



**First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
May 3, 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

May 3, 2026

11:00 am

Fifth Sunday of Easter

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise* Robert Williams, 1817

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: Joyful is the sound we make this morning!

All: For this day liberates us from doubt and fear.

One: Thankful is the song we sing!

All: For this day moves us past darkness and despair.

One: Hopeful is prayer upon our lips!

All: For this day awakens in us long-awaited new life.

One: Jesus said, "When two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

All: Christ lives here and now. He is among us at this and every moment!

OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN #307 God of Grace and God of Glory*

**CALL TO CONFESSION*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)*

Almighty God you have raised Jesus from the grave and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. WE have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise – The tune LLANFAIR has long been associated with both Easter and Ascension themes, celebrating Christ's resurrection, exaltation and ongoing presence with the church. David Lasky's 2022 arrangement brings bright, rhythmic energy to the familiar melody. It sets a confident tone for worship grounded in trust and mission.

God of Grace and God of Glory – Written for the dedication of a new church building, this 1907 hymn calls the congregation to courage, wisdom, and steadfastness in the face of challenge.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*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 31:1-5

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

You Raise Me Up

Løvland & Graham, 2001

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 28:16-20

The Great Commission

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

You Raise Me Up – This contemporary classic has become a musical expression of comfort, strength, and renewal. Its soaring melody mirrors the Psalmist's trust in God as a refuge and deliverer. In worship, the piece becomes a testimony to God's sustaining presence in moments of weakness and uncertainty. Written in 2001, with music by Rolf Løvland and lyrics by Brendan Graham, this song was first recorded by Norwegian-Irish band Secret Garden in 2002. Since its debut, the song has since been recorded by more than a hundred other artists, most notably American singer Josh Groban in 2003. Heard today is Roger Emerson's 2003 setting.

SERMON

The Great Commission

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #300 *We Are One in the Spirit*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *All Creatures of Our God and King*
German Chorale Tune, 1623

*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 you our gifts. We offer our hands and feet and voices to take our worship 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 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.

*NICENE CREED (in unison)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the

We Are One in the Spirit – Composed in 1966 by a young Chicago priest for his youth choir, this hymn grew into an ecumenical anthem of unity and service. Its simple, memorable minor-mode melody underscores the Gospel's call to make disciples of all nations through love made visible.

All Creatures of Our God and King – This beloved hymn traces its roots to a 17th-century German tune paired with St. Francis of Assisi's creation-focused poetry written in 1225. James Koerts' 2020 arrangement offers a gentle, expressive setting that highlights the hymn's sense of praise and gratitude. It provides a reflective moment during the offering. (see #15 in *GtG*)

Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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: Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth, you formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made a covenant with us to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. So with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest

One: Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith.

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

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those

Go to the World! – Set to Vaughan Williams' triumphant tune SINE NOMINE (1906), this modern text sends the church out with Easter confidence. Its themes of witness, baptism, and Christ's abiding presence echo Matthew 28's Great Commission with joyful urgency. The familiar tune is the same as that for the hymn *For All the Saints* (#326 in *GtG*).

who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit. He taught us this prayer which we now say together:

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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 #295 *Go to the World!

CLOSING PRAYER & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE #542 *God Be with You Till We Meet Again

POSTLUDE *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*
H. Ernest Nichol, 1896

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations – H. Ernest Nichol's 1896 missionary hymn reflects the church's call to share Christ's light with the world, a fitting response to Matthew 28's commissioning. The anonymous organ arrangement gives the tune a bold, declarative character, sending the congregation out into the world with purpose and hope.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Kristine Shultis
Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director
Ted Lashley, Music Director
Jody and Jessica Erwin, Ushers

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please sign up in the Church Narthex.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Sunday, May 10th 11:00 a.m. – Worship/Honoring Seniors
Mother's Day

Prayer List

Esther Bender	Colby Hauser	The Family of Dee Wilbeck
Scott Mollnar	Suzanne Hauser	Sue Zanne Urbis
Avely Miller	Linda Collins	Bronson Harfst
Kin & Carol Halamicek	James Socha	Ardis Bacak

CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2026

Jimmy Barger

Donnie Kainer

Youth Elder: Porter Beechwood

Donnie Clapp

Mindi Snyder

Class of 2027

John Kalina

Arlette Pustejovsky

Ester Latapie

Elizabeth Rasmussen

Class of 2028

Shawn Beechwood

Melba Clapp

Debra Hamman

B.J. Swenson

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Kristine Shultis

Choir Director – Karl Paoletti

Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley

Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger

Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel

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