



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**El Campo, Texas**  
**May 5, 2024**

*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](http://www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org) Facebook: [firstpresbyterianelcampo](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianelcampo)**

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 5, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

*Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!*

## **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

*Voluntary on BUNESSAN*  
Gaelic Melody; arr. John S. Dixon, 2020

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Sing to our God a new song.

**All: God has done marvelous things!**

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

**All: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

One: Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

**All: Let the world and its people sing together for joy!**

\*HYMN #611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God,  
forgive us for our half-hearted faith  
that loves only when it is easy,  
and reaches out only to those who are like us,  
that ignores your less convenient commandments  
and fails to bear fruit anyone would rejoice in.  
How can a faith like that conquer the world?  
Nourish us again, to blossom with whole-hearted faith  
that abides in your love and shines forth with joy.  
Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen**

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

One: Christ loves us so much that he  
laid down his life for us  
and calls us his friends.  
If we can forgive our friends,  
how much more does Christ forgive us!

This is the good news of the gospel:  
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**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 98

O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gotten him victory.  
The LORD has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.  
Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy  
at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.  
One: The Word of the Lord.  
All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *I Am Light, I Am Life, I Am Love*  
Mary McDonald, 2019

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

SERMON *God Is Love* Rev. Jim DeMent

\*HYMN #203 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *Children of the Heavenly Father*  
Swedish Melody; arr. Tom Fettke, 2021

\*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.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH                      From *The Brief Statement of Faith*

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God  
and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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.*

## SANCTUS

*One:* And so, with all your people,  
with angels, archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven  
we praise and magnify your glorious name,  
joining our voices in the eternal hymn:

**All: 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.**

## THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

*One:* Remembering the grace of your Son Jesus Christ,  
we take from your creation this bread and this wine,  
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,  
as we await the day of his coming,  
proclaiming the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

## 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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### HOLY COMMUNION

*The elements used in the Lord's Supper are wine (red) or juice  
(golden) and bread or gluten-free crackers (in the small dish). When  
passing the bread to your neighbor, say, "This is the Bread of Life."  
When passing the wine or juice to your neighbor, say, "This is the  
Cup of Salvation." You may partake of the elements as you receive  
them.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**One:** We give you thanks, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for the gifts of grace we have received from your hand.

**All:** **Now send us forth to reflect your light and your love,  
proclaiming your saving death and resurrection  
until you come again in glory. Amen**

## \*CHARGE

\*HYMN #610 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (stanzas 1, 4, 5)

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**God be with you till we meet again;  
by His counsels guide, uphold you,  
with His sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.**

**Till we meet, till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus' feet.  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE *Jubilate in D Minor* Lorraine Forsdick, 2024

**One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772**

## **NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024, FOLLOWING THE 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

Pursuant to a call by the Session, notice is hereby given of a Congregational Meeting of the members of First Presbyterian Church of El Campo, Texas, to be held at the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, May 12, 2024.

The purpose of the Meeting will be to receive a report from the Mission Study Task Force regarding the Mission Study that they have prepared, the Session has approved, and the Moderator has forwarded to the Commission on Ministry of Mission Presbytery.

The Meeting will be brief and informational. No action will be required by the Congregation, and this will be the sole Agenda item for the meeting. Please plan to join us to learn more about the actions being taken to call a new, permanent Pastor to lead us.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. James DeMent, Interim Pastor

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Jody and Jessica Erwin and Mayson Bridges, Ushers

## **THIS WEEK AT FPC:**

Thursday, May 9

FPCEC Manna Meals

Sunday, May 12

11:00am – Worship Service

## **Prayer List**

Steve Porter

Esther Bender

Danny Stephens and family

## **MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE, June 2024**

June 9th - 15th, 5 youths and 2 adults will be travelling to North Carolina. Once again, therefore, our youth will be offering "shares" to those who want to underwrite the costs of their trip. Please note on your check "Montreat." You may leave your check in the offering plate, mail it to the Church, or give it to Diane in the Church office. These are the youth who will attend the conference: Porter Beechwood, Maysen Bridges, Jackson Clapp, Kahki Erwin and Lizzie Erwin.

## **BULLETIN COVER**

The artwork on our cover is an acrylic on canvas painting by the American contemporary artist, Jonas Gerard (1941-2020). Born in Casablanca, Morocco, to parents of French and Brazilian ancestry, Jonas was a self-styled spontaneous abstract expressionist painter who spent most of his career in New York and Miami. To learn more about the artist, and to view other works in his impressive collection, visit <https://jonasgerard.com/jonas/>.