First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas

April 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

April 5, 2026 11:00 a.m. Easter Sunday

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Alleluia* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1773
Ronda Paoletti, soprano
Richard Urbis, piano

WELCOME

A MESSAGE FOR ALL WHO ARE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)
One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
One: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
All: God has given us new life and hope and has raised Jesus from the dead.
One: God has claimed us as God's own.
All: God has brought us out of darkness and has made us light to the world.
One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN # **232** ***Jesus Christ is Risen Today***

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)
Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us God of

Alleluia is the concluding piece in a 4-movement religious motet for soprano and small orchestra written by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791). The work was written in 1773 in Milan, Italy, where the composer was staying during a 31-day run of one of his operas. At that time, Mozart was 17 years old. Noted musicologist Stanley Sadie called the *Alleluia* "a jewel of a piece with its high spirits and its wit.... it's like no other piece by the composer." Its soaring lines capture the brilliance and purity of Easter joy, making it a radiant re-introduction of "alleluia" after the Lenten season.

mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.
A moment of silence for personal reflection.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Darkness is gone! Light floods into our souls! Christ is Risen! His love and mercy are poured out for you. Rejoice! You have been saved through the gift of Jesus Christ. Alleluia! Amen.

*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 Colossians 3:1-4
Living as Those Made Alive in Christ
Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

ANTHEM *Easter Song* arr. Joseph M. Martin, 2024

SCRIPTURE READING John 20:1-18 (The story told by Mary)
The burial was so hurried. We were not allowed to finish the preparation of our Lord's body, and they hastened to bring him to the tomb, given by Joseph of Arimethea, for his burial. I wanted to complete the burial ritual, and so I decided that early in the morning, before others awoke, I would take the spices and go to the tomb. But when I got there, I saw that the stone had been rolled away. I was frightened and ran back to tell Simon Peter and the others about this. When they heard the news they ran to the tomb. John reached the tomb before Peter and he looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there,

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today – First published in 1708, this beloved Easter hymn bursts with ancient alleluias that echo the church's earliest celebrations of the Resurrection. Its bright tune, EASTER HYMN, lifts the text into a joyful proclamation of Christ's victory.

Easter Song – Originally written by Anne Herring of the early Christian band 2nd Chapter of Acts, this joyful anthem helped define the sound of contemporary Easter music in the 1970s. Joseph Martin's new arrangement brings choral richness to its bright, rhythmic celebration of the Resurrection. In 1998, CCM Magazine recognized *Easter Song* as the No. 4 Christian song of all time.

but he did not see Jesus' body. He didn't go into the tomb, but when Peter arrived he entered the tomb and he also saw the linens and noticed that the cloth which had been placed on Jesus' head had been rolled up in a place by itself. John then entered the tomb and they both were mystified. Had someone taken the body? Who? What had they done with it? Their questions unanswered, they went back to that upper room in which they had spent a last meal with the Lord. But
I couldn't leave! I couldn't! My heart was broken! He had healed me! And now I could not do the last thing for him, to complete his burial. And I wept, sobbed. I had to look into the tomb to see for myself what the others had seen. But a surprise awaited me, for inside the tomb sat two angels in white, one at the place where Jesus' head had laid and the other where His feet had been. "Woman, why are you weeping?" Why? Why? Did they not know? I blurted out "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him?" I turned around, and there was the gardener, at least I believed him to be the gardener. And He spoke to me: "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" "Sir," I said through my tears, "If you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." And then He spoke to me……He said, "Mary!" "Rabbouni!" There, before my eyes, stood the Risen Lord. He spoke to me. He called my name, me, Mary, a nobody, just one of the many He had healed! He spoke my name! Mary! Mary! And then instructed me to go and deliver his incredible message, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." And I did exactly as he asked. I went, running, flying, my feet barely touching the ground, arriving breathlessly with the news that "He is Risen!"

