



**First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
March 9, 2025**

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

March 9, 2025

11:00 am

First Sunday in Lent

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Three Settings on ST. FLAVIAN* Joseph E. Newell, 1950

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

All: The journey begins in the wilderness.

One: We follow the way of Jesus,
who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

**All: Like Jesus, we are not alone.
The Holy Spirit is with us.
God's Word is on our lips.**

One: Our call is to trust in God alone,
to do God's will in all things.

**All: For God leads us not only into the wilderness,
but also through the wilderness.**

*HYMN #166 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, our refuge and fortress,
forgive us when we fail to trust in you.**

**We fall to temptation;
we are swayed by false words;
we speak false words of our own.**

**We choose our ease and comfort
over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world.**

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

The hymn tune ST. FLAVIAN was first published in John Day's *Psalter* of 1562. It's a sturdy, stately melody often used to accompany the hymn, "*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days.*" Penned by Claudia Frances Hernaman in 1873, this hymn is frequently sung during the season of Lent. Its reflective lyrics evoke themes of repentance and renewal, making it a fitting companion to the solemnity of the tune.

**In turning from you,
we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend.
Forgive us, we pray.
Do not let us be put to shame, O God.
Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

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

One: The Lord is generous to all who call on God's name.
God does not turn away from us,
but desires to bring us into the glorious freedom
offered in Jesus Christ.
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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress;

Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling place,
no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.
With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM *Via Dolorosa* Billy Sprague & Niles Borop, 1984
DUET: Richard and Sue Zanne Urbis

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 4:1-13*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,' and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

"Via Dolorosa," written by Billy Sprague & Niles Borop, is a poignant song that reflects on the path Jesus walked to His crucifixion, known as the "Way of Suffering" or the "Way of Sorrows." The song's title is derived from the Latin term for this path. It vividly describes the emotional and physical anguish Jesus endured during his journey through Old Jerusalem, from the place of his sentencing to the place of his crucifixion. *"Via Dolorosa"* was released by Sandi Patti in 1984 and won "Song of the Year" at the Dove Awards.

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON Temptation Rev. Jim DeMent
Luke 4:2: . . . for forty days he was tempted by the devil.

*HYMN #187 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* (stanzas 1, 4)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* arr. James Koerts

*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 Confession of Belhar*

**We believe that the church must together
come to know the height and the breadth
and the depth of the love of Christ.
We believe that together we are built up
to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity.
We believe that we must together
know and bear one another's burdens,
thereby fulfilling the law of Christ.
We believe that we need one another,
that we should uphold one another,
admonishing and comforting one another;
to suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness;
to pray together;
and together serve God in this world. Amen.**

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" is a traditional American folk hymn that has become a cherished staple in both African-American and white gospel traditions. The hymn reflects on the trials and solitude that Jesus faced during His earthly ministry, emphasizing themes of perseverance and faith. Like most folk songs and folk hymns, the real names of the composer and author have been lost to time and remain unknown.

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: **hear our 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.

*HYMN #612 *We Praise You, O God*

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

*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 *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* Welsh FolkMelody, 1872

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. James DeMent, Interim Pastor

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Robert & Nick Fernandez, Ushers

"Bless Now, O God, the Journey" is a hymn written by Sylvia G. Dunstan, a Canadian minister and hymn writer known for her profound and poetic texts. Emphasizing themes of pilgrimage and trust in God's guidance, the hymn reflects on the spiritual journey of faith. The hymn is sung to the tune LLANGLOFFAN, a traditional Welsh melody that dates back to 1865 or earlier. The tune's name comes from a village in Wales. Interestingly, the hymn tune is published in both Major key and Minor key versions.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Given by Ester Latapie: Grateful for Daylight Savings Time!

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Wednesday, March 13

FPCEC Manna Meals

Sunday, March 16

11:00 a.m. – Worship – Fellowship Dinner

Prayer List

Pres Holcomb

Esther Bender

Teresa Ramsey

Kyle Petersen

Linda Collins

Cay Krueger Scheumack

Marie Fitzwilliam

Dr. Bill & Deida Bourne

Charlie VanEman

Pastor's Note

The highly stylized painting on the bulletin cover is titled, “The Temptation of Christ,” and was painted by Ary Scheffer (1795 – 1858) in 1854. It is displayed at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, England, United Kingdom.

Notice that in the theme popular in the 19th century, the devil is portrayed not as a horned beast with a tail, but rather as a fallen angel with wings. All of us who have succumbed to temptation are less like raging beasts and more like fallen angels in God’s eyes.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2025

Jessica Erwin
Kim Mickelson
Jackson Clapp – Youth Elder

Lance Lurker
Layton Raun

Class of 2026

Jimmy Barger
Donnie Kainer

Donnie Clapp
Mindi Snyder

Class of 2027

John Kalina
Elizabeth Rasmussen

Ester Latapie
Madge Vackar

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor – Rev. James DeMent

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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