

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Welcome and Announcements**Prelude** *God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven*

David Cherwien

Call to Worship**Prayer of Praise****Prayer of Confession****Assurance of Pardon****Prayer for Illumination****Scripture Reading** Isaiah 40:12-20, 25-31

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the spirit of the Lord, or as his counselor has instructed him? Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice? Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales; see, he takes up the isles like fine dust. Lebanon would not provide fuel enough, nor are its animals enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? An idol? —A workman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold, and casts for it silver chains. As a gift one chooses mulberry wood—wood that will not rot— then seeks out a skilled artisan to set up an image that will not topple.

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Sermon “God’s Team”

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

Anthem *Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head*

arr. John Jacob Niles

Trio: Marilyn Wilkins, Rhonda Haskins, Donna Morrison

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer**Benediction****Postlude** *Jubilate*

Gordon Young



*Thank you for your gifts that support our ministries, year in and year out.
Tithes and offerings may be dropped in the basket by the baptismal font.
To show love for one another, please remember to exit the sanctuary by row from the rear
and maintain six-feet distance from those not in your household.*

Remember in your thoughts and prayers:

Health concerns: Louis McCaleb; Baywood Crossing residents and staff; Thelma Jean Paradysz's son-in-law, Ron Grimes; Mary Knapik; John Rarden, Sr.; Jamie Jamison; Camp Clemmons; Cathy Sydnor; Health care workers and all those struggling with the coronavirus; Bill Flora; Bonnie & Jim Keith's daughter, Laura Weigler; Thelma Jean Paradysz; Bill Welch; Donna Gilchrest; Kay Goates; Imelda Carrillo

Upcoming Events @ FPC - more details at fpcpasadena.org

Stepping Out in Faith Sunday School led by Pat Abrams meets Sundays at 8:30 via Zoom. To join, contact Bonnie Keith.

Prayer Shawl Group meets every Tuesday via Zoom at 1:30 pm. To join this group contact Johnnie Haltom or Barbara Davis.

The Wednesday Brown Bag and Bible meets every Wednesday at noon. Email Rev. Fair at revfair@fpcpasadena.org to add your name. If needed, contact the church office for Zoom link at office@fpcpasadena.org.

Presbyterian Women Day and Night Circles will have a joint meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, February 9, at 6:30 pm to continue our study of Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament by P. Lynn Miller. Imelda Carrillo will be presenting *lesson six, "Lament Over the City."* If you have not been a part of PW and would like to join, please contact Rhonda Haskins or Bonnie Keith.

Brunch & Book Group meet next on Saturday, February 20, at 10 am via Zoom to discuss "*True Colors*" by Kristan Hannah. Contact Ruth Askine or Rev. Fairfax Fair to join.

Johnnie Haltom is moving to Seguin, Texas! We will have a drive-by farewell for Johnnie at FPC under the front drive-thru (porte-cochere) on **February 13 from 11 am - 1 pm**. Wear your mask and bring cards, Valentines, written notes, etc... to Johnnie, the Queen of written notes! This is not a surprise, Johnnie knows all about it. Hope to see you there!

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is following worship on February 14. The 2021 budget will be presented at the meeting. Copies of the Annual Report will be available at the meeting or at our FPC website: fpcpasadena.org. The Annual Report includes reports from our ministries and pictures of this past year with a fun quiz on the last page - check it out!

Save the Date! Wonderful Wednesday, February 24 at 6 pm. The guest speaker is **Laura Joy** from Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS). Laura is the Development Officer for PCHAS. She started volunteering and helping with her church's community outreach when she was a child, and loves devoting her time to helping the community. Laura will be sharing how PCHAS's Christ-centered ministry is annually helping 4,500 children and families in need, and providing background and history on PCHAS' Houston programs and outreach across Texas. She will also be giving an update on the ways that PCHAS has been affected by 2020 and ways that they are looking forward to continuing to serve children and families in 2021.

Reminder: Narthex doors open at 10 am. Worship Service is at 10:30 am. Also, for the safety of each and every one of us, **masks must be worn while in the building - even while sitting in the sanctuary.**

Live-streaming of Sunday's service can be found on our website. Please use your good judgment about which option is best for you and your health. When the pandemic is over, we look forward to all being together again safely.

