

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



October 17, 2021

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader:* What good is it if we say we love all people, but give special treatment to a few?

**People:** **God calls us to love others as deeply as we love ourselves, with no strings attached.**

*Leader:* What good is it if we say we want God to show mercy towards us, but are quick to judge others?

**People:** **God calls us to forgive our sisters and brothers, to let mercy triumph over judgment.**

*Leader:* What good is it if we say nothing is impossible with God, but doubt God at every turn?

**People:** **God calls us to live by faith and not by sight. Let us worship God!**

**\* HYMN 35***Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Forgive us, O Lord, and do good to us when we have trouble doing good for others. Enable us to trust your eternal resources to provide us with the gifts needed to follow your commands. Surround us with your love. Surround us with your grace. Surround us with your peace in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.** *(Silent Reflection)*

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Sing Twice)**

LOE DI ÍSÁ

*Jesus knows the inmost heart: nothing can be hidden.***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Leader:* While we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly. His grace meets our needs. His love mends our broken hearts!

**People:** **In the name of Christ, our sins are forgiven. Blessed be Christ, our Savior! Amen.**

**\* GLORIA PATRI****\* PASSING OF THE PEACE****CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Kelly Hickey

*Following the Children's Moment, children preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to Children in Worship. Parents can pick up their children from the third floor after worship.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Judges 16:23-30

Edmunds DuBose

Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands." When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, "Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain." While they were in high spirits, they shouted, "Bring out Samson to entertain us." So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. When they stood him among the pillars, Samson said to the servant who held his hand, "Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them." Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "Sovereign LORD, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 10:23-31

Rev. Joel Long

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who

then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!" "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

**SERMON**

*"The Possible Impossible"*

Rev. Joel Long

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The 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.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Call to Giving

Offertory Anthem

*In Christ Alone*  
Alex Beaton, Tenor Solo

Arr. by Lloyd Larson

**\* Doxology**

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**\* Offertory Prayer**

**\* HYMN 187**

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

*O Christ, Surround Me*

GREEN TYLER

***God be the love to search and keep me; God be the prayer to move my voice;  
God be the strength to now uphold me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.***

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

*St. Anthony Chorale*

Arr. by Rick Parks

**\* Please stand as you are able**



Today's message challenges us to embrace the scriptural statement that **"nothing is impossible with God."**

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A nursery is provided for children 2 years old and younger in the nursery on the first floor of the Educational Building.

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Kent Mims by his family.

## WELCOME!

We especially welcome those of you who are guests today. We invite you to fill out a Welcome card found in the pew racks and place it in the offering basket as you leave. We look forward to meeting you. If you have particular questions, please speak to Rev. Long.

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Elders: Glenn Woodrum, Liza Cooper  
Deacons: Macaulay Smith, Taylor Geddings  
Youth Liturgist: Edmunds DuBose  
Junior Usher: Lucas DuBose

### CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Teacher: Karen Ingram Volunteer: Pam George

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Elders: Liza Cooper, Missy Coulter  
Deacons: Katherine Brogdon, Colin Davis  
Youth Liturgist: Madelynn Davis  
Junior Usher: Millie Davis

### CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Teacher: Missy Coulter Volunteer: Ginny Safford



Today, the second of our Town Hall meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. This meeting is for those who did not attend last week's meeting. We look forward to sharing information regarding the search for our Interim. The Session

### “ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS”

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel  
Children, 3K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will begin at 5:00 pm at the West Building with food and fellowship! We are looking forward to our time together as we dig into God's word. Please note we strongly encourage everyone to wear masks, except while we are eating.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

All shoeboxes are due by October 20 and should be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall.

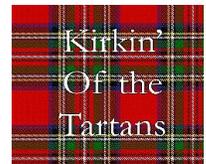


### TRUNK OR TREAT FOR FPC FAMILIES AND FPC PRESCHOOL Sunday, October 24

This year FPC will be hosting a Trunk or Treat at the West Building parking lot for FPC children and families, and our Preschool. The event will begin at 5:00 pm and end around 5:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to wear their costumes and bring their trick or treat bags. If you would like to decorate a trunk, or if you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.

### KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS October 31, 2021

Reserve your participation in the Kirkin' of the Tartans Processional by contacting Linda Hogon, 803-775-4167 or 803-840-7671, or [lhogon03@yahoo.com](mailto:lhogon03@yahoo.com). Reservations, including the name of the tartan and the carrier, are needed by **Monday, October 18**. Practice for the Kirkin' processional will begin promptly at 9:45 a.m. in the hallway next to the Choir Room on Sunday, October 31.



### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Home:** Mike Carnes, Charlie and Glenda Denny, Suzanna Foley, Bill Scobee,  
Ashley Long (Joel & Ann Long's daughter-in-law), Bill Bailey (Ashley Long's father),  
Tom Tindal (John Tindal's Brother),  
Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)  
**Austin, TX:** Robert Cain (George Cain's Father)