

ATASCOCITA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 7, 2022



ROOTED IN FAITH AT APC

PRELUDE

Carl Braden

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

“Come We That Love The Lord”

Chancel Choir Men

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev Shelley Craig

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Faith is a gift to be received, treasured, and shared with joy and thanksgiving.

◆HYMN NO. 317

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

Congregation

◆CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev Shelley Craig

God calls us to walk in faith, but we do not always follow. Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

◆PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Congregation

God of the ages, God of the old, old story, we hear of our ancestors and are astounded by their faith. They trusted you, but we waver. They believed your promise, but we cling to our own ideas. Forgive us and free us from our fear, that we may follow with joy wherever you may lead; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

◆DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Rev Shelley Craig

From age to age, from generation to generation, God’s mercy never fails. Hear the good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

◆PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you!**

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

*“Jesus Loves Me!” (vs 1)
Blessing of the Backpacks*

Lisa Stacy

PRAYER

Gracious God, Be the peace that I seek, the love that I give, the hope that I carry, the light that I walk in, and the dream of this new day. This is my prayer. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 15:1-6 (NRSV)

Rev Shelley Craig

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

After the Reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 33:12-22 (NRSV)

Rev Shelley Craig

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

¹³**The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.**

¹⁴From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—

¹⁵**he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

¹⁷**The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save.**

¹⁸Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,

¹⁹**to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.**

²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.

²¹**Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.**

²²Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

ANTHEM

“How Beautiful”

Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:14-18 (NRSV)

Rev Dr David Mason

¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;

¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.

¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

After the Reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Making Music with What We Have Left”

Rev Dr David Mason

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev Shelley Craig

Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, we pray for the fulfillment of God’s promise, saying: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church . . .

Let the good news of our faith and your love spread throughout the whole world as a sign of the gospel at work among us.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world . . .

Rise up to judge and rule the nations, so that the oppressed may find freedom and the poor may be delivered from evil.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community . . .

Establish fairness and equality in this place. Let this city be rebuilt on that good foundation, so that all may find refuge and welcome here.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones . . .

Be mindful of all who need healing, whether from sickness, sin, or shame. Show them your mercy and steadfast love.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen us to run the race that is before us, laying aside the heavy burdens of sin and death and following the pioneer and perfecter of our faith:
Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. **Amen.**

✦ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *“Apostles’ Creed”* Congregation

✦ **HYMN NO. 643** *“Now Thank We All Our God”* Congregation

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Rev Dr David Mason

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord. (Romans 12:1)

✦ **DOXOLOGY** Congregation

THE EUCHARIST

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God: Through your prophets you have called us to do good, seek justice, and help the poor. This is the kind of sacrifice you desire. Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: Jesus revealed the treasure of your holy realm and taught us to watch with expectation for his coming again at an unexpected hour. Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast.

Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup: make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. Give us faith—the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things yet unseen—and make us ready for our heavenly home. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, we bless you, God of glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING THE BREAD

✦ **COMMUNION**

✦ **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy Spirit, you have filled us with your life. Christ our Savior, you have embraced us in your love.
God our Mother, you have fed us with your grace. Now send us out into your beloved world to share your life, your love, your grace with all. Blessing and honor and glory to you, holy, holy, holy Lord. **Amen.**

✦ **HYMN NO. 321** *“The Church’s One Foundation”* Congregation

✦CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev Dr David Mason

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold onto what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

✦CLOSING RESPONSE HYMN

“May the Lord Go With You”

Congregation

**May the Lord go with you,
Let him take your hand.
Keep his love within you
Until we meet again. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Carl Braden

✦All who are able may stand

Bold print indicates Congregation participation

Sunday Morning Worship Leaders

Rev Dr David Mason
Rev Shelley Craig, Liturgist
Lisa Stacy, Children’s Moment

Joe Weir, Music Director
Carl Braden, Pianist



Narthex News

Faith Formation

- **9:15 am** Doug Kennard’s class discussing the video: Great Course on Biblical Wisdom by Koterski from Fordham University, *Introduction to Biblical Literature*.
- **9:20 am** Christian Chat meets in classroom 102. Fellowship in a non-structured setting while visiting a variety of topics.
- **9:30 am** Children’s Faith Formation is open Sunday, August 7 in the orange classroom.
- **10:30 am** The nursery is open during the worship hour for children not yet in first grade.
- **11:45 am** Youth meet with Aaron in the youth room after worship service. They will be watching Disney’s, *Encanto*. A theological discussion on *Encanto* follows on Sunday, August 14. Lunch is provided.

We welcome Rev Dr David Mason worshipping with us Sunday, August 7

Rooted in Faith at APC is the theme chosen by the Worship Committee to guide us through a place of transition as we move to various pastors taking the pulpit and sharing God’s Word with us on Sunday mornings. Something that remains the same is the APC family – our individual and shared gifts, talents, and journey as a congregation.

Our hope is to have some APC families share a quick word on “how I am rooted at APC.” We also want to incorporate some of your favorite hymns and scripture during the Sunday worship service. Please share hymns, Scriptures and how you are “rooted in faith at APC” this summer by sending an email to rooted@apchumble.org.

