

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

May 2, 2021
10:45 a.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The King of Love, My Shepherd Is

V. Johnson

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. 721

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

**Lord, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for
wealthy nor wise ones; you only asked me to follow humbly.**

REFRAIN **O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me. By your side I will seek other seas.**

**You need my hands, full of caring, through my labors
to give others rest and constant love that keeps on loving.** REFRAIN

**You, who have fished other oceans, ever longed for by souls
who are waiting, my loving friend, as thus you call me:** REFRAIN

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\* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

*Text in **bold face type** is to be read by all.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION, ASSURANCE OF PARDON, AND JOYFUL RESPONSE

**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 . . .**

*(pausing in silence for prayer)*

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. 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

John 21:1-12,19b

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

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

“Follow Me” Follow-through: Life Anew Beyond Good-bye - #3

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

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

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 confidence and source of affirmation; for the beauty of their lives through which You have shined your light; and for Jesus Christ who calls us, saying that we are more than servants, because we are friends in your grace through him. Now from the Spirit that that same Jesus – crucified, having died, been buried, and resurrected – host us again at this table. Nourish us from the Bread of Life. Give us to drink from the Cup of Salvation. Dwell within us again from your eternal love.

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: THE BREAKING, THE POURING, THE SHARING IN PARTAKING

THE COMMISSIONING PRAYER



**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!  
 Christ is risen; Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.  
 In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.  
 Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.**

**Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.  
 Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.  
 Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.  
 Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.**

**Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.  
 Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.  
 Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"  
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!**

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

Colin Hand

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**ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES** are available in the narthex. Please help yourself or ask an usher for assistance.

**NEW MEMBERS** may be received any Sunday by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of membership. If you feel led to inquire about becoming a church member or deepening your commitment as a disciple of Jesus Christ, please indicate your desire on the fellowship folder or call the church (979.823.8073) or email Pastor Ted Foote ([tfoote@fpcbryan.org](mailto:tfoote@fpcbryan.org)) or Associate Pastor Emily Béghin ([ebeghin@fpcbryan.org](mailto:ebeghin@fpcbryan.org)). They will be glad to arrange a mutually convenient Sunday when you can be received by the Elders and introduced to the congregation.

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP.** Worship bags with worship-related activity sheets **"FOR DOODLING DISCIPLES"** are hanging on a "hall tree" in the Narthex. For those younger than 5, a loving childcare staff is available in the nursery. A pager system is provided to keep you in touch, should you be needed during the service. If you are unfamiliar with our building and need assistance, an usher will be pleased to help you. Also, two rocking chairs are located in the narthex, where the worship service can be heard via a ceiling speaker.

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The deadline for the next issue of the newsletter, The Chimes, is **Noon today**. This newsletter will be distributed **Wednesday, May 5**, and will cover news from **May 12-26**. Submit content to: [office@fpcbryan.org](mailto:office@fpcbryan.org).

**Visit us on social media!**

**On the web** [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org) for the newsletter, announcements, worship bulletins, updates, etc.

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

**Instagram** [www.instagram.com](http://www.instagram.com) (Search for and follow **fpcbryantx1867** and/or **fpcbryan\_youth**)

**BE THE FIRST TO KNOW when WORSHIP and ACTIVITY videos are uploaded to our YouTube channel!**

Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), search for First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Texas, then click **SUBSCRIBE**

**Share prayer needs and church group news with fellow FPC participants on Church Updates—**

FPC-Bryan’s online tool for YOU to post church-related announcements, ways to serve, and your current prayer needs. This online tool is “REAL TIME.” Users receive a weekly reminder email on Thursdays to view new posts.

Contact Karen in the church office, 979.823.8073 or [office@fpcbryan.org](mailto:office@fpcbryan.org) to set up your account.

Then, login at <https://fpcbtch.churchupdates.org/login> to create your password-protected account.



