


The flowers in the sanctuary were given to the glory of God, by Hope Sheppard in memory of and in honor of the many March and April birthdays in the Sheppard family.

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Sunday, March 21 - Blood Drive 8:30 to 1:30 

8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday - Last Day to Order Easter Lilies

7:30 a.m. - Men's Council Breakfast

8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

1:00 p.m. - Reverse Easter Bunny Sighting and Parade

5:00 to 7:00 p.m. - L.I.F.E. Youth Easter Event Outside

Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed. *Please make a reservation.*

Friday, April 2 - Good Friday

7:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. - Let us solemnly honor the way Jesus suffered and died for our sins. *Please make a reservation.*

Sunday, April 4 - Easter

8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

Monday, April 5 - Offices Closed

Tuesday, April 6

9:30 a.m. - Presbyterian Women's Morning Circle mtg in sanctuary

7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Women's Night Circle mtg in sanctuary

Today is the last day to make a monetary donation to the Reverse Easter Bunny Sighting and Parade. Thank You for your donation and support.



THE CHALLENGE

The 100 Can Challenge continues as we go forward in 2021.

Let us carry on THE CHALLENGE to collect can goods and other non-perishable items. The donated items will be given to Sharing Life, as they feed those in need in our community. Our total for March is currently 125 cans.

Guidelines for Worship

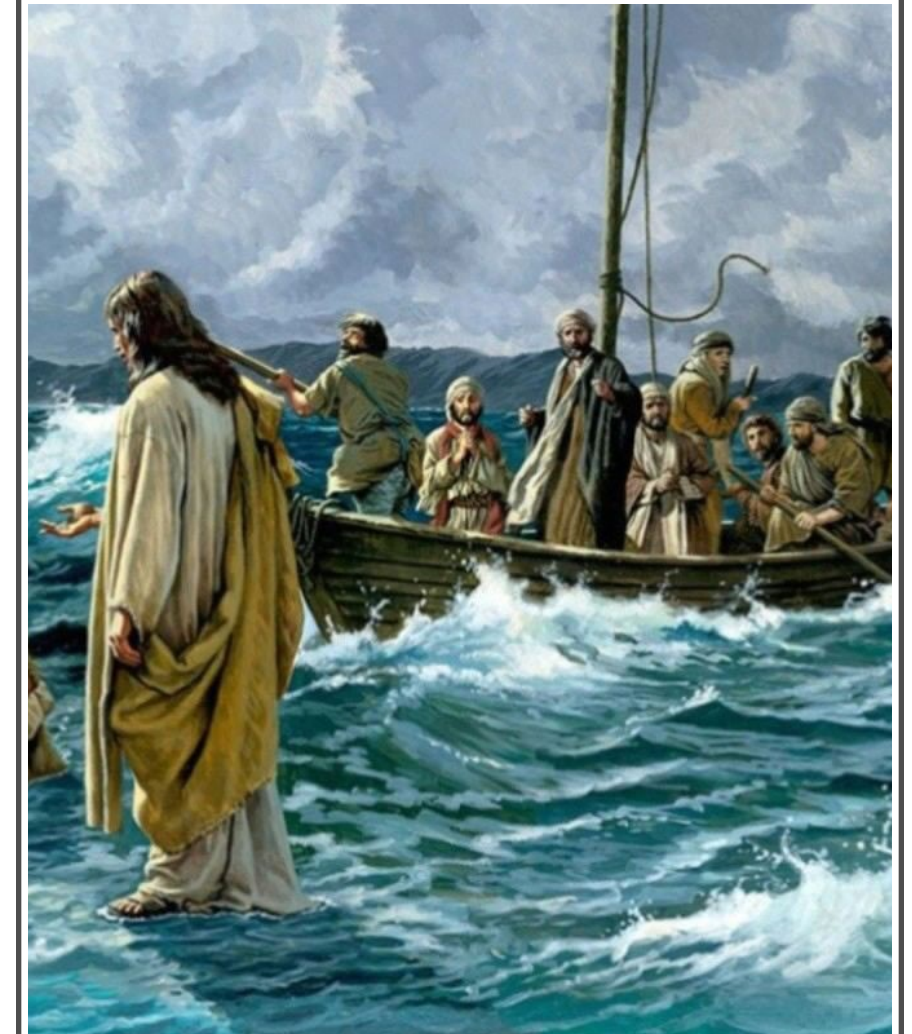
- 1) Three worship services (8:30, 9:45, and 11:00).
- 2) Forty worshipers in the pews. People call or email to make reservations for their service. Members will have assigned seats. We will use chart to maintain social distance.
- 3) **Worshipers must wear masks at all times.** This is in accordance to the guidelines from the State of Texas and Dallas County. We do have masks available.
- 4) We will seek to use one usher team of four for a given Sunday.
- 5) One entry for worship. The door by the church office. One Church Safety Member opens the outer door for worshipers. One usher steps outside to check the temperature of the worshiper. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be asked to sit down. The usher will retake the temperature after a short break. If the temperature has not gone down the worshiper will not be able to attend. One usher keeps the inner door open for worshipers. No contact-just waves and verbal greetings.
- 6) Two members of a four person usher team would lay out bulletins in the prearranged seats. These ushers will also direct members to their assigned seats.
- 7) **Hand sanitizer is available near the entrance and exit of the sanctuary.**
- 8) **The offering is called for as it has been during the virtual services. Following the service, those who wish to give may place their offering in the offering plate as they leave. A Deacon will be standing by to accept your offering.**
- 9) Communion: On those Sundays we celebrate the sacrament, we will have prepackaged elements available on a table by the entry door. Worshipers will pick up their elements when they arrive. Rev. Doughton will preside at the Table in the Sanctuary. At the given time worshipers will then take the elements at their seats.
- 10) All cushions, Bibles, hymnals, attendance pads and note pads/pencils will be removed from the sanctuary. An Usher will take attendance.
- 11) **Following each service worshipers will take their bulletins to the back and place them in a recycle bin.**
- 12) There will be a team to wipe down the pews and sanitize after each service. After the pews are sanitized ushers will place the bulletins for the following service.
- 13) The congregation may sing the hymns, but they must leave on their mask.
- 14) During this time-no Sunday School and no nursery.
- 15) One usher will record who sits where in that service. That will be kept in a log.
- 16) The first service will be recorded on DVD for our shut-ins and on YouTube to be available on Sunday evening for viewing.
- 17) With all messages to the congregation we would make it clear if a member is at risk then he/she should consider staying at home.

