



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**El Campo, Texas**  
**March 1, 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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**[www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org) Facebook: [firstpresbyterianelcampo](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianelcampo)**

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 1, 2026

11:00 am

Second Sunday in Lent

*All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!*

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *My Song Is Love Unknown*

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ died for our trespasses  
but was raised for our justification.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN #634 *To God Be the Glory*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,**  
**we confess that we have not been sincere Christians.**  
**We claim to follow Jesus**  
**but have not taken his path of sacrificial love.**  
**We profess to be disciples,**  
**but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship.**  
**We affirm the virtue of self-denial,**  
**but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain.**  
**Forgive us, we pray.**  
**Free us for sincere repentance**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: God deems as righteous all who trust that Jesus  
has been raised from the dead for our salvation.  
Believe in God, friends!  
Believe the good news:  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

All: **Thanks be to God!**

*My Song is Love Unknown* – This prelude reflects on Samuel Crossman's great Passion hymn, capturing both the tenderness and the mystery of Christ's love. Birchwood's arrangement weaves expressive harmonies that invite quiet contemplation as worship begins. The music sets a Lenten tone of humility and wonder before the cross (see #209 in GtG).

*To God Be the Glory* – This beloved gospel hymn from 1875 celebrates God's saving work with joyful clarity, reminding us that grace is always God's initiative. Its sturdy refrain invites the congregation to lift their voices in gratitude, even within Lent's reflective tone.

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

\*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

*Psalm 121*

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.  
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.  
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

One: The Word of our Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

*My Savior and My God*

Jay Althouse

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

*John 3: 1-17*

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I

*My Savior and My God – Jay Althouse bases this anthem on the 1882 hymn I’ll Live for Him by Ralph E. Hudson, originally sung to the tune DUNBAR. His added text and musical material deepen the hymn’s theme of devotion, giving it a fresh, expressive voice. The result is a gentle, sincere reflection well suited to Lent’s call to renewed faithfulness.*

tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you of heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life." Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON                      God Loves You                      Rev. Wayne Clement

\*HYMN #286    *Breathe of Me, Breath of God*

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY            *The Love of God*

\*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.**

*Breathe on Me,  
Breath of God --* A quiet prayer for inner renewal, this hymn asks the Spirit to reshape our hearts until our lives reflect Christ's own. The gentle, flowing tune supports the text's longing for transformation, making it especially fitting for Lent's call to deeper discipleship.

*The Love of God --* Today's offertory reflects on the hymn's sweeping vision of divine love, captured in its refrain: "*O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure: the saints' and angels' song!*" The piano setting becomes a gentle meditation on that image, inviting the listener to rest in the immeasurable grace it describes – and that God's love exceeds every boundary we can imagine!

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed*

**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 on 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.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**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: You sent Jesus to show us  
the depth of your love for us,  
to call us back to faithfulness  
by the example of his own life,  
and to welcome us as his siblings  
and your beloved children.

*Christ Be Beside Me* – This hymn is adapted from St. Patrick's Breastplate, a traditional Irish prayer of protection often traced to early medieval Ireland (ca. 5th–8th century). Its invocation of Christ's presence in every direction becomes gentle and familiar when paired with the folk-like BUNESSAN tune. The result is a simple, steady prayer for guidance along the Lenten journey.

Therefore we praise you,  
joining the heavenly chorus and the global choir,  
singing forever to the glory of your name:

**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 his 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.*

*Fugue in D, from  
"Sicut Erat" –  
Leonardo Leo was  
a leading  
composer of the  
Neapolitan  
Baroque school,  
known for his  
clear, balanced  
counterpoint and  
influential  
teaching in the  
Naples  
conservatories.  
This bright fugue  
from his *Sicut  
Erat* (as it was in  
the beginning, is  
now, and ever  
shall be...) showcases that  
elegant style, its  
interweaving lines  
creating a sense of  
forward  
movement. The  
music brings the  
service to a close  
with energy and  
purpose, offering  
a fitting uplift  
within the Lenten  
journey.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Holy and astounding [and generous] God,  
At this table, in this meal,  
we have been met by Christ—  
the reflection of your glory,  
the imprint of your being.

**All: As we go from this place  
may our lives be a joyful song,  
proclaiming the good news  
of your righteousness and peace  
for all the world. Amen**

\*HYMN #702 *Christ Be Beside Me*

\*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 *Fugue in D, from "Sicut Erat"*

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

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Wayne Clement, Guest Pastor

Mauri Couey, Liturgist

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Robert & Nick Fernandez, Ushers

**Elder of the Month:** Melba Clapp

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** Please sign up in the church narthex.

## **THIS WEEK AT FPC:**

Sunday, March 8th

11:00 a.m.—Worship with Pastor Kristine Shultis

## **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

