



WORSHIP GUIDE

February 27, 2022

First Presbyterian Church

If you are curious, and have come to see –
If you are weary, and have come to rest –
If you are grateful, and have come to share –
If you are hurting, and have come for solace –
If you are listening, and have come to pray –
If you are seeking, and have come for answers...Welcome!

A Service for the Worship of God

Sunday, 11:00 A.M

Transfiguration of the Lord

February 27, 2022

"As I grow older, I discover more and more that the greatest gift I have to offer is my own joy of living, my own inner peace, my own silence and solitude, my own sense of well-being. When I ask myself, "Who helps me the most?" I must answer, "The one who is willing to share his or her life with me." - Henri Nouwen

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*GATHERING SENTENCES: adapted from Psalm 95

**Unison: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God with thanksgiving
and extol God with music and song.
For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
In God's hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to God.
The sea is God's, for God made it,
and God's hands formed the dry land.
Come Let us worship before the Lord our Maker.**

*HYMN #415 (*all verses*)..... *We Are Called to Be God's People*

*MORNING PRAYER

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us come to God with full confidence, in Christ we are forgiven.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, who gives us life, we confess this morning that we forget your creation is ongoing. We get stuck in what you have already done and forget that you are always moving us forward and inviting us to join the great journey. Forgive us for thinking the better days are behind us. Give us eyes to see, hearts that dream, and hands willing to work in your ongoing creation. Amen

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The Word is clear, we are forgiven and set free in Christ Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI (#813)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*HYMN #465 (all verses) *Baptized in Water*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (#633)

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Page 48 (in unison) Exodus 3:11-15

ANTHEM..... "We Have Come This Far by Faith" Williams/Martin

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Page(s) 185;187 (in unison)Philippians 1:3-6, 4:6-9

MESSAGE..... "You Can't Put It All in a Jar" Rev. Steven H. Rhodes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostle's 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.

BAPTISM – Cooper William Blaich

Presentation

Profession of Faith

The Baptism and Prayer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Please continue to place your offering in the plate in the front of the narthex)

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN #653 (*all verses*)..... *Whiter Than Snow*

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE..... *Three-fold Amen*

*POSTLUDE

*Stand if you are able

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1063 Circle Drive DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
Voice (850) 892-5832
Fax (850) 892-1067
fpcdfs@embarqmail.com
firstdefuniak.org

Moderator: Rev. Steven H. Rhodes
Alannah Anderson (22)
Greg Bledsoe (22)
Graham Campbell-Work (22)
Vivian Powell (22)

SESSION
Laura McNew (23)
Beth Mooney (23)
Doug Sanders (23)

Clerk: Joyce Kelly
Martha Smith (24)
Mark Davis (24)
Wendy Kempa (24)

“You Can’t Put It All in a Jar”

Rev. Steven H. Rhodes

February 27, 2022

A few years back the denomination asked me to go Chicago for a meeting about the future of the Presbyterian Church.

During a break I was reading a local paper and ran across an article from a reporter who was assigned the job of covering the opening of a new Natural History Exhibition at the Chicago Metropolitan Museum. He was bored and about to leave when he spotted a boy, about twelve and his little sister. They were standing in front of a sign that read: ‘Body of a 180lb man in Glass Case’, third floor. The reporter said their eyes were about to pop out of their heads. He knew he had his story.

The children grinned and ran up the stairs with the reporter following close behind. They stopped on the third story landing long enough to catch their breath and figure out which way to go...then, like a flash, they were at the door, but they paused.

The reporter could tell they were getting up their nerve, sort of daring the other to go in first.

Well, they joined hands and walked over to the case. It was long and coffin like, they were barely breathing. Then the surprise! As they looked, all they saw were jars, dozens of jars with labels like potassium, salt, nitrogen, calcium.

They stood for a moment with their mouth open. Then a light went on and the young girl said, “I get, I get it, this what the human body is made of!

Her brother stood staring for a moment and then said, “Nah, that can’t be all, there’s got to be more to being human than what you can put into jars”.

Today we will baptize Cooper. I say ‘we’ because though I will perform the actual baptism, you, the faithful and committed members of this congregation, will promise – as you have so many times, and will do many more – you will promise to help Chase and Chelsea raise Cooper, ‘In the sight of God’

Now, 'In the sight of God ' simply means that in all we do and say, in all our actions in and around Cooper – we will help him 'see', understand and then be encouraged to trust God - all his life and for his whole life.

That no matter what profession he one day settles into, or what kind of hobbies he may pursue.

No matter what relationships he may form or whom he may fall in love with...no matter the mistakes he makes, and the good deeds he will do.

No matter the grief he may face we hope and believe that Cooper will have the courage to engage the world and not shrink back in fear...

Yes, no matter what money or property he may accumulate, or how little he may have.

No matter how many times he may have to ask forgiveness or freely offer forgiveness.

No matter how often he finds himself bereft of belief.

No matter, today we promise, as others did for us, we promise to do all we can to make sure he doesn't limit his life to what can be put into jars.

We promise to help Cooper not be overcome by the 'what ifs' of life and the fears that at times haunt us. We will help Cooper not limit his life to the safety of familiar and ease

The hope of Chase and Chelsea, the hope we have for all the baptized children - for Jake and Faith and Grey and all the rest - our hope is that they will come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior and to follow the path of Jesus, That they and all of us will come to know with all our heart that the Lord is our Shepherd and we lack nothing, that God is our Father, the Maker of Heaven and Earth, that in Life and in Death and in everything in between we belong to God.

Do you understand? Baptism is not something we do because others have done it, or because our Grandmother wants us to.

No, Baptism is an act of faith in an increasingly faithless world; it is an act of defiance in a world still enamored by war and power and wealth; it is an act of hopefulness in a world that believes nothing will change, a world that too often settles for what has been.

Living in the sight of God gives us the ability to discern what is true from what is not.

Think about this week! What Russia is doing in Ukraine is just evil! It's not politically strategic or some right of restoration of an ancient empire. Let us not be distracted by shallow rhetoric or flimsy justifications...Good and evil are not hard to distinguish. War is at time unfortunately necessary. But this war in Ukraine is nothing more than an old fashioned land grab by a dictator.

That is why raising Cooper or Koi or Shay in the sight of God, encouraging them, helping them avoid the trap of being enslaved by a culture addicted to speed, superficiality and distraction is so important. That is our goal, indeed our great calling and great joy, that is why this congregation exists:

To witness to a way of life that cannot be put into jars.

So, please get out the prayer that was in your bulletin. It is a by the late Franciscan Priest Oscar Romero, who served in a small village in El Salvador in the 60's, 70's and 80's. I shared it with the Session and now I want us to read it together...

Amen!

Prayer of Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us

No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.
It may be incomplete,
but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.
This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation
in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

Amen.