do; and I do, as Paul and his associates did long before us. Pray God to keep helping us hear the proclaiming and sharing of the Gospel through one another: preachers, proclaimers, and sharers as God has equipped us each and all to be. – All honor and praise be to God.