



First Presbyterian Church El Campo, Texas

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 19, 2023

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Pastorale in G* Douglas E. Wagner, 2019

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us come into God's present with thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of praise.

One: What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?

All: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

One: Let us worship God.

*HYMN #687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*
(Lyrics at the end of the bulletin)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of abundance, you have given us so many gifts. You bless us with talents, resources, skills, and knowledge, and yet we hide them under a bushel. We hoard these gifts instead of following you and sharing with those in need. We have been poor stewards of all you have given. Forgive us, and help us grow what we are given, that it might be returned in service to you. Amen (Silent Confession.)

As Isaac Watts writes so powerfully in the hymn, *Our God Our Help in Ages Past*, our God is everlasting, and will be our help through all of our years. The first verse gives us every assurance we need: God is our help, our hope, and our home. This does not blithely dismiss our fears and troubles. They are, and always will be, very real. But it does assure us that even if we cannot feel the immediate comfort, or even when all we can do is lament, we have a God that withstands the storms of the life and the tests of time, and who protects us and hears our cries.
- hymnary.org

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: God has not destined us for wrath, but for salvation through our Lord 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

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 90:1-8

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals." For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ANTHEM

O Give Thanks

Joseph M. Martin, 1991

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:14-30

The choral piece, "O Give Thanks," by Joseph M. Martin, is a charming song about the simplicity of giving thanks to God. The unforgettable melody and repetitive lyrics remind us that it is right to give thanks unto the Lord for all the wonders He has done. Martin has based his song upon Psalm 105: 1-5. Joseph M. Martin is an internationally known composer with a BM from Furman University, and an MM in piano performance from The University of Texas at Austin. His music can be heard in hundreds of churches services every Sunday across America and Canada. He has over 1200 choral compositions and continues to compose. Presently, he lives in Austin, TX.

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

The gospel of Matthew tells the story of the identity of Jesus as the promised Messiah in the line of King David, the new Moses, and God with us. Chapter 25 is a series of three well-known parables of Jesus, the parables of the bridesmaids, talents, and then the sheep and the goats.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN #700 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*
HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson, 1966; arr. Mark Hayes, 2018

*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

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (#377 in *GtG*) is the most well-known hymn by Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934), who penned both words and music in the summer of 1966, during a visit to the Church of the Redeemer in Houston, TX (hence the tune's name, HOUSTON). The elegant folk song melody supports lyrics -- centered on divine and spiritual light -- that convey the walk, the journey of faith, and the deep conviction of a Christian. Thomerson attended U.T. and received a bachelor's degree in music in 1956 and a master's in 1958. She studied with Flor Peeters in Antwerp and with Jean Langlais in Paris. She last served as music director and organist at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Austin, TX prior to her retirement in 2013.

*HYMN #697

Take My Life

*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

Festival Postlude in D

John S. Dixon, 2020

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Erin McGee, Preaching

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Steve & Nancy Porter, Ushers

#687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

1 Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

2 Beneath the shadow of thy throne

thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

2 I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

#697 Take My Life

1 Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Sunday, Nov. 19

12:15 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Monday, Nov. 20

6:15 pm – Session Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 22

No POW

No Choir

Thursday, Nov. 23

Thanksgiving – Office Closed

Sunday, Nov. 26

11:00 am – Worship

Prayer List

Steve Porter

Alexander Stillman

Christmas Poinsettias

The cost this year will be \$12.00 each. You may donate a poinsettia in memory or in honor of loved ones. Just send a note how you would like to dedicate your poinsettias with your check and all arrangements will be made. Mail your check to 203 W Calhoun, El Campo, TX 77437, or you may drop it off at the church office or in the mailbox outside the Church office by Nov. 26th.

Friends, Food & Fellowship

Thursday, November 30

6:00 pm

Mary Johnson's Patio

2520 Myatt Lane

Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert (ready to serve)
(chicken, tea, and adult beverages will be provided)

Young Adults & Kids are welcome. Babysitting can be provided as needed.
(for babysitting please RSVP to Diane Barger)

CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2023

Jill Gardner
Taylor Martin

Derek Treybig
Lizzie Erwin

Class of 2024

Suzanne Hauser
Dick Ramsey

Mary Johnson, Clerk
Lynn Reed

Class of 2025

Jessica Erwin
Kim Mickelson

Lance Lurker
Steve Porter

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Erin McGee

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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