



First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
July 27, 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.

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www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org Facebook: [firstpresbyterianelcampo](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianelcampo)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 27, 2025

11:00 am

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Lord, Hear My Prayer

Lani Smith, 2006

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

All: **The Lord will speak peace to the faithful,
to those who turn to God in their hearts.**

*HYMN #366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Ever-faithful God,
how often we turn away from you,
yet you remain constant to us.
We run from you, but you call us back.
In our words and our deeds we dishonor you,
yet you still profess your love for us.
We cut ourselves off from you and from others,
but you will not let us go.
Forgive our faithless and fickle ways
and increase our gratitude,
that we might grow in faithfulness to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Published in July 2006, the expressive organ solo "*Lord, Hear My Prayer*" by Lani Smith reflects his gift for crafting accessible yet spiritually resonant music. A prolific composer with over 4,000 published works, Smith (1934–2015) not only served as a church organist, but also was editor and arranger for Lorenz Music Publishing. This piece, with its lyrical phrasing, meditative tone, and modal harmonies, invites the listener into a quiet space of supplication and trust.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

One: Hear this from God's Word:
Neither death nor life,
powers nor rulers,
things present nor future,
nor anything else in all creation
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
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

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 85:1-7

Lord, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.
You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us.
Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
Will you not revive us again,
so that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

One: The Word of the Lord
All: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*
J. S. Bach; arr. Reginald Gerig, 1959

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 11:1-13*

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Composed by J. S. Bach in 1723 as part of his Cantata No. 147, the beloved chorale "*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*" appears twice in the work—most famously as its concluding movement, *Jesus bleibet meine Freude*. Though the melody was originally penned by Johann Schop in the 17th century, Bach's harmonization, orchestration, and rhythmic treatment transformed it into a timeless piece of sacred joy. Its gentle rhythm and flowing triplets evoke a serene devotion that transcends centuries.

SERMON Lord, Teach Us to Pray Rev. Jim DeMent
 Luke 11:1: "Lord, teach us to pray"

*HYMN #465 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *Sweet Hour of Prayer* arr. Clarence Kohlmann, 1942

*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

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

The tender piano setting by Clarence Kohlman (1891–1944) of the old hymn, "*Sweet Hour of Prayer*," invites the listener into a quiet sanctuary of devotion. Published in 1942, it reflects Kohlman's gift for weaving sacred melody with expressive nuance. Resident organist for 20 years at the Great Auditorium organ in Ocean Grove, NJ, Kohlman brought warmth and drama to his arrangements—here, the familiar hymn becomes a gentle meditation, echoing the soul's longing for communion and peace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

- One: As the people of God,
let us offer our prayers to God,
remembering the words taught to us
by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- All: Our Father, who art in heaven,**
- One: You are the first, the last, the everything in between,
we lift our praise and our prayers up to you,
because we know that you have been listening
since the first voice in the garden,
and we trust that you listen still.
- All: hallowed be thy name,**
- One: Yours is the name that is above every name,
yours is the name spoken in all languages,
yours is the name that echoes across all time and space.
- All: thy kingdom come,**
- One: May all of creation look more and more
like your heavenly kingdom,
a place of peace,
a place of love,
a place everyone feels at home.
- All: thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**
- One: Here in this place may love be genuine,
may hospitality be given to strangers,
may we overcome evil with good,
and may we live peaceably with each other.
- All: Give us this day our daily bread**
- One: Allow us to taste and see, drink and remember,
the goodness you have given us.
Allow us to trust rather than hoard
so that no one goes hungry, and no one thirsts.
- All: and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**
- One: Give us as many chances as it takes to get it right,
and may we give others just as many chances
as you have given us.
- All: And lead us not into temptation,**
- One: Guide us to stay on your good path,
even when it seems easier to curse than to bless,
more satisfying to seek vengeance than to build peace.

"Thy Kingdom Come," a majestic and stately organ postlude written in 1998 by Will Stockton, offers a noble reflection on the hope and promise of Christ's reign. Though little is known about the composer, his work—published in the 1990s and early 2000s—continues to be played in churches of all denominations across the country and around the world. Three of Stockton's most-played pieces include *"Fanfare on EASTER HYMN," "Softly and Tenderly,"* And *"Postlude on MILES LANE"* (*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*).

One: Because we know evil has many forms.
It shows up in test results as cancer;
it startles us in harsh words and policies;
it arrives at our door as violence;
and it bubbles up inside us as self-destruction.
However and whenever evil shows up,
rescue us from it time and time again.

All: For thine is the kingdom,

One: Where we hope to live with you,

All: and the power,

One: That you showed us by taking on weakness,

All: and the glory,

One: That we hope to reflect with our lives out into the world,

All: forever

One: And ever.

All: Amen.

*HYMN #66 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

*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

Thy Kingdom Come

Will Stockton, 1998

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Given by the Jeff and Mindi Snyder Family in honor of our son Colby on his 29th birthday.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Monday, July 28

FPCEC Manna Meals

Sunday, August 3

11:00 a.m. – Church Picnic at Drapela's Pond

Prayer List

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Linda Collins | Cay Krueger Scheumack |
| Dr. Bill & Deida Bourne | Charlie Van Eman |
| Esther Bender | Teresa Ramsey |
| Keoki Willis | Joy Roppolo |
| Kelly Harfst Socha | Robert Chomout |

Church Picnic, August 3rd

Please RSVP to the church office by noon Wednesday, July 30th. So that we will have a proper headcount in order to purchase the right amount of groceries, please RSVP to the church office (979.543.3658) by no later than Wednesday, July 30th, with the number of family members and guests that will attend. And yes, indeed, why not bring a guest to share the good times with our worshipping community!

Pastors' Note

The Lord's prayer appears in both the Gospel of Matthew (6:9-13) and the Gospel of Luke (11:1-4). The prayer recorded in Matthew is the longer of the two versions, and it is the one that we Presbyterians, along with many other Christians, customarily recite both privately and in public worship.

You might find it interesting to know that, in the original Greek, both Matthew and Luke are using a form of the word “ὀφειλήματα [opheilēmata],” which refers to a debt owed to another. Why then, do some faith traditions still pray for the forgiveness of “trespasses?” Even the King James Version of the Bible, published in 1611, translated the word as “debt.”

There are many explanations (history, custom, theological interpretation) for the difference, but Bible scholars point out that, as recorded in Matthew, Jesus follows his teaching of what we call the Lord's Prayer with the explanation, “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”(6:14). Here, Matthew is using the Greek word “παράπτωματα [paraptōmata],” which means “trespasses” (or “transgressions”).

Whether we ask God to forgive our debts or our trespasses as we likewise forgive others, your pastor believes that Jesus was teaching us to ask God to forgive us all our sins against God and neighbor and to forgive our neighbor's sins in the same way we pray that God forgives ours. The next time you pray for the forgiveness of your debts or your trespasses, silently consider the word “sins” in your mind. That way, you never have to worry about the “correct” translation!