

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



## THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

September 27, 2020  
8:15 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas  
Link to worship videos available at: [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown

arr. Melody Bober

### WELCOME

We serve the Creator, who loves us into life.

**We follow Christ, who loves us unto death.**

We listen for the Spirit, who loves us into transformation.

**We worship God, whose love knows no bounds.**

### HYMN No. 305

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

DARWALL'S 148TH

**Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!**

REFRAIN **In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!**

**Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,  
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!** REFRAIN

**Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,  
as we in mission magnify the Crucified!** REFRAIN

**Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
for Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!** REFRAIN

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

**Holy God, we have heard your command to love you, to love our neighbor, and to love ourselves, yet we fall into patterns of shallow devotion, false kindness, and self-doubt. We have heard your call to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you, yet we're drawn to safety, not justice; apathy, not kindness; pacing, not walking. Hear our prayers, O God. Forgive us for what we have done and for what we have left undone. Hear our prayers, O God, and move us to deeper trust and more faithful action.**

We come before you now in a time of silence with all that weighs on our hearts, Lord, hear our prayers . . .

*(We pray in silence.)* Amen.

Thanks be to God whose grace transcends the bounds of sin and whose love lifts us up into new life.

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:25-37

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

Christians, Be Kind

HYMN NO. 701

Lord Prepare Me

SANCTUARY

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray . . . O One upon the throne of the Universe, outpouring your very self in redeeming love among persons of all backgrounds and in all times and places: Receive our thanks for your gifts too many for us to count or to remember. Grant that your mercies and power to transform life are experienced by each of us and all others in the processes of giving and receiving.

Deliver each individual and every group from fears and self-absorption; from envy and resentment; from apathy and miserliness; from chronic illness and injuries which linger – physical and emotional; from painful words uttered and heard. With compassion, tenderness, and strength, O Source of Goodness, heal and save, as only you can.

In the way and spirit of Jesus Christ, change and guide us: to cherish your wisdom; to sense the communion you create among those of past and present, those known and unknown to us; to embrace your majestic desire for communities of respect and peace; and to celebrate the risks of discipleship you encourage us to exercise.

As Jesus taught disciples in his time – and later – to believe and give voice, we pray together:

**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.**

I'm gonna live so (live so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere Lord (my Lord) anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna work so (work so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere Lord (my Lord) anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna pray so (pray so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere Lord (my Lord) anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna sing so (sing so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere Lord (my Lord) anytime! (anytime!)

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

How Firm a Foundation

arr. Cindy Berry

+ + + + +

**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES.** Three more days! Wednesday, September 30, is the last day to bring your donations to the Patio for our adopted school **ANSON JONES ELEMENTARY**. On their list of student needs are: **composition books (wide-ruled), No. 2 pencils, crayons (24-ct), markers (Crayola, 8-ct), Pink Pearl erasers, jumbo glue sticks, 2-gallon zipper bags, case 12-oz. bottled water** (as drinking fountains are not being used), and **disinfecting wipes**. Place your donations on the marked table in the Patio. Monetary donations are also accepted. Make checks payable to FPC-Bryan or go to [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org), click **Give** to donate through our online payment portal ("**Special Gifts**" MEMO: **Anson Jones**).

A **COVID-19 PERU RELIEF FUND** has been established to provide food and assistance to the poorest in Lima (Peru) served by Pastor Pedro Garcia with Joining Hands Network. Here's how you can help! Make checks payable to FPC-Bryan or go to [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org), click **Give** to donate through our online payment portal ("**Special Gifts**" MEMO: **COVID-19 Peru Relief**).

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is working to help those affected by **HURRICANES** and **WILDFIRES**—the collective impact is adding up in the United States. Here's how you can help! Make checks payable to FPC-Bryan or go to [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org), click **Give** to donate through our online payment portal ("**Special Gifts**" MEMO: **PDA, DR000194**).

-----  
Especially in this time, visit the church website, [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org), for the newsletter, announcements, worship bulletins, devotionals for children and adults, updates, etc.

Like us on **Facebook** at: [www.facebook.com/FPCBryan](http://www.facebook.com/FPCBryan)

**NEW!!!** on **Instagram**: [www.instagram.com](http://www.instagram.com). Search for and follow **fpcbryantx1867** and/or **fpcbryan\_youth**

**Want to be notified when new videos are uploaded to our YouTube channel?**

Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), search for First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Texas, then click **SUBSCRIBE**

Our newsletter, **The Chimes**, continues to be available online, emailed to FPC-Bryan friends, and mailed to local FPC-Bryan members with the printed bulletin and sermon to those without technology.

Until further notice, it will not be mailed to its full distribution list.

The deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is Noon, Sunday, October 4, and will be distributed on Wednesday, October 7. This newsletter will cover news from October 15-28.