One: Friends in Christ: You are witnesses today, for just as surely as Christ was raised from the dead over 2000 years ago, He is Risen today! You do not have to fear! Place your trust in Him! Listen as He calls your name! It is Christ who brings healing and hope; it is Christ who banishes the darkness and pours the light into our lives; it is Christ who calls each and every one of us to "trust,"
"follow," "serve." Rejoice, people of the Easter Faith! Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Woman, Weeping in the Garden – This hymn reflects the tender moment when the risen Christ calls Mary by name, turning grief into recognition. Set to the gentle tune KINGDOM, it invites us into the quiet wonder of resurrection revealed. The same tune accompanies the words of hymn #516, *For the Bread which You Have Broken*.

Christ Is Alive! – Written in 1968, this text proclaims that the risen Christ is present and active in our world today. The sturdy TRURO tune from 1778 carries its message of hope and renewal with confident energy.

Sermon *"Who is this Man?"*

Hymn of Response #241 Woman, Weeping in the Garden

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *In the Garden* arr. Carol Tornquist, 1985

*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.

*OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)
Mighty God of Resurrection and Redemption, we offer our gifts alongside our alleluias! We offer our hands and feet and voices to take the celebration out of this place into a world that needs hope so desperately! May we go into the world with such energy, excitement, and power that the ground shakes once again, that lightning flashes, and that people see in us your redeeming love and the triumph of light over darkness! In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Let us declare our faith together:
We believe in the God of Life, whose breath is in us and whose mercy encircles the creation. We believe in Jesus Christ, who loved us indestructibly and who shared our pain. He is with us now as he promised, even to the end of the age. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who welcomes us into the household of faith, gives us gifts in abundance, enlivens our hearts with joy, and urges us into the world to testify without fear to God's justice and grace. Hoping against hope for the promised realm of peace, we love one another while we live, we honor every creature God has made, we stand against the powers of sin and death, and we bless the earth and all that fills it. Glory, thanks, and praise be yours, O Living God, now and forever! Alleluia! Amen.

In the Garden – Written in 1912, this cherished hymn reflects a personal encounter with the risen Christ in the quiet of the garden. Hymn writer and composer C. Austin Miles recounted how he had a vivid dream after reading John 20, and was then inspired to write a hymn about the first encounter between Mary Magdalene and her risen Lord. Miles composed the hymn's music at the same time. Carol Tornquist's 1985 piano arrangement brings a gentle, reflective warmth to this moment of devotion.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S SUPPER

This congregation welcomes all who trust in Jesus Christ and seek to follow him to share in the Lord's Supper. This is not a Presbyterian table, but the Lord's table. All are welcome to receive the bread and cup, regardless of church membership, if they come in faith, repentance, and love. We also welcome children who have been baptized and are being nurtured in the faith, at the discretion of their families.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right … who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty; heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: Risen Christ, … According to his commandment:

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

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: Through countless….

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by they 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.

Fanfare on EASTER HYMN – This joyful postlude is built on the familiar tune of our opening hymn, creating a musical frame for the morning's Easter worship. Its bright fanfare motifs and energetic writing reflect the congregation's own Easter proclamation as we go forth in resurrection joy.

One: On the night…
All: We who are many are one body, for we partake of the one bread and cup that unites us with Christ, making us one with all people. Amen.
One: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
All: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)
We thank you, O God, that through Word and sacrament you have given us your Son, who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. Strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn #246 Christ is Alive!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Fanfare on EASTER HYMN* Douglas E. Wagner, 2022

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS
Pastor Kristine Shultis
Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director
Ted Lashley, Music Director
Brian & BJ Swenson, Ushers

THIS WEEK AT FPC:
Beginning on Sunday, April 12 – 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service, A Journey to Pentecost Sermon Series

Prayer List

Charlie Van Eman	Esther Bender	Colby Hauser
Scott Mollnar	Suzanne Hauser	Sue Zanne Urbis
Avely Miller	Linda Collins	
Kin & Carol Halamicek	James Socha	

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
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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