First Presbyterian Church  
5401 South Claiborne Avenue  
New Orleans, La. 70125  

September 3, 2017  

A Service of Commissioning
First Presbyterian Church

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 3, 2017

Writing in bold is for the congregation response.

*Please stand as you are able.

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude  “The Heavens Are Telling”  J. Haydn; Arr. Lani Smith
Welcome
Bells  “A Joyful Peal”

*Call to Worship

Leader:  In the beginning
before time, before people,
before the world began,

ALL:  GOD WAS.

Leader:  Here and now
among us, beside us,
enlisting the people of earth
for the purpose of heaven,

ALL:  GOD IS.

Leader:  In the future,
when we have turned to dust
and all we know has found its fulfillment,

ALL:  GOD WILL BE.

Leader:  Not denying the world, but delighting in it,
not condemning the world, but redeeming it,
through Jesus Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,

ALL:  GOD WAS,
GOD IS,
GOD WILL BE.

*Hymn 611  “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”  Hymn to Joy

Confession and Pardon

Leader:  Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

(silence)

Before God, with the people of God,
I confess to my brokenness:
to the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.

All:  MAY GOD FORGIVE YOU, CHRIST RENEW YOU,
AND THE SPIRIT ENABLE YOU TO GROW IN LOVE.
Leader: Amen.

All: BEFORE GOD, WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD,
WE CONFESS TO OUR BROKENNESS:
TO THE WAYS WE WOUND OUR LIVES,
THE LIVES OF OTHERS,
AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD.

Leader: May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
And the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

All: AMEN.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE
Greet each other in the love & forgiveness of Christ; saying
“Peace be with you!” and responding “and also with you!”

*RESPONSE (GTG 582) Glory to God (Vasile)
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

Hearing the Word

A TIME WITH CHILDREN Diane Sehrt
Jesus loves me this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Liturgist: The Word of the Lord
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Jan Edmiston
“Always With Us”

*HYMN 450 Slane
“Be Thou My Vision”

Sharing the Word with the World

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM John Rutter
“For the Beauty of the Earth”
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer and Lord's Prayer (traditional)*

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.

Commissioning the Rev. Kimberly Rodrigue to Service at First Presbyterian Church

Litany of the Gifts of the Spirit

Leader: Now concerning spiritual gifts, sisters and brothers,
I do not want you to be uninformed...there are varities
of gifts, but the same Spirit.

Congregation: *Fire of the Spirit, Life of the lives of creatures,
Composer of all things, Hope of all unions, be with us
and hear us.*

Leader: It is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To
each given the manifestation for the Spirit for the common
good.

Congregation: *Fire of the Spirit, Life of the lives of creatures,
Composer of all things, Hope of all unions, be with us
and hear us.*

Leader: To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and
to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same
Spirit.

Congregation: *Fire of the Spirit, Life of the lives of creatures,
Composer of all things, Hope of all unions, be with us
and hear us.*

Leader: To another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing
by one Spirit.

Congregation: *Fire of the Spirit, Life of the lives of creatures,
Composer of all things, Hope of all unions, be with us
and hear us.*
Leader: To another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discernment of spirits.

**Congregation:** Fire of the Spirit, Life of the lives of creatures, Composer of all things, Hope of all unions, be with us and hear us.

Leader: To another the various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who to each as the Spirit chooses.

**Congregation:** Fire of the Spirit, Life of the lives of creatures, Spiral of sanctity, Bond of all natures, Composer of all things, Light of all risen, Key of salvation, Release from death’s prison, Strong Honor, be with us and hear us! Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

*1 Corinthians 12
And Hildegarde of Bingen, born 1098*

Presentation of the Minister Ron Sutto
Questions to the Minister Ron Sutto
Questions to the Congregation Sherri L. Hutton
Commissioning Prayer Sherri L. Hutton
Declaration Ron Sutto
Charge to the Pastor A. Trice Gibbons
Charge to the Congregation Daniel Vanek

*Hymn 100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"
Star of the County Down

*Benediction* Kimberly Rodrigue

*Postlude* "Festal Piece" G. F. Handel
Arr. G. Blake

**It is a joy to welcome Jan Edmiston**, Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to our service this morning. Along with Denise Anderson, she moderated last year’s General Assembly meeting. For the following two years, Jan and Denise represent the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) within the church and to the larger community and world. The Presbytery of South Louisiana and First Presbyterian Church New Orleans are honored by her presence with us today.

