

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Prelude in D Minor from Twelve Pieces*

Theodore Dubois

Call to Worship

Centering Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading I Corinthians 1:18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Sermon "About the Cross..."

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

Anthem *For Love of You*

John Carter

Chancel Choir, Ron Ollis - organ

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *Fugue in D Major from Twelve Pieces*

Theodore Dubois



*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-foot distance from those not in your household.*

Remember in your thoughts and prayers:

Health concerns: Baywood Crossing residents and staff; Mary Knapik; John Rarden, Sr.; Jamie Jamison; Camp Clemmons; Cathy Sydnor; Health care workers and all those struggling with the coronavirus; Donna Gilchrest; Sarah Brady; Jean Johnston; Karen Shimnowski's sister, Denita Logan.

Upcoming Events @ FPC - more details at fpcpasadena.org

Lent Devotionals are emailed/mailed each week and received each week by Sunday to use as we prepare to celebrate the risen Christ with reflection and prayer.

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.

Presbyterian Women Day and Night Circles meets via Zoom this Tuesday, March 9, at 6:30 pm to continue their study of *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* by P. Lynn Miller. Trixi Spires will be presenting **lesson seven**, "Creation Laments." If you have not been a part of PW and would like to join, please contact Rhonda Haskins or Bonnie Keith.

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.

Stewardship Ministry meets this Wednesday at 6 pm.

Mission & Outreach Ministry meets next Sunday, March 14, at 1 pm via Zoom.

Library News - Drop by the library to check out the new books that have been added to the collection. Books may be looked up using the card catalog or computer. Please observe a two person limit in the library at one time. Questions? Ask Bonnie Keith.

Brunch & Book Group meets next on Saturday, March 20, at 10 am via Zoom to discuss *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz*, by Eric Larsen. Contact Ruth Askine or Rev. Fairfax Fair to join.

Save the date for the next Wonderful Wednesday on March 24 at 6 pm via Zoom. Our speaker will be The Rev. Dr. James J. Kirk, Associate for Disaster Response (U.S.) for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The mission of PDA is to bring, "Out of Chaos, Hope". Dr. Kirk is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is responsible for coordinating the denomination's domestic response to the many disasters that impact our congregations, presbyteries and communities. Prior to this position, Jim served congregations in Sparta, NJ and Naples, FL. He graduated from Moravian College with a BA in 1977 and from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA with a D.Min. in 1981.

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