Signup opportunities are available in the narthex: Greeters, Ushers, Cookie Providers, Empty Nesters, Seniors and Friends, Ancient Mariners, and Live Nativity program (Dec).

Sign up for greeter and usher service on Sundays. First impressions mean a lot. We want to convey a welcoming spirit to members and visitors who join Sunday worship by greeting them at the door and handing them a bulletin as they enter the sanctuary. If you are interested in welcoming folks to APC, please enter your name on the greeters and usher sign-up sheets in the narthex.

Presbyterian Youth Connection Council. A new school year is coming up and the Presbytery of New Covenant Youth Ministry is ready to begin with the Youth Connection Council. The application is available at pbyofnewcovenant.org/youth-2/ or from Aaron (aaron@apchumble.org).

Students and school personnel – bring your backpacks, satchels, or notebooks for **backpack blessings, Sunday, August 7** during the worship service. Get the new school year off to a good start by carrying “blessed” materials with you every day.

School supplies for students. The Witness/Outreach committee is collecting school supplies **now through Sunday, August 7** for distribution in local schools. Some of the basic supplies needed are crayons, pencils, and scissors. The committee will provide a gallon-size Ziplock bag, along with a full list of suggested items.

CORRECTION! Confirmation classes begin Sunday, September 11 at 9:20 am for students in grades 6-12. Previously stated grades 9-12. Please RSVP with Aaron (aaron@apchumble.org) to reserve a spot. Confirmation is a time when youth begin the process in which they will publicly profess their faith before the congregation and become individual members of Atascocita Presbyterian Church. Confirmation classes must also have the help from members of our congregation with a passion for helping youth. **If you are interested in being a part of the confirmation journey with our youth, please contact Aaron Seay.**

Anyone interested in joining the APC Youth Team is welcome! Please contact Aaron (aaron@apchumble.org) to get connected.

Lake Houston Chamber Singers present their fall concert, “Americana,” Sunday, August 21, 6 pm at APC. The selections include music from Broadway to the Wild West. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at Eventbrite.com.

An outdoor live nativity program is in the planning stages for Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10 at APC. The program includes: refreshments, a sing-along, a choir, kids crafts, petting zoo, and more. The entire community will be invited to attend. It promises to be a big production. There is a role or place for all ages to participate. Sign up on the detailed sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact Sandra Berry (sanjef1993@gmail.com).

Ancient Mariners’ next trip is Friday, September 30 to “Lucky Land,” an Asian culture experience at 8625 Airline Dr, Houston. The cost is \$7 per person. A Harris County precinct bus will depart APC at 9:30 am. Lunch will be at Alamo Tamales. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex along with a menu for Alamo Tamales. For more information, please contact Linda Andrus (harley3064@aol.com).

Mission Market Place is open - room 101 (in the narthex). Notice the 50% off table in the narthex! Pick up a “Frequent Fliers” card in the store to participate in the program. All proceeds from sales in the Mission Market Place go to several different mission organizations.

Pastoral Care. In case of emergency, please contact your deacon or elder for August, Libby Boyce (281-630-6347).

Check the APC website (apchumble.org) for any updates.

Calendar

Sunday 8/7

9:15 am Doug's Faith Formation class – library
9:20 am Christian Chat class – classroom 102
9:30 am Children's Faith Formation – orange classroom
9:30 am Chancel Choir practice – sanctuary
10:30 am Worship – Boxcast and sanctuary
11:45 am Youth Group – youth room
4:00 pm Lake Houston Chamber Singers rehearsal – sanctuary

Monday 8/8

9:30 am Yoga – fellowship hall
10:30 am Spiritual Fellowship Committee – classroom 102
7:00 pm Commitment Committee - Zoom

Tuesday 8/9

HISD first day of school

10:00 am Mission Crafters – craft room
6:00 pm Empty Nesters

Wednesday 8/10

1:00 pm Library Committee – library

Thursday 8/11

2:00 pm Deacon Meeting - library

Friday 8/12

Sunday 8/14

9:15 am Doug's Faith Formation class – library
9:20 am Christian Chat class – classroom 102
9:30 am Children's Faith Formation – orange classroom
9:30 am Chancel Choir practice – sanctuary
10:30 am Worship – Boxcast and sanctuary
11:45 am Youth Group – youth room
4:00 pm Lake Houston Chamber Singers rehearsal - sanctuary

Prayers of the People

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- Victims, families, and communities affected by gun violence.
- Peace and safety for the people of Ukraine.
- Victims of floods and fires.
- Children returning to school and college along with teachers, professors, administrators, and staff.
- Pastor Nominating Committee
- Carol Bixby, Joyce Olson's sister and former APC DCE, is in hospice.
- Karen, Linda Andrus' sister, in treatment for a blood clot.
- Dolores Walker, Frieda's daughter-in-law, in treatment for breast cancer and experiencing depression.
- Michelle Ann McHenry, Elroy's daughter, in treatment for a blood clot.
- Petra, friend of Heather Pritchett, going through a cancer crisis. The cancer is spreading so fast that chemo can't keep up with it.
- Jerry Sessions, Sharon's husband, comfortable at home.
- Michael Burgos, surgery rescheduled for Monday, August 8.
- Kathy Gava fell, injured her shoulder, she is at home resting.
- Sine McCarty