THOSE WHO SERVE

Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor
Ben Clifton, Director of Music Ministries
Ryoji Shimpo, Organist
Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant
Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

March 21, 2021



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We hope you find a welcome here worthy of the gracious God we serve. Conventions in this bulletin include: an asterisk () invites you to stand, as health allows, material printed in **bold** is for the congregation to sing or say, and material printed in italics may provide some helpful information. Let us worship God!*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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MESQUITE, TEXAS 75149

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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY *Danny Boy* Traditional Irish

INTROIT *Spirit of the Living God* Daniel Iverson

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2*

Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And also to you.

Even now, declares the Lord, Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord Your God, for the Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Come, Let us Worship the Lord.

*HYMN 409 *God Is Here*

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.

Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive: we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty, Gracious, and Loving God; we have fallen short time and time again. You have given us Your word, both in scripture and in Your Son, You have promised us Your presence, and You have graced us with Your kingdom, both in teaching and in service. Even so, we neglect, ignore, and reject Your purposes for us. We do not love what You love. We do not embrace what You embrace. We do not defend what You have called us to defend. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us for what we do and what we fail to do. And with Your gifts, promises, and grace, continue working in our lives that we may live fully for Jesus Christ, now and forever-more. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE *(Hymn 581)*

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. A—men. A—men.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of all Wisdom and Glory, open us to the work of the Holy Spirit that we may hear Your Word with understanding, grace, and wisdom in this Season of Lent in Jesus name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 6:16-24

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going. The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there. They also saw that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 39 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.

Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.

As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

join with all nature in manifold witness

to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *(Refrain)*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,

thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,

strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:

blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *(Refrain)*

SERMON *Jesus, A Boat, and the Disciples* Rev. Doughton

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*DOXOLOGY *(Hymn 606)*

**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.**

*HYMN 213

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er-take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE *(sung twice)*

Jesus Remember Me

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

*VOLUNTARY *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* arr. Lani Smith

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder - Jan Fort

** Deacon/Ushers - Richard Mauldin,
Michael Johnson, & Aaron Sheppard-Mahaffey