

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God by Roger Foltz, in celebration of his birthday.

### NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

#### Sunday, September 3 - Communion

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages  
10:30 a.m. - Called Session Meeting in the Library

#### Monday, September 4

The church offices will be closed in observance of Labor Day

#### Tuesday, September 5

9:15 a.m. - Presbyterian Women's Morning Circle  
7:00 a.m. - Presbyterian Women's Night Circle

#### Wednesday, September 6

7:00 p.m. - Session Meeting in Crossroads classroom  
7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Sunday, September 10

##### Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. Ginger Conley

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

#### Tuesday, September 12

7:00 p.m. - Worship Committee Meeting

#### Wednesday, September 13

5:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Dinner  
6:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Classes  
7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 p.m. - Board of Deacons Meeting in Crossroads

#### Sunday, September 17

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages  
12:00 p.m. - Lemonade Social  
6:30 p.m. - Youth/Parent Meeting



#### Tuesday, September 19

7:00 p.m. - Christian Education Committee Meeting in Crossroads

#### Wednesday, September 20

5:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Dinner  
6:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Classes  
7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Sunday, September 24

7:30 a.m. - Men's Council Breakfast  
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

#### Wednesday, September 27

5:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Dinner  
6:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Classes  
7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Sunday, October 1 - World Wide Communion (both services)

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages  
4:00 p.m. - All Church Picnic - Town Center Park in Sunnyvale  
5:00 p.m. - Dinner served 356 E Tripp Rd  
6:00 p.m. - Vesper Service

#### Saturday, October 7 - Addressing Mesquite Day



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

### Wednesday Night Live RETURNS!

Last fall we reintroduced our midweek program. We returned to some GREAT meals prepared by Rod Graham. Pete Allen led a class on drawing. I gave a travelogue on my recent trip to the Holy Land.

This September 13 we will launch the Fall 2023 Edition of Wednesday Night Live. We will meet September 13, 20, and 27 for our first time. We will continue to meet in October and through November 15.

For September we will have THREE options. Clarence Greer will cover a series on goal setting from a Christian perspective and Biblical wisdom. Sue Bohmer will lead a class on Hymns September 13 & 20. Also, for September 20 and 27 Elna Singleton will lead a Book Club. They will look at the book "The Stranger in the Lifeboat."



The scheduled October meeting with LWLTL clashed with our Women's Retreat on October 21st. LWLTL were gracious enough to move the meeting to Sat., October 14th, in order to accommodate us. The meeting will be held at First Baptist Church Kleberg, and our mission is to collect toys for Sharing Life for Christmas. We will be collecting those from now until October 13th. You may place your donations at the end of the hall near the Welcome Center.

Mesquite ISD no longer has a clothes closet and they are now running a "hygiene drive" to benefit the students. They are in desperate need of the items listed below:

- \* Travel size deodorant
- \* Chapstick/Lip balm
- \* Socks
- \* Drawstring/stretch waistband shorts
- \* Travel size lotion
- \* Travel size toothpaste
- \* Toothbrushes
- \* Feminine hygiene products



Martha Sheppard-Mahaffey will collect the much needed items for Wilkinson Middle School. The last day to donate is Sunday, September 24, 2023.



### THE CHALLENGE

The 100 Can Challenge continues . . . 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. In August we **122 items. Thank You!**

### 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

September 3, 2023

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

### Cover Picture

This scene comes from the city gates of Dan in northern Israel. As one entered the outermost gates of a city, one essentially entered a room between the outer gates and a set of middle gates. There were two or more "rooms" as one entered the city. In the outermost area the Elders of the community would sit and judge matters between people. As we hear Zechariah state, "render in your gates judgements that are true", this is the scene that comes to mind.



*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

1028 SOUTH BELT LINE RD

MESQUITE, TEXAS 75149

972-285-5602

www.fpcmesquite.org

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

### STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* arr. John Innes

INTROIT 243 *Be Not Afraid* Jacques Berthier  
Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!  
Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2*  
Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### And also to you.

The Lord has done great things for us already, therefore we rejoice. The merciful and gracious Lord has done His marvelous works that they ought to be remembered.

\*HYMN 804 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal, Merciful, and Holy God; in Whom we live and move and have our being, Your face is hidden from us by our sins, and we forget Your mercy in the blindness of our hearts. Cleanse us from all our offenses and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires. With lowliness and meekness may we draw near to You, confessing our faults, confiding in Your grace, and finding in You our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 #

MOMENT FOR MISSION Eric Schwartz  
19th Annual Addressing Mesquite

ANTHEM *(11:00)* *Down By the Riverside* arr. Mary McDonald  
Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #

Thy Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. As Your Word is read and preached may it guide us in the right path, may it direct our steps, and may it lead us to our hearts true desire in Jesus Name. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Matthew 23:23*

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: Justice, mercy, and faith. It is these you ought to have practice without neglecting the others.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Zechariah 7:8-12; 8:14-17*

The Word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying: Thus says the Lord of hosts: Render true judgements, show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another. But they refused to listen, and turned a stubborn shoulder, and stopped their ears in order not to hear. They made their hearts adamant in order not to hear the law and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great wrath came from the Lord of hosts.

For thus says the Lord of hosts: Just as I purposed to bring disaster upon you, when your ancestors provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the Lord of hosts, so again I have purposed in these days to Judah; do not be afraid. These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another, render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace, do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath; for all these are things that I hate, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN 847 *Our Hope, Our Life*

SERMON *Postcards From the Edge: Tell It Like It Is* Rev. Doughton

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(8:45)* 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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Thought on 'Simple Gifts' arr. Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

\*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.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION †

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The 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.**

Words of Institution

Reception of the Sacrament

Prayer after Communion

\*HYMN 800 *Sometimes a Light Surprises*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE 743 *O God, You Are My God* David Strasser

O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You.

O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You.

I will seek You in the morning,  
and I will learn to walk in Your ways.  
And step by step You'll lead me,  
and I will follow You all of my days.

\*POSTLUDE When I Survey the Wondrous Cross arr. C.E. Walz

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # - Dr. Carol Stephenson *(8:45)*; Roger Foltz *(11:00)*

Deacon/Ushers † - Nick Scholl, John Futrell,

and Larry Thomas *(8:45)*;

Nick Scholl, John Futrell, Linda Fricke, and Sharon Condarco *(11:00)*