**STAY CONNECTED!** with others in this community of faith at Church Updates—FPC-Bryan's online tool for church-related announcements, ways to serve, and current prayer needs. This online tool is "**REAL TIME**," and users receive a weekly reminder email on Thursdays to view new posts.

Login and create your password-protected account at <https://fpcbtx.churchupdates.org/login>. For more information, contact Karen in the church office, 979.823.8073 or [office@fpcbryan.org](mailto:office@fpcbryan.org).



# A WARM WELCOME!

*We are delighted to have you worship with us today.*

## WORSHIP NOTES

### PREACHER

Rev. Emily K. Béghin

### LITURGISTS

Rev. Ted Foote

Rev. George E. Klett

### USHERS/GREETERS

Ruth Ann Gholson

Nicole McKinley

### MUSICIANS

Michelle Lassiter, *Pianist*

David Kipp,

*Director of Music Ministries*

### FLOWERS

In loving memory  
of Betty & Tom Mahoney  
by their children

### SOUND

Jerry Norris

### COPYRIGHT LICENSES

CCLI 196019

OneLicense.net A-718836

CVLI 504246321



## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST,

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

**PRE-RECORDED DEVOTIONAL** (To view, visit [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org))

**8:15am ON-SITE OUTDOOR WORSHIP (livestreamed) \*-**

**on the northeast part of Gordon and 31<sup>st</sup> Streets Parking Lot**

9:20am Seekers Church School Class-Parlor/via Zoom

9:20am The Word Church School Class-303/via Zoom

9:30am Loose Leaf Church School Class-via Zoom

6:30pm Session Stated Meeting-Library/via Zoom

7:00pm Youth (GR 6-12) Sunday Fun Day-meet in Fellowship Hall

**Bring gardening gloves/tools for a local mission project on site!**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

12:30pm Circle I-via Zoom

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2020**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2020**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020**

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020**

**PRE-RECORDED DEVOTIONAL** (To view, visit [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org))

9:20am Seekers Church School Class-Parlor/via Zoom

9:20am The Word Church School Class-303/via Zoom

9:30am Loose Leaf Church School Class-via Zoom

**10:45am WORSHIP (livestreamed)-Sanctuary**

12:00pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

5:45pm Youth participate in Blessing of the Animals-

Meet on the 31<sup>st</sup> St. Lawn near the cross

(followed by sandwiches and sides in Fellowship Hall)

6:00pm Blessing of the Animals-on the 31<sup>st</sup> St. Lawn near the cross

\* *Loving childcare available in Room 108 in the church*

**First Presbyterian Church | 1100 Carter Creek Parkway | Bryan, Texas 77802**

PH. 979.823.8073 | FAX. 979.822.7063 | Website: [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org) | Email: [office@fpcbryan.org](mailto:office@fpcbryan.org)

Find "First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Texas" on FACEBOOK

## Christians, Be Kind

Rev. Emily K. Béghin  
Luke 10:25-37

First Presbyterian Church  
Bryan, Texas

We all know and recognize this scripture. A lawyer, an overthinker, a man obedient to the letter of the law asks Jesus for the prescribed way to obtain eternal life and Jesus asks him what he knows. The man already had the answer, he just needed affirmation that he indeed had the answer, but he wants it all to be airtight, instructions wrapped neatly with a bow. Jesus, in his way, gives the man a parable, The Good Samaritan.

In the story we see that religious figures are not holier than thou, that society is and always has had an order of caution and rules, and that humanity is not always kind or caring. We also see someone who went out of their way to be to the injured man what he hoped someone would be to him if found in the same situation. The Samaritan was kind.

Being kind and being nice are two different things. Being nice requires no investment in care or concern for another. It is a mask we wear to get us through an interaction. To be nice is to wear a smile when we don't need to and to coast across the upper crust of an encounter. We can walk away knowing we contributed to the pleasantness of an atmosphere, but we also walk away with nothing given and nothing gained.

To be kind is to show compassion towards someone else, whether it is to recognize their humanity and ask their name and genuinely want to know about their day, or to help someone who may need aid to cross the street, carry their groceries, or learn a new skill. To be kind is to open one's self up to forming a relationship beyond the pleasantries that are expected of us in a society.

Sometimes we forget that our faith calls us to be more than nice people. It is good to be nice, but better to be kind and that requires us to step it up and actively seek to make this world a better place by being better people. We need to remember what it is to be present with someone, to connect in ways that grow from kindness. Perhaps then, the world could heal person by person.

I'd like to bring today's parable into the perspective of the modern day for a moment, to a situation that at first may seem familiar.

Meet Alex, a kind 8<sup>th</sup> grader who was walking home from school one day when he noticed that the boy ahead of him had tripped and dropped all the books he was carrying, along with two sweaters, a baseball bat, a glove, and his smartphone. Alex knelt down and helped the boy pick up the scattered articles, carefully piling them into his arms.

