



**First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
March 22, 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
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 22, 2026

11:00 am

Fifth Sunday in Lent

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* arr. John F. Wilson

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather in this Lenten season knowing we are broken.

All: Come and be seen.

One: We gather in this Lenten season knowing we need forgiveness.

All: Come and be heard.

One: We gather in this Lenten season knowing our hearts long for God.

All: Come and be loved.

One: We gather in this Lenten season knowing God calls us all.

All: Come as you are.

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN #840 *When Peace Like a River*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Responsive)

God Almighty, all too often we choose the way of despair. All too often we choose to live in darkness and death rather than seeking your light, love, and grace. Help us to see possibility in the life you offer us.

Help us choose the path that leads to restoration.

We are but empty bodies until you breathe into us the breath of life.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross – Woodbury's 1852 tune EUCHARIST offers long, arching lines that naturally draw the heart toward contemplation. In an organ setting, those lines take on a spacious, meditative quality, allowing the listener to settle into the quiet before worship begins. The prelude becomes a gentle turning of the spirit toward the mystery of the cross and the love revealed there.

Life the army of Ezekiel's vision, breathe into each of us the breath of life. Fill this place with the power of your Holy Spirit.

Help us choose the path that leads to restoration.

Like Mary and Martha, we are often filled with doubt and sorrow. Open our eyes to the miracle of your creation. Open our eyes to the miracle of your recreation.

Help us choose the path that leads to restoration.

As Jesus resurrected Lazarus from the dead, so you can resurrect what needs to live within us. We pray for the way of life, for the way of love. Guide us in all things, O Giver of Life.

Help us choose the path that leads to restoration. Amen.

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

The good news of this Lenten season is this: forgiveness of sin and newness of life. In Christ Jesus we are forgiven and restored to new life. 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

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 19:41-44

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

When Peace, Like a River – Horatio Spafford wrote these words after staggering personal loss, anchoring his grief in a defiant trust that God holds steady even when life does not. Paired with Philip Bliss's gentle, steadying tune VILLE DU HAVRE, first published in 1876, the hymn becomes a true testimony that peace can rise from the deepest waters.

ANTHEM *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* arr. Benjamin Harlan

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

The Death of Lazarus
John 11:17-22, 34-44

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.” When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.” “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.” After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.” His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him. Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.

Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus. On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” “Yes, Lord,” she

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded – Benjamin Harlan’s 2000 arrangement preserves the solemn dignity of this ancient Passion hymn while adding warm, expressive harmonies that let the choir shape each phrase with tenderness. The familiar melody, long associated with Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*, becomes a quiet meditation on Christ’s suffering and love. Harlan’s writing invites the listener not into drama, but into reverent stillness — a moment to linger at the foot of the cross.

replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead.

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Abide with Me – EVENTIDE, first published in 1861, has long carried the prayer for God’s nearness in times of change and uncertainty. This 2009 piano arrangement lets the melody breathe with simplicity, giving the offertory a reflective, almost whispered character. Its gentle pacing creates a moment of stillness in the service — a musical reminder that God abides with us in every season.

What Wondrous Love Is This – This early American folk hymn, first appearing in the 1835 *Southern Harmony*, moves with the haunting openness of its original shape-note roots. Its spare poetry and drifting melody create a sense of awe, as if the singer is slowly circling the mystery of Christ’s self-giving love.

SERMON “*Jesus Wept – Tears of Sadness and Healing*”

*HYMN #795 *Healer of Our Every Ill*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *Abide with Me* Anonymous Arranger, 2009

*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)

O God, you bless us in so many areas of our lives— in places we often fail to recognize as blessing. Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand the depth of your love and blessing. Today, we give out of that blessedness, dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love, giving all that we are and all that we have to bring about your beloved community, here and now. Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER OF PRAISE

Almighty God, who called his Son into ministry by the baptism of the Holy Spirit and testified that he was the coming King through the good news culminating on the cross; hear our prayer of thanksgiving. You are the God of angel armies, the God who is triumphant over sin, healing those who were in its clutches. You are the God of life, the God who is triumphant over death, hearing the prayer of your Son to pull Lazarus from its grip and give him new life. We thank you for breaking the bonds of sin and death so that we may share in eternal life with you. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Healer of Our Every Ill – Marty Haugen’s refrain of his 1986 hymn is a prayer breathed in rhythm — simple, honest, and spacious enough to hold the aches we carry. Its modal contours and repeated invocation of "peace beyond our fear" invite the congregation into a healing that is both communal and deeply personal.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

**HYMN #215 What Wonderous Love is This*

**BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE

Recessional on FIDUCIA

Tom Birchwood, 2001

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Kristine Shultis

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Layton and Linda dale Raun, Ushers

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please sign up in the church narthex.

Mark Your Calendars:

March 23 – Deadline to Order Easter Lilies

We have ordered 30 lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, April 5th (\$15.00 each). If you would like to place a lily in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone, please fill out this form and place in the offering plate along with your payment or mail to the church office. You can also phone in your request. Please pick up your plant after Easter Sunday worship.

Tuesday, March 24 - 3:30 p.m. – FPC+EC Rita Radley, Celebration of Life

March 29 – Palm Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.

All children and youth are invited to participate in our Palm Sunday Service.

March 29 – Fellowship Luncheon with Easter Egg Hunt

Bring your favorite dish and enjoy the fellowship.

Prayer List

Charlie Van Eman	Esther Bender	Colby Hauser
Scott Mollnar	Suzanne Hauser	Sue Zanne Urbis
Avely Miller	Linda Collins	The Family of Steve Porter
The Family of Rita Radley	Kin & Carol Halamicek	

CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2026

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

Class of 2027

John Kalina	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 – Karl Paoletti
Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley
Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger
Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel
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