## A WARM WELCOME!

*We are delighted that you chose to worship with us today.*

### WORSHIP NOTES

#### PREACHER

Rev. Ted Foote

#### LITURGISTS

Clarissa Kennedy

The Rev. Michael Kennedy

#### USHER CAPTAINS

Anton Leontyev; Marcia Miculek

#### USHERS & GREETERS

Pam Geishauser; Tony Geishauser;  
Debe Shafer

#### MUSICIANS

Kathrine MacNeil, *organ*

Michelle Lassiter, *piano*

David Kipp,

*Director of Music Ministries*

#### AUDIO-VISUAL | SOUND

Nicole McKinley; Jerry Norris;  
Bill Watson

#### COVER ART

"The Appearance of Christ on Lake Tiberias  
and the miraculous draught of fish"

(c. 1308-11). From the stories of Christ aft.  
Resurrection. Back of the "Maestà" from

Siena Cathedral (Italy)

Duccio di Buoninsegna (c. 1255-1319)

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*The Presbyterian Hymnal*

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### THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 2, 2021

#### "STOCK THE PANTRY" SUNDAY

9:00am Church School: Loose Leaf Class-via Zoom

9:20am Church School: The Word Class-303

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

10:45am Worship with Lord's Supper- S\* Live-streamed worship will

be viewable via [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org), with a click on the

homepage "sentence about worship" or small red YouTube

box in far top right of homepage screen

#### MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021

2:00pm Circle III-P

5:30pm Cub Scout Pack 350-FH

7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 976-FH

#### TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021

4:00pm Congregational Care Committee-L

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021

#### REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR YOUTH CELEBRATION (GR 9-12)

11:30am Staff Meeting-L

#### THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021

6:30am Men's Fellowship Breakfast-CCF

6:00pm Cub Scout Pack 350-FH/303/304

6:00pm Christian Education Committee-10

#### FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021

#### SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2021

#### 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 9, 2021

9:00am Church School: Loose Leaf Class-via Zoom

9:20am Church School: The Word Class-303

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

10:45am Worship with Lord's Supper- S\* Live-streamed worship will

be viewable via [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org), with a click on the

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box in far top right of homepage screen

\* *During COVID-19, Room 108 is available for your nursery needs.*

## “Follow Me” Follow-through: Life Anew Beyond Good-Bye - #3

John 21:1-12, 19b  
Ted V. Foote, Jr.

May 02, 2021

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas

This is the third of a three-part series from John 21, drawing from the story of Resurrected Jesus mystically meeting some of his disciples one morning on a beach after they had been futilely fishing all night. We are also remembering three First Presbyterian Church-Bryan members (Elaine Vance, Mary Arnold, and Audrey Prouty) who died in July, August, and October of 2020, respectively, during a particular stage of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions when “saying good-bye” was difficult and, in many ways, not actually possible. Today, Elaine’s life-witness is our third of these three important examples related to this particular Bible story.

On April 11, I said that – as Jesus is said to be the One whom the disciples did not need to ask for him to identify himself (21:12) – no one also needed to ask who Mary Arnold was, because you could sense she was a child of God on a journey following in the way and spirit of Jesus Christ. As a mother, nursing educator, church volunteer, or friend, you did not need to ask who Mary Arnold was, because you could sense who it was she felt called to follow. Last week, I suggested that anyone who knew Audrey Prouty could easily imagine her taking a role in bringing the fishing boat to shore, even if Audrey may not have previously steered the boat by guiding the rudder, because she likely would have been attentive to others handling the rudder before chaos broke out on the boat that day; and Audrey would have adapted quickly to that new role, if need be, because she was continually observing and, thereby, prepared.

Today, let’s explore for a few minutes how, if Elaine were on that boat, when the sun was just above the eastern horizon, as – at last – the large catch was netted and drawn in, and then chaos breaks out, with Peter diving over-board and swimming toward shore, Elaine’s attention would have gone to preserving the catch of fish! At the end of World War II, when 21 years old, Elaine trained nursing service. She eventually graduated from nursing school. I’ll tell you

honestly, if I found myself in a military clinic or hospital after World War II, and Nurse Vance told me to roll up my sleeve for a shot, all I would have said is, “Yes, Ma’am. How high?” When Elaine expressed a categorical opinion, I always had the distinct feeling there was little or no need to argue or debate. Additionally, while her opinions on a subject were rarely – if ever – in doubt, you knew Elaine had studied and experienced some aspect of what she was telling, and that there was a purpose or goal which she had in mind.

