



**First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
February 15, 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.

**203 W. Calhoun El Campo, Texas 979-543-3658
www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org Facebook: [firstpresbyterianelcampo](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianelcampo)**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 15, 2026

11:00 am

Transfiguration of the Lord

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

This Is Holy Ground

Chris Beatty, 1982

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People of God, on this wilderness journey,
what will you eat?

All: The word of the Lord is our daily bread.

One: People of God, in this time of temptation,
how will you live?

All: Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.

One: People of God, at this kingdom crossroad,
whom will you serve?

All: We worship the Lord our God alone.

*HYMN #12 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord God,
you know the ways of good and evil.
You know the things that tempt us
and the things that give us life.
You know our nakedness,
and you know our sin.
We confess that we have disobeyed your word,
denying your providence and care
and relying on our own cleverness.
Have mercy on us, we pray:
cover us with your grace,
feed us with the bread of life,
and re-create us in your image;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

This Is Holy Ground – Chris Beatty originally wrote this song as a simple worship chorus inspired by Moses' encounter at the burning bush. Its quiet reverence sets the stage for a service focused on sacred revelation. On the organ, the piece gains a sense of spaciousness, inviting worshipers to step onto "holy ground" as they prepare for the story of the mountaintop. The prelude becomes a gentle threshold into the mystery of Transfiguration.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise – Rooted in 1 Timothy 1:17, this hymn praises the God whose glory is too radiant for human sight — a perfect entry point for Transfiguration Sunday. The Welsh tune ST. DENIO brings an energetic lift that mirrors the Gospel's sudden burst of divine light.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven!
Be glad in the Lord and shout for joy.
Believe in God, friends!
Believe the good news:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

***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:
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

HEARING OF THE WORD OF GOD

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

ANTHEM

Let Music Fill This Place Joseph M. Martin, 2007

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Touched by God

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 17:8: But Jesus came and touched them, saying,
"Get up and do not be afraid."
Silence, stillness, and prayer

*HYMN #41 *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!* (stanzas 1, 2, 5)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY

Be Thou My Vision

arr. James Koerts, 2019

*THE DOXOLOGY

**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.**

Let Music Fill This Place – Joseph Martin's anthem celebrates music as a vessel for divine presence — a fitting theme for a Sunday centered on holy radiance. Martin, a prolific contemporary composer, often writes with a cinematic sense of uplift, and this piece is no exception. From the opening call, "*Alleluia! Come and worship!*", its soaring lines lift the text through the repeated proclamation, "*Let music fill this place.*" Listen for Martin's surprise inclusion of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* theme.

O Worship the King – Written by Sir Robert Grant in 1833, this hymn draws on Psalm 104's sweeping imagery of God clothed in light. The tune LYONS, likely by J. Michael Haydn, gives the text a regal brightness fitting for a day of revelation.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Colossians 1:15:-20

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: Our God is a God who hears us:

All: we will not be afraid.

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.

*HYMN #363 *Rejoice, the Lord Is King!*

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

Be Thou My Vision – Koerts' arrangement from his Gentle Meditations, Vol. 2, brings a tender, reflective touch to this ancient Irish hymn. The tune SLANE dates back to traditional folk melodies associated with St. Patrick's Day legends. Its prayer for divine sight resonates beautifully with the disciples' glimpse of Christ's true glory. The offertory becomes a quiet plea: "*Be our vision, too.*"

Rejoice, the Lord Is King! – Charles Wesley's triumphant text reminds us that Christ reigns with glory even when hidden from sight. DARWALL'S 148th, a hymn tune composed in 1770, adds a bold, ascending character that echoes the mountaintop joy of the Transfiguration.

Marche in C – French composer and organist Gustave Tritant's monumental work, *L'Office pratique de l'organiste*, was written to provide practical, accessible music for liturgical use. The 13-volume set, published from 1879 to 1889, contains 400+ pieces for organ. Today's postlude, taken from Vol. 4, has a bright, confident stride, and its clear harmonic lines and steady pulse offer a grounded contrast to the mountaintop mystery of the day.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And his righteousness,
And all these things
shall be added unto you,
Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you.
Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and the door
shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Marche in C

Gustave Tritant, 1879

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. James DeMent, Interim Pastor

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Donnie Kainer and Andrea McCann, Ushers

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Flowers are placed today by Arlette Pustejovsky in honor of God and the new life he brings.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Monday, Feb. 16 6:15 p.m. – Session Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 18 6:00 p.m. – POW, all ages including dinner

Sunday, Feb. 22 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Prayer List

Dr. Bill & Deida Bourne
Steve Porter

Kin & Carol Halamicek

Sue Zanne Urbis

Charlie Van Eman
Colby Hauser

Suzanne Hauser

Avely Miller

Esther Bender
Scott Mollnar

Adam Catete

Linda Collins

Pastor's Note

Our Bulletin cover bears a classic Renaissance portrayal of the “Transfiguration of Christ.” This oil-on-canvas work, which bears that title, was painted by Luca Giordano (Naples 1634 - 1705) in 1685, and the original hangs in the Uffizi Museum in Florence, Italy.

This painting is basically true to the Biblical account of the event which is recorded in all three Synoptic Gospels. Jesus is transfigured as he talks with Moses (holding the tablets) and Elijah. Peter, James, and John shield their eyes from the sight, having fallen to the ground overcome by fear (Matt 17:6). In such classical representations of the Transfiguration, the artist almost always elevates Jesus off the ground. This lends impact to the miraculous nature of the event, although it is a detail that does not appear in the Bible.

This morning, the detail we will study is what happens immediately after God speaks (“This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” [Matt 17:8]). When the disciples look up, they now see Jesus as his mortal self, standing alone before them. In reassuring them not to be afraid, Jesus has come to them and touched them (Matt 17:7). What must it have been like to be touch by Emmanuel (God in the flesh)? Does Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, reach out to touch us still when we are overcome by fear? Can it be that the miracle of the Transfiguration assures us that the miracle of Jesus’ touch in our lives is still possible-- indeed, dependable-- in faith?



CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2026

Jimmy Barger

Donnie Kainer

Youth Elder: Porter Beechwood

Donnie Clapp

Mindi Snyder

Class of 2027

John Kalina

Arlette Pustejovsky

Ester Latapie

Elizabeth Rasmussen

Class of 2028

Shawn Beechwood

Melba Clapp

Debra Hamman

B.J. Swenson

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor – Rev. James DeMent

Choir Director – Karl Paoletti

Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley

Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger

Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel

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