



First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
July 5, 2026

First Presbyterian Church seeks to provide a spiritual home that proclaims God's presence and love to all people by creating a welcoming environment for Christian spiritual growth through worship, fellowship, and education, joyfully celebrating God's love as disciples serving the community and the world.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 5, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Here in This Place* Marty Haugen, 1979

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: Welcome to a time of wonder and worship.

All: Welcome to a time when music calls us home.

One: Welcome to a time when we hear God's words that inspire and challenge.

All: Welcome to a time when we are offered holy hospitality -

One: Hospitality that teaches us how to open our lives to others

All: leading us to fully live with open minds, open hearts, and open doors.

OPENING PRAYER

*OPENING HYMN # 694 *Great God of Every Blessing*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:**

Here in This Place – Today's prelude opens worship with the theme of gathering – God drawing people from varied places and stories into one community. This arrangement of the 1979 hymn brings warmth and movement, inviting worshipers to settle in and be present. It's a fitting musical doorway into readings centered on welcome and invitation. (see #401 in *GlG*)

Great God of Every Blessing – This hymn gathers the congregation around God's generosity, echoing Isaiah's invitation to "come, buy wine and milk without money." Set to Samuel Wesley's tune AURELIA (1864), its sturdy lines help us sing gratitude with confidence, trusting the One who meets us with mercy before we ever ask.

World without end. Amen. Amen.

CONVERSATIONS WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 55:1-3

Invitation to the Thirsty

“Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;

and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* arr. Cindy Berry,
with *O Worship the King* 2022

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:7-24

When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends,

*O For a Thousand
Tongues to
Sing* (with *O
Worship the King*)
– Berry weaves
two beloved
hymns into a
single expressive
meditation on
praise. The
interplay of
themes highlights
both the joy of
proclaiming Christ
and the reverence
of worshiping the
King. It offers a
moment of uplift
before the second
reading of the
Word, drawing the
congregation
toward the
gospel’s invitation.
(see #610 & #41
in *GtG*)

your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Parable of the Great Banquet

When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ ““Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’” “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

One: God always blesses the reading and hearing of Holy Scripture.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

HYMN OF RESPONSE #462 *I Love to Tell the Story*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *I will Arise and Go to Jesus*
arr. Ty Robert Thornton, 2022

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus – Thornton’s setting of the modal tune RESTORATION (placed here in E-minor) brings out the melody’s plaintive honesty – the sorrow of sinners who long to return home. A repeated low E sounds throughout the piece like a quiet weight beneath the shifting harmonies, a musical hint of the burden we carry before grace lifts it. Yet the final E-Major chord transforms that heaviness into hope, a gentle sign of welcome at the journey’s end. (see #415 in *GTG*)

Love to Tell the Story – A classic witness-hymn, it reminds us that the good news is not a possession but a gift meant to be shared. Its gentle refrain pairs well with Luke’s banquet parable, where the invitation keeps widening until everyone is gathered in.

OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Generous God, you have given us life, a place to live, and people to live with. Open our eyes to each other and to all our siblings, especially the poor, the oppressed, the alienated. Make us humble enough to help and comfort them, so that your love, justice, and peace may come to them. We dedicate our gifts to you and to the service of others, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

INDEPENDENCE DAY PRAYER (in unison)

Lord God Almighty, in your Name, the founders of our country won liberty and lit the torch of freedom. Today, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. You are the true source of our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We thank you for the blessings of this nation, and we honor those who have sacrificed so much to defend our physical and spiritual freedoms.

Gracious Father, we lift up our nation's leaders to you. Grant them wisdom, humility, and a deep desire to seek justice and truth. Protect our communities and watch over those who protect us, both at home and abroad.

God of all peace, heal the divisions in our land. Renew in us a desire to love one another, respect our differences, and work together for the common good. May we use our liberty not for ourselves alone, but to share your blessings with others and seek peace among all nations. We ask this with thankful hearts, seeking the grace to always maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us – even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore, we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

COMMUNION HYMN #1 *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* (verse 1)

According to his commandment:

We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

Come to this table: **all who have much faith.**

Come to this table: **all who would like to have more.**

Come to this table: **all who have been to this sacrament often.**

Come to this table: **all who have not been for a long time.**

Come to this table: **all who have tried to follow Jesus.**

Come to this table: **all who have tried to follow Jesus and failed.**

Come to this table: **It is Christ who invites us to meet him here!**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)

We bless you, Lord, for the gifts of bread and cup. For sustaining us in hope, every day of our lives. We pray for your strength to prepare us now for your service as we offer to you lives of witness and worship in the world you have made. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN #338 ***O Beautiful for Spacious Skies***

More than a national song, this hymn is a prayer for God’s transforming grace. As we mark Independence Day weekend, its lines call us to seek a freedom shaped not by pride but by compassion, restraint, and care for the common good – virtues that echo Christ’s invitation to the great banquet.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* William Steffe, 1852

Steffe’s 1852 tune closes worship with confident joy, lifting our eyes from national celebration to the deeper hope of God’s redeeming work. Its marching rhythm reminds us that we are sent out as people shaped by Christ’s justice and mercy, even in a week filled with patriotic observance. (see #354 in *GtG*)

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Kristine Shultis

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Debra Hamman, John Kalina, Arlette Pustejovsky, Ester Latapie, Communion Servers

Andrea McCann and Ester Latapie, Ushers

Mindi Snyder, Elder of the Month

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Sunday, July 12th

11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Prayer List

Esther Bender

Colby Hauser

Betty Harfst

Scott Mollnar

Suzanne Hauser

Sue Zanne Urbis

Avely Miller

John Minkert

Gerald Grogan

Carole Halamiccek

Willie Bender

CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2026

Jimmy Barger
Donnie Kainer

Youth Elder: Porter Beechwood

Donnie Clapp
Mindi Snyder

Class of 2027

John Kalina
Elizabeth Rasmussen

Ester Latapie
Arlette Pustejovsky

Class of 2028

Shawn Beechwood
Melba Clapp

Debra Hamman
B.J. Swenson

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Kristine Shultis

Choir Director – Dr. Karl Paoletti

Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley

Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger

Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel

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