**The position to which Kim Rodrigue** is being commissioned is a partnership between the session of First Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of South Louisiana, and Rev. Rodrigue, all of whom are committed to the vitality of the ministry of First Presbyterian Church, New Orleans. Members of the Administrative Commission from the presbytery are Chair, Sarah Tuttle Edgecombe; Tom Payne; Bill Bottomley; Daniel Vanek; and Peggy Brown. Members of the session of First Presbyterian Church are Clerk, Sherri Hutton; Treasurer, Candice Bellau; Zane Fisher; Christopher Roberts; Diane Kleinfeldt; Tracy Rene’ Helms-Capasso.
We would like to thank the following leaders for their participation in today’s Commissioning Service

**May Ball** is a member of First Presbyterian Church, where she also serves as music director and organist.

**The Rev. Jan Edmiston** is Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**A. Trice Gibbons** is an elder at Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, and Marketing Manager at Abingdon Press of the United Methodist Publishing House.

**Sherri L. Hutton** is Clerk of Session at First Presbyterian Church, New Orleans and an attorney in private practice.

**Aigerim (Aya) Magavina** is one of our pianists; she works at Tulane University.

**The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Rodrigue** is transitional pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

**Diane Sehrt** is an elder at Parkway Presbyterian Church in Metairie and an associate professor in the PTA program at Delgado.

**The Rev. Dr. Ron Sutto** is General Presbyter/Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

**The Rev. Daniel Vanek** is Chaplain at St. Tammany Parish Hospital and Hospice and a member of the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church.

A reception will follow the Commissioning Service in the Fellowship Hall with music and dancing provided by “Square Dance Nola”

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**WELCOME VISITORS!**

If you are a visitor or guest we invite you to sign the visitor/guest register which is located in the Narthex and sign the guest/visitors card located in your bulletin and put in the offering plate. We care about you and want to know who you are. We welcome you to historic, progressive First Presbyterian Church this morning! Here are a few things to get you up to speed.

- A bathroom is available (with a changing table) at the back of the church in the left hand alcove as you face the entrance doors.
- We take the passing of the peace near the beginning of the service seriously, so don’t be surprised if you get offered hugs!
- We are the only “More Light Congregation” in New Orleans which means we welcome not only the membership, but the leadership and talents of all genders, abilities, races, and sexual orientations.
• Even if you are just visiting the city, we want you to feel welcome in our community and to involve yourself in the life of this place.
• Please sign the visitor book in the vestibule before you go and like us on Facebook at facebook.com/fpcno and follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/fpcno! We also have a Yahoo Group (go to www.fpcno.org and click on the Yahoo Group connection) that will keep you up to date on all the fun activities and service opportunities with the church.

WHAT’S UP?
Don’t forget to check out the updated First Presbyterian Church website www.fpcno.org to catch up on breaking church news, events and links to the wider world of mission! Also, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

PASTOR KIM AROUND TOWN
One of my commitments in my weekly work schedule is to have some set hours at a place outside the church building. Sometimes people are more comfortable talking with a pastor outside of the walls of a church. It may be a time for you to drop by or to bring a friend to visit. You don’t have to have a particular need to stop by, but it is fine if you do.

It’s a time for conversation on anything from personal matters to church concerns to world peace – or anything else.

It is also a good way for me to meet people who aren't already in the church, but who may have interest in issues of spirituality and meaning. I will be your face in the community when I do this. I’ve added some hours at the end of the day, at a place that serves beer and wine.

Now you can raise a cold one with me if you’d prefer that to coffee!

Pastor Kim’s coffee & beer hours:
• Tuesday, September 5 – 7-9am Rue De La Course (S. Carrollton & Oak St.)
• Wednesday, September 6 – 5-7pm Oak (8118Oak Street)

I will continue to be at the church on Wednesday afternoons from 2-4 for anyone who wants to drop by. I’m glad to meet with you at another time, either at the church or someone else. Just call or email me at kim@fpcno.org to set up a time.

The FPCNO adult Bible study
Takes place every Sunday morning from 9:30am to 10:30am in the Session room. Each week we read and discuss the current lesson from "The Present Word" Bible study series (published quarterly by PCUSA). Our Sunday morning gatherings are informal and typically consists of approximately 6 to 8 participants. All are welcome to attend. Coffee and refreshments are served.

