

ATASCOCITA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 21, 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 Tom Coop

Loving God, we come to you in worship and thanksgiving. You are greater than we can understand;

open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths you have shown to us in Jesus.

You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;

help us to give ourselves to you in worship so that we learn what you want us to be.

You are wiser than we can know;

still our minds as we worship you so that we can understand the things you are saying to us.

Loving God, in Jesus you chose to come to the world in humility. You chose the path the world saw as foolish.

You used what the world considered weak.

May we worship you in faith and in truth.

◆HYMN NO. 65

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Congregation

◆CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev Tom Coop

Knowing that God will protect us, give us strength and love, while we persist in falling short of God’s glory, love, and hope for us, let us now join together to offer God those times we need Christ’s help to be the people and the Church we are called to be. Pray with me:

◆PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Congregation

For the times when we fail to notice others’ needs, we repent.

For our apathy for those you’ve entrusted to us, we repent.

For the amount of time we spend focused on ourselves, we repent.

For failing to pray for others, we repent.

Please forgive us for our selfishness as we silently confess all that keeps us from following you...

Time for Silent Personal Confession

◆ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev Tom Coop

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God fills our souls with grace and wisdom. It is from this grace that we have hope. It is from this wisdom that we know God’s love. It is from the living God that we find life and forgiveness. Thanks be to God.

◆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)

Charis Nees

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 TEXT

Zechariah 7:8-12 (NRSV)

Claudia Nelson

The word of the LORD came to Zechariah, saying: ⁹Thus says the LORD of hosts: Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another; ¹⁰do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another. ¹¹But they refused to listen, and turned a stubborn shoulder, and stopped their ears in order not to hear. ¹²They made their hearts adamant in order not to hear the law and the words that the LORD of hosts had sent by his spirit through the former prophets. Therefore, great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.

After the Reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 71:1-6 (NRSV)

Claudia Nelson

In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

²In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.

³Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

⁴Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

⁵For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

⁶Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

ANTHEM

"Ave Maria"

Chancel Choir

Featuring Amanda Merrick on Flute

GOSPEL TEXT

Matthew 9:35-38 (NRSV)

Rev Tom Coop

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

After the Reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"To Be or Not To Be"

Rev Tom Coop

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of the wind and the sea and the storm, so many of your children are weathering the storms of life today and we lift them up to you now. We pray for those who are still suffering from the effects of losing their homes and livelihoods due to flooding in Kentucky and Montana, we pray for your strength to comfort them.

For those who are living in fear of wildfires that are quickly spreading out west, we pray for rain. For those who are enduring extreme heat around the country, we pray for relief. For our friends who are living on the street, that they may be safe in this extreme heat.

We pray for those who are struggling through personal storms. We lift up those who are doubting, those who are struggling with the everyday weight of depression and anxiety, those who long for someone to reach out their hand and pull them to safety. We pray that your love and compassion would surround each of them as they move through this turbulent world.

We pray for our country, O Lord, for those in leadership and power. That they would seek justice and peace in the decisions they make every day. We pray for our world's leaders. That they would reach out in peace to one another, that you would guide them on a path to protect and serve your children.

And we pray for our church, its members, its leadership that we all might move forward in faith and trust in you, with compassion, love, and understanding.

God, as we reach out our hand to you, crying “Lord, save us,” we know that you have already reached out your hand to us, hearing our prayers and holding us close.

And so, with the boldness of those who can step out in faith, we pray all this in Jesus’ name, who taught us to pray, saying...

**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.**

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

◆ **HYMN NO. 813** *“God, My Help and Hiding Place”* Congregation

MOMENT OF REFLECTION Rev Tom Coop
We sing our praises to the Lord, for God is good and worthy! We give our whole selves - our talents and material possessions – to the Church with the expectation that they be used to further God’s dream for our world. Please commit yourself and give as you are able.

◆ **DOXOLOGY** Congregation

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Rev Tom Coop
Generous God, we humbly offer these gifts in response to your Living Word. You remind us that extending radical hospitality has all to do with your love and nothing to do with our social status. If we loved those outcasts in our society like we have been loved by you, our world would be a place of true acceptance and abounding joy. May it be so today! In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

◆ **HYMN NO. 367** *“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”* Congregation

◆ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev Tom Coop

◆ **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 Tom Coop
Claudia Nelson, Liturgist
Charis Nees, Children’s Moment
Joe Weir, Music Director
Carl Braden, Pianist



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*. Lesson 12 on Elihu (perhaps standing for "Hebrew").
- **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 meets 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. The curriculum being used through September 11 is *Faith Questions: Understanding the Bible*. Lunch is provided.

We welcome Rev Tom Coop worshiping with us on Sunday.

Narthex News

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, Ancient Mariners, and Live Nativity program (Dec).

Sign up for greeter and usher service on Sundays. There's still a place for you to sign up! If you are interested in welcoming folks to APC, please enter your name on the greeters and usher sign-up sheets in the narthex.

Game Day for Grownups returns Thursday, August 25, 11:30 am in the fellowship hall. Share a potluck lunch and stay to play games such as Bingo and Mexican Train. Bring your friends along for the fellowship! For more information, please contact Bonnie Carr (bncrr1@gmail.com).

Confirmation classes begin Sunday, September 11 at 9:20 am for students in grades 6-12.

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](https://www.eventbrite.com) or see Joe Weir on Sunday.

Peeking and pondering our worship scripture begins again Sunday, September 11, 9:20 am in room 102 with Pastor Shelley. Everyone is invited to prepare for a deepened worship experience by time with the "who/what/where" of the sermon scripture. Grab your coffee and a cookie and slip in for invigorating conversation. See you then!

There is a role or place for all ages to participate in the outdoor live nativity program 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. 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). 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.

Newsletter deadline, Thursday, August 25. Please send information and articles for the September *Communicator* to newsletter@acphumble.org.

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

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

Calendar

Sunday 8/21

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 Session – fellowship hall
11:45 am Youth Group – youth room
3:00 pm Lake Houston Chamber Singers rehearsal – sanctuary
6:00 pm Lake Houston Chamber Singers concert - sanctuary

Monday 8/22

CLC First Day of School

9:30 am Yoga – fellowship hall

Tuesday 8/23

10:00 am Mission Crafters – craft room

Wednesday 8/24

4:30 pm Worship Committee – classroom 102

Thursday 8/25

11:30 am Game Day for Grownups – fellowship hall
5:00 pm PNC - library

Friday 8/26

Sunday 8/28

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
12:00 pm Facilities Committee - library

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.
- Pastor Nominating Committee
- Carol Bixby, Joyce Olson's sister and former APC DCE, is in hospice.
- Petra, friend of Heather Pritchett, going through a cancer crisis. The cancer is spreading so fast that chemo can't keep up with it.
- Michael Burgos in ICU for continued treatment. Strength and peace for Grace and the family.
- Kathy Gava fell, in treatment for injured shoulder.
- Hunter McPherson recovering from covid.
- Linda Shultz Colby, health issues.
- Jerry Sessions awaiting bypass surgery September 1.
- Pastor Jesse Porter, Jr, friend of Jeff and Sandra Berry, recovering from heart bypass surgery and has developed kidney problems.
- Peace and comfort to family and friends of Rev Frederick Buechner, of Vermont, who passed away at age 96. Rev Buechner was a writer, an ordained Presbyterian minister, poet, and theologian.
- Vicki Lasinsky is recovering from knee surgery. David's test results "came back good."
- Pat Erwin, Emily Murphy's sister-in-law, had two back surgeries, still in hospital in a lot of pain.
- Sine McCarty