



First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
May 18, 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.

203 W. Calhoun El Campo, Texas 979-543-3658
www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org Facebook: [firstpresbyterianelcampo](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianelcampo)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 18, 2025

11:00 am

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Partita on AZMON* Alfred V. Fedak, 2020

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Alleluia! Christ is alive;
let all the people praise him.

All: Let all creation sing with joy. Alleluia!

*HYMN #37 *Let All Things Now Living*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy,
your command to love one another
across all differences
opens us to new horizons,
yet we often respond with fear and judgment
that hinders your goal for humanity.
Forgive our sins, we pray,
and give us a true repentance
that leads to life for all creation.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Be at peace to serve the Lord,
for God's promises are trustworthy and true.
Believe in God, friends!
Believe the good news:
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

This morning's prelude is a "partita" (a set of variations) on the hymn tune AZMON. The tune is only eight bars long, very recognizable, one of the most popular hymn tunes across denominations, and always #1 in the Methodist hymnal: think, "*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*." Due to the tune's popularity and "usability," at least 258 hymn texts have been associated with it; *Glory to God* includes two: #63 "*The Lord Is God*," and #372 "*O for a World*." Please take time to read the lyrics of #372, as the hymn relates to today's focus on the world to come.

*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

CELEBRATION OF THE CLASS OF 2025

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 148

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM You Raise Me Up arranged by Roger Emerson

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them as their God;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Rolf Løvland (b. 1955), a member of the band Secret Garden, composed a melody called *"Silent Story"* which was inspired by the traditional Irish tune *"Londonