

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“The Return of the Prodigal” Grace Carol Bomer

March 14, 2021

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Brother James' Air

Arr. by Larry Shackley

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are lost sheep.

All: **God seeks and saves the lost.**

One: We are a lost coin.

All: **God searches and rejoices when we are found.**

One: We are the wayward son or daughter.

All: **God welcomes us, and lets the past be the past.**

One: We are the older sibling, standing outside with arms folded.

All: **God welcomes us in and invites us to join the ministry of mercy.**

One: Let us worship God!

***HYMN**

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

AUSTIN

*“Come to me, O weary traveler; come to me with your distress;
Come to me, you heavy burdened; come to me and find your rest.”*

*“Do not fear, my yoke is easy; do not fear, my burden’s light;
Do not fear the path before you; do not run from me in fright.”*

*“Rest in me, O weary traveler; rest in me and do not fear.
Rest in me, my heart is gentle; rest and cast away your care.”*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, whose mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, and deeper than all our sin; forgive us. How easily we leave your side, seeking our own path. Forgive our recklessness and our excess, our coldness to human sorrow and our passion for things of the moment. Change our hearts and turn us towards your mercy. Receive again your bewildered and broken people. Strengthen our spirits so that we can make the journey back home. Guide us to your welcoming arms, to the music and the dancing and to the joyful freedom of your grace. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. *(Silent Reflection)*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Sing Twice)

SHEPHERD ME

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
Beyond my fears, from death into life.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*** GLORIA PATRI**

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Kelly Hickey

*Following the Children’s Moment, children preschool through 2nd grade are invited to join
Ms. Kelly for Children in Worship.*

Parents can pick up their children from the West Building after worship.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Holden George Anthony Cain
Son of Brittney and George Cain

Presentation

Questions to the Parents

Questions to the Children of the Church

Question to the Congregation

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Holden by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of this church?

We do.

Profession of Faith

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.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Baptism

Congregational Response

KINGDOM

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 5:1-10

Andrew Bratton

Luke 5:11-31

SERMON

"Parable of the Lost Son"

Rev. Nick Cheek

ANTHEM

Wayfaring Stranger

John Jacob Niles

Alex Beaton, Tenor Soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*** HYMN**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYD Y NOS

*"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."
"Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
Here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."*

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

AR HYD Y NOS

*"Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Rejoicing in God

Colin Curtis

*** Please stand as you are able**

Special thanks to Denise Lynch, guest pianist, for sharing her musical talents with us this morning.

A nursery is provided for children 2 years old and younger in the West Building.

6TH GRADERS BIBLE BASICS

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm each Sunday in March in the West Building.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth group meets in person on Sundays:

Middle School 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Senior High 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

“ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS”

A New Preschool and Elementary Ministry

Every Sunday in March in the Chapel from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

EASTER EGG HUNT

Palm Sunday, March 28, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

As we start preparing for this fun event, we need your help with Easter eggs. We need about 400 eggs filled with individually wrapped candy or stickers. (Please no chocolate, it melts, or peanuts due to peanut allergies.) All donations are needed in the church office by Sunday, March 21. Any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.

TIME TO ORDER EASTER LILIES

We will once again place Easter lilies on Easter Sunday, April 4. If you would like to remember or honor a loved one with a lily, please complete the form found in the Focus and return it with \$10.00 per lily to the Church Office no later than Monday, March 22.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICERS BEING RECEIVED

Recommendations for the office of Elder and Deacon are now being received from the congregation by the Officer Nominating Committee. The deadline has been extended to Tuesday, March 16. Using the form in the Focus, please submit your recommendations to the church office, Kay Smith (kwsmith0925@yahoo.com) or Missy Coulter (coultervm@aol.com).

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Providence: Charles Hodgin

Home: Carol Reese, Darryl Peyton, Kathy Lyons, Emmett Anglin, David R. Brown, Bill Scobee, Tiny Owens, Serena Davell (Marie Mills' Sister), Charles King (Greg King's Father), Robert Stage II (son of Marta Stage)

Austin, TX: Robert Cain (George Cain's Father)

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Betty Trapp, who died March 6, 2021.

