

First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
November 15, 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.

203 W. Calhoun El Campo, Texas 979-543-3658
www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org Facebook: firstpresbyterianelcampo

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 15, 2026 11:00 am 25th Sunday After Pentecost

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Let All Give Thanks and Praise* Richard Williamson,2021

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The time for harvest is close at hand. What have you done with the gifts God has given you?

All: We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.

One: Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.

All: We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.

One: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

All: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude.

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN **#336 *We Gather Together***

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Almighty God, you continually pour gifts and blessings into our lives and we hide them away for fear that they might disappear or not be worthy. We squander these wastefully on things that are not healthy or helpful to others. We confess that we do not always recognize the talents and gifts that we have been given. Sometimes, we ignore our gifts and talents because to use them brings us unwanted attention. As Jesus reminded his listeners, we must honor the giver of the gifts by using them to create something better, for healing, for hope in the world. Remind us that the message of Jesus is important to us today. Forgive us. Help us take the gifts that you have given us and develop them and use them in ways which will offer healing and hope to the world. Amen.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Let All Give Thanks and Praise – This prelude is based on the 1647 hymn tune NUN DANKET ALL UND BRINGET EHR, a melody associated with thanksgiving and praise. Richard Williamson's setting combines festive energy with a strong sense of forward motion, preparing worshipers for a service centered on gratitude and faithful response.

We Gather Together – This beloved Dutch hymn expresses gratitude for God's guidance and providence, joining individual voices into a shared song of thanksgiving and praise. The melody itself began as a 16th-century Dutch folk tune, and in 1597 it was paired with a Dutch text to celebrate the country's liberation from Spanish rule.

*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

A TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

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

ANTHEM *Come with Shouting* Douglas Nolan, 2000

Come with Shouting – First published in 2000, this choral anthem combines the musical talents of composer Douglas Nolan (b. 1959) and lyricist J. Paul Williams (1937–2010). The piece is inspired by the biblical text from Isaiah 35, which emphasizes themes of joy and celebration. Blending traditional fervor with contemporary zest, this anthem offers a compelling call to joyous celebration.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25: 14-30

"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. The

one who had received the five talents went off at once 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 seed; 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: God always blesses the reading and hearing of Holy Scripture.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

*HYMN OF RESPONSE **#643** ***Now Thank We All Our God***

Now Thank We All Our God – This text was written by Martin Rinkart sometime around the Thirty Years War in the 1630s, though it wasn't published until 1663. His inspiration for the first two stanzas comes from the Apocryphal Book of Ecclesiasticus (50:22-24) which reads in part, *"Now bless the God of all, who in every way does great things."* The third stanza is a paraphrase of the *Gloria Patri*, originally composed in Greek in the 4th century.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Let All Things Now Living* arr. Darcy Stanley, 2024

*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.

Let All Things Now Living – Set to the traditional Welsh tune ASH GROVE, this beloved hymn gives thanks for God's sustaining care and abundant gifts. Darcy Stanley's recent arrangement highlights the melody's warmth and lyric beauty, making it especially suited to the presentation of our offerings.

Flourish on ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR – Built on the tune often associated with *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*, this festive postlude sends worshipers forth with energy and confidence. Composer Michael Ryan is known for creating accessible organ works that combine traditional hymn tunes with fresh rhythmic vitality.

*OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)
There are no limits to the gifts you have given us, gracious Lord. Now we give thanks to you for these gifts and we bring our offering to you, asking for your blessing on both givers and gifts. Help these gifts and givers be your hands in the world. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN **#69 *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky***

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE #**175** ***Seek Ye First***

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 *Flourish on "St. George's Windsor"*
Michael Ryan, 2014

Here I Am, Lord, also known as *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky* after its opening line, is a hymn written by the American composer of Catholic liturgical music Dan Schutte in 1979 and published in 1981. Its words are based on Isaiah 6:8 and 1 Samuel 3:4. Schutte (b. 1947) wrote the song at age 31 when he was studying theology at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley.

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS
Pastor Kristine Shultis
Ronda Paoletti, Choir Director
Ted Lashley, Music Director
Becky Chomout and Debra Hamman, Ushers

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please sign up in the church narthex.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Sunday, Nov. 22nd 11:00 a.m. – Christ the King Sunday Worship Service, Dedication Sunday
Pack College Care Packages before church.
Please stay after worship to help decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas Season.

UPCOMING – Mark your Calendars

Sunday, Dec. 6th Christmas Cantata
Sunday, Dec. 13th Youth Christmas Program and Cookie Walk
Thursday, Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 4p.m.

Prayer List

Esther Bender	Colby Hauser	Jimmy Barger
Scott Mollnar	Avely Miller	Greg Montello
Suzanne Hauser	John Minkert	Kayleigh Newman
Gerald Grogan	Ruben Sabrsula	

College Care Packages:

We will once again fill finals bags for each of our college students. This year we have **six**. If you would like to volunteer, please drop **six** of the same item for the bags near the church office area November 15-21 or bring them on the 22nd by 10:30. We will all stuff the bags Sunday morning before church. The families will take their student's bag on Sunday, November 22, after church.

Ideas for finals bags:
Pens, pencils, highlighters
Snacks of all kinds
Gum
Chapstick, Advil, cold & flu, cough drops
Playing cards, stress balls

Sunday, November 22, is Stewardship Sunday!

As we prepare for another year of ministry, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a financial pledge to First Presbyterian Church of El Campo. Every gift, large or small, makes a difference. Your pledge helps sustain the life and ministry of our church and allows the Session to plan responsibly for the coming year. You do not need to be a church member to make a pledge.

There are also opportunities to support the church through gifts of needed supplies. Donations of first-class postage stamps, tissues for the sanctuary, copy paper, and paper products for the kitchen are always appreciated. Please contact the church office or Pastor Kris if you have other ideas for in-kind contributions.

Stewardship is more than financial giving. It is about sharing our gifts, time, and resources in gratitude for all that God has given us.

Together, we can continue to be a welcoming church that shares Christ's love and serves our community and the world. Thank you for your generosity, faithfulness, and support of First Presbyterian Church!

CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2026

Jimmy Barger
Donnie Clapp
Donnie Kainer
Mindi Snyder
Youth Elder: Porter Beechwood

Class of 2027

Ester Latapie
Arlette Pustejovsky
Elizabeth Rasmussen

Class of 2028

Shawn Beechwood
Debra Hamman
Melba Clapp
B.J. Swenson

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Kristine Shultis
Choir Director – Ronda Paoletti
Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley
Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger
Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel

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