Since they were going the same way, he helped to carry part of the burden. As they walked, Alex discovered the boy's name was Wes and he was also in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, that he loved video games, baseball and history, that he was having a lot of trouble with his other subjects and that he had just broken up with his girlfriend.

Alex went home after dropping Wes at his house. They continued to see each other around school, had lunch together once or twice, then both graduated from junior high. They ended up in the same high school, where they had brief contacts over the years. Finally, the long-awaited senior year came. Three weeks before graduation, Wes asked Alex if they could talk.

Wes reminded him of the day years ago when they had first met. "Do you ever wonder why I was carrying so many things home that day?" asked Wes. "You see, I cleaned out my locker because I didn't want to leave a mess for anyone else. I was going home to commit suicide. See, my mom had some sleeping pills and I had been slowly storing them away... But after we spent some time together talking and laughing, I realized that if I had killed myself, I would have missed all that time and so many others that might follow. So you see, Alex, when you picked up my books that day, you did a lot more. You saved my life."

Kindness is like a seed that can grow when nurtured into something beautiful. Unfortunately, reputable nonprofit studies conducted in June of 2020 report that during covid-19 suicidal contemplation in adults aged 18-24 has increased by 25%, in essential workers by 21.7%, and in minority groups by as much as 18%. Among nonpaid caregivers of adults, the studies report that the percentage has tripled<sup>1</sup>. Due to economic stress, social isolation, loss of community, barriers to mental health treatment (due to restrictions

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6932a1.htm>

with hospitals), and political stressors, suicidal contemplation and suicide rates have skyrocketed in comparison to recent years. Just this month another study was done on teen suicide rates and rates of suicidal ideation. The study states that 1 in 5 teenagers in the U.S. has seriously considered suicide during the time of covid-19 in the United States<sup>2</sup>. Imagine a classroom of 25 students, now subtract 5. These numbers are alarming.

In my own life as a teen, I lost 3 close friends to suicide within a 2-year span. It is not easy to detect when someone feels so hopeless as to contemplate such a horrendous action.

In the wake of the tragedies in my own life story, all of my friends and I felt adrift. We had lost all control of what we thought was secure and good. I recently met up with an old friend who was there for it all as well. In speaking with him about what we knew of all of our friend group from that time, we realized just how messed up everything was. Each of us had chosen paths that were actually responses to losing our loved ones. Some had chosen drugs, others had developed alcohol issues, others disappeared, never to check in with any of us again... I was the one who clung to Jesus.

Still we all wonder and feel guilt. If only we had been kinder, if only we had paid more attention, if only, if only, if only... I'm tired of if only's. That's why I chose ministry. This was my way to force myself into being held to a standard of living as a genuinely caring, kind, and attentive person. If I could be a someone that could be there for a struggling teen or struggling adult, if I could put a band aid on the things that would lead to suicidal contemplation, if I could just give someone enough love to let them know they're not alone... well, it can never bring my friends back, but maybe it could help prevent another from going through with it.

We never know the burdens another carries. Most carry their burdens with a smile; it doesn't mean they're not heavy. We'll never know completely what is going on within another person's soul, but we can be loving and kind. We can be more than just nice or proper.

To be truthful all the if only's in the world may still not have saved my friends. All the kindness, compassion, love, and care may not have stopped them from going through with it, but what I live with now is the realization of just how valuable each interaction truly can be. I choose to strive every day to be kind, even when it is most difficult. I'll never know always if it helps, but I pray and I hope.

The man in the ditch had physical injuries. It's important to know that not every injury is visible, and not everyone has a ditch that is seen. All of us at some point are the person alone in a low place and all of us also have a duty to be the person who reaches out a hand in kindness every single time. We never know the true struggles of another person, but we do get to choose how to love them. Let's love them like neighbors.

Imagine a world in which people did not condemn one another so readily, a world in which we could count on others to be kind... a world in which we could disagree and still know the humanity in another. A world in which we treated all other peoples and beings as family members, as dear ones.

This is what God desires of us. Simply be kind. Do not stop to inquire as to whether the person deserves kindness. Do not stop to ponder their skin color, religion, age, or political preference. Their nationality, class status, and educational level are not qualifiers for your love. Christians, be kind. The world needs us to be kind. Jesus needs us to be kind. That is our charge and our path to knowing God.

Walk humbly, for God is everywhere. God knows the heart and God loves all those around us. Seek justice and mercy, for that is kindness. Love kindness, and love will find you in all things. It has been said that when we stare out at the world and seek to change it, we feel small and incapable, but if we just went home and loved the ones we encountered, the world would be changed significantly. That's all it takes to make the world a better place... a little bit of love, the choice to seek kindness, and consistency in both. Begin there. Throw out the rules that would prevent you from being kind, and you may find the world to be a little bit smaller and love a whole lot bigger than we could have ever imagined.

What is written in the Law?" "How do you read it?"

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Christians, Go, and do likewise.

Amen.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/promoting-student-well-being/202009/america-is-facing-teen-suicide-pandemic>