Some of The Covenant Class in years past remember, on some Sundays, Elaine would lean forward in her chair and say, “Let’s not forget the Bible was put together by committees of men!” So when Peter dived into the water that day on the Sea of Galilee (or Lake Tiberius), were she on that boat, I can hear Elaine mumbling, “A lot of help he is!” – then raising her voice to two near her, “I’m holding on hard to the middle of the net! Two of you secure the ends!” Elaine would have known by experience that – if the fisherman were not focused – the weight of the fish would tilt the wide net until the fish spilled back into the lake. And Elaine would do more than bark orders and instructions. She would hold onto the net for all she was worth! Moreover, either while she was nose to nose with the net-full of fish or once the net-full was dragged ashore, Elaine would have taken it upon herself to count them. Scripture tells us there was a precise number. How was this known? Someone counted! An ancestor of Elaine’s – or at least a kindred spirit, I have no doubt. Why did the fish need to be counted? For trivia? For Bible students to wonder if there is a symbolic meaning or allegorical importance to the number 153? I don’t know. Elaine, though, would have been a counter because she believed that details were observed and recorded both for the record AND for the purpose of data being available for evaluation and future planning. For Elaine, no one ever needed a record high number to boost ego, all numbers indicated results at the time,

from which data you extrapolated working conclusions for future planning. She was Texas A&M sports fan; yet Elaine was a keen observer. She could tell you that, in her opinion, a Texas A&M football or basketball team with several losses in a given season could have beaten the pants off a team of another season which won more games, because the team with more wins had a more favorable schedule and/or weaker opponents than the other year's team which lost a game or two or three more. Elaine would tell you that numbers mean little or nothing when considered out of context.

Some of you know that the Carnegie Library downtown was restored from a state of disrepair because Elaine observed a need and gave energy to raise funding for its renovation. She was convinced we count and collect data for important purposes such as achieving and building what's needed. Not for your ego. Not for your record-book from which to rest on your laurels. You count and collect data to move forward situations, opportunities, and realizations of God's grace, care, compassion, and up-lifting; and you/we do that FOR GOD'S PEOPLE! "Care for my people," Jesus taught. Elaine cared. She expected others to care. She did not expect that she would agree with you or that you would agree with her; yet she sensed there was responsibility and work for everyone to do, and slacking on the details moved God's kingdom nowhere good. God's people have not, do not, and will not always agree. Elaine would tell us, "Get over that nonsensical expectation that you should or can always agree. Yet we can grab nets and count fish and serve together in different ways for the larger good!"

Along those lines, last Sunday afternoon I heard the Reverend Omar Rouchon (on staff at St. Philip Presbyterian-Houston) charge the congregation of St Andrew Presbyterian-Beaumont on the occasion of the installation of their new pastor, Tara Thompson. Omar said: "The future looks bright. You've been on a long journey to installed pastoral leadership, and I stand with you in excitement, joy, and hope this day. As we celebrate Rev. Thompson's installation I am filled with different kinds of

hope: (1) Hope that you will love each other deeply, knowing that love is a two-way street; and a sustained, lasting, life-giving love requires commitment; (a) that you will speak up when you feel moved to share, even when those conversations might be difficult, and (b) that, if you feel so moved, you will offer criticism constructively; knowing that giving feedback can itself be a function of love: for if you did not care you would let it go by. But speak as our compassionate, thoughtful God would speak. (2) I am also filled with hope that you will honor and respect your past, with an openness of head and heart to the ways the Spirit is moving you forward. Hospitality means welcoming not just the guest or the outsider or those who God calls us to love, but it can also mean welcoming new ideas and embracing new leadership. Rev. Thompson is unlike any pastor you have ever had before, because how could she be like any pastor you have had before?"

Elaine Vance told us in multiple ways: "None of us is totally like the other. Honor and respect the past. Don't let the net break. Count the fish. Take care of the details of responsibility; and continue to go to breakfast by Jesus' invitation. Do all of this with an openness of head and heart to the ways Jesus' Spirit is moving you forward." You know, Elaine Vance and the Reverend Omar Rouchon never met each other; but they have both been nourished by the meal with others which Jesus continually hosts. "Care for my people," he said. "Take care of the details and the people. Then come again to breakfast." – All honor and praise be to God.