FPCNO THIS WEEK

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>1pm-3pm</th>
<th>Program of Hope Setup</th>
<th>Sanctuary</th>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>7am-9am</td>
<td>Kim’s coffee hours</td>
<td>Rue De La Course (S. Carrolton Ave. and Oak St)</td>
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Wednesday 9am-10:30am  Program of Hope Sanctuary (worship, and outreach to less fortunate, all are welcome to volunteer or seek help)
2pm-4pm  Kim’s office hours First Presbyterian
5pm-7pm  Kim’s beer hours Oak (8118 Oak Street)

Thursday 6pm-7pm  Meditation Service Session room

Sunday 9:30pm  Adult Bible Study Session room
11am  Sunday Worship Sanctuary

Prayer List
Please keep this list with you this week and pray for...

Healing Prayers for:
The victims of hurricane Harvey and the many cities in Texas it had affected.

Bruce Robertson and family – Bruce’s brother died last week and his funeral was Saturday, September 2 in Kentucky. Keep Bruce and his family in your prayers for comfort and healing.

Martha and JD Bowen – mourning the loss of their son Levi who was stillborn about 2 weeks before his projected due date.

Our Homebound members and friends. Please visit them and remember them in Prayer.

Mary Knight
Mina Crais
Gloria Boling (Randy Boling’s mom)
Adrian (Tudy) Manson
Joyce Kleinfeldt (Henry Kleinfeldt’s sister)

Prayers for the homeless
Many people come through the Program of Hope for guidance and help. Please keep them in your prayers.

Prayer requests will remain in the bulletin for one month unless you request that it continue to be listed.
Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. — Song of Solomon 8:7

Hurricane Harvey may have been downgraded, but the torrential rains are still pounding parts of Texas and Louisiana. Historic flooding has forced rivers and streams from their banks and submerged homes, churches, businesses and roads, stranding thousands of people. We are relying on the generosity of Presbyterians to provide financial and hands-on support to help the whole church stand with these communities and the Presbyterian family as it responds to its neighbors.

The needs for the response are great. God’s people are once again called on to stand in the “GAP” — Give. Act. Pray.

GIVE: Please give generously to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance’s emergency response and long-term recovery work in the areas affected by Hurricane Harvey. Designate gifts to DR000169-Harvey.

ACT: Put together Gift of the Heart kits for survivors in the affected areas — hygiene kits and cleanup buckets are especially needed. For more information, go to pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/.

Contact the PDA Call Center to be notified of volunteer opportunities.

Call (866) 732-6121 or email pda.callcenter@pcusa.org.

PRAY: God, our Shelter, be a strong presence in the lives of neighbors who, having survived the winds and rains of Harvey, now face grief, uncertainty and weary days. May our generosity in prayer and in tangible signs of support overflow more than floodwaters, to sustain your work of healing and rebuilding and to bring comfort and strength to those who suffer. Amen.

Keep up to date on long-term recovery efforts at presbyterianmission.org/pda or facebook.com/PDACARES

☐ $500 ☐ $125 ☐ $50 ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ _____________________________

US Hurricane Response – Harvey – DR000169 _____________________________

Name _____________________________
Address __________________________________________
City ___________________ State _______ Zip _______ Congregation/PIN _______

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.
Where All Are Welcome

Pastor:
Rev. Kim Rodrigue
kim@fpcno.org

Office Manager:
Cheryl A. Roberts
cheryl@fpcno.org

Musicians:
May Ball; Aya Alvarez; Amanda Wadsworth

Wedding Coordinator:
Sue Young
weddings@fpcno.org

Website Techs:
Terry Ruppel; Carrie Fisher

Sextons:
Rev. Todd & LaDonna Vandegrift

The Session
Clerk of Session, Sherri Hutton
Candice Bellau, Treasurer

Class of 2017
Sherri Hutton
Zane Fisher

Class of 2018
Diane Kleinfeldt
Christopher Roberts

Class of 2019
Candice Bellau
Tracy Rene’ Helms-Capasso

The Board of Deacons
David Capasso, Chair

Class of 2017
David Capasso
Justin Wood

Class of 2018
Randy Boling
Carrie Fisher

This bulletin and all paper used at FPCNO are recycled