First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena In-Church Worship Protocols

For at least the next year, we anticipate our lives will be shaped by the timeline set by COVID-19. We face difficult choices between conflicting needs, wants, and imperatives. We anticipate that we will be continuously evaluating what worship and all other church functions look like.

Despite our best efforts to provide a safe worship experience, conditions may again require the closing of the building. The pastor, in consultation with church leaders, will use CDC, Harris County, and PCUSA guidelines and good judgment to determine how to promote safety in reopening FPCP while actively monitoring local transmission rates of COVID-19. To preserve the health of our members, if circumstances change and worshipping together is not wise, services will again be virtual only.

We recognize that some of our members have underlying health issues or risk factors. Their health and safety must be at the forefront of our considerations. Persons with a high morbidity risk from COVID-19 are urged to stay home and continue to worship virtually. We will nonetheless strive to promote safe, in-person worship experiences for all that do not discriminate against persons with disabilities or high-risk conditions.

Church Physical Set Up:

- Doors will be left open so no one has to touch a door handle. This includes the designated entry door [the front door under the porte-cochere] and the doors into the sanctuary.
- No-Touch Hand Sanitizer dispensers will be installed in the Narthex.
- Offering plates will be placed by the baptismal font.
- Pews will be marked so people space themselves safely and avoid contact.
- Hymnals, Bibles, friendship folders, offering envelopes, Kleenex, etc. will be removed from pews.
- Signs will be posted that only one person at a time is to be in the restroom and additional signs will be posted to wipe handles touched with sanitizing wipes.
- The Church kitchen will remain closed.
- Signs encouraging hand washing and mandating face mask use (covering nose and mouth) will be posted in the Narthex.
- Signs encouraging social distancing will be posted in the narthex as well as the sanctuary.
- Sanitizing wipes will be available as needed.
- Gloves will be available in the Narthex and at the back of the church.
- One microphone per speaker will be set up.
- Camera will be set up to provide option of live streaming the service

Worship Procedures

- **Everyone in the building and on the church grounds must wear a cloth or medical mask.** Members are strongly encouraged to bring their own. We may have some available, while supplies last. Individuals uncomfortable wearing a face mask or with a medical condition that makes wearing a mask problematic may continue to participate in our on-line services.
- Social distancing of a minimum of six feet must be observed at all times, with the exception of members who live in the same household.
- Non-contact infrared thermometers will be used to take temperatures upon entry. Anyone with a temperature of 100.2 and higher will not be allowed into the building.
- Names of worshipers will be recorded as they enter to keep track of who has been part of the worship experience in the event that they need to be contacted.
- Greeters will be asked to stand back a minimum of six feet and welcome folks verbally.
- Bulletins and announcements will continue to be available online for the live streamed service.
- Bulletins will not be distributed to participate in the service in the sanctuary. Information will be projected on the screens at the front of the sanctuary.
- We will present shortened services to minimize risk.

Worship Procedures continued...

- Live streaming on YouTube or recorded services will continue for those who are not comfortable returning to 'in-person' worship
- Soloist may sing from behind a three-sided plexiglass shield.
- There will be no congregational or choral singing. It has been determined that singing is among the riskier behaviors for spreading droplets/aerosols which can carry the virus a significant distance and remain suspended in the air.
- Worshipers will leave by row, as directed.

Other Changes to Normal Practices

- Online (ZOOM) continues for Brown Bag, Session and ministry meetings, PW, Book Group, Wonderful Wednesday, etc.
- Office open by appointment. As on Sundays, masks required for staff and visitors.
- Forego November celebration of communion.
- Use of building by outside groups remains suspended.
- Congregants who are sick or who have had close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 are to stay home.
- Local health officials will be contacted if a person diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the church and this information also will be communicated with members so they are aware of potential exposure. The Clerk of Session, with the assistance of the church office, will be responsible to make the communications.

DISCONTINUE:

- Children's Sermon
- Passing the Peace, hugs, handshakes, elbow bumps, etc.
- Physical use of Bibles and Hymnals
- Nursery
- Coffee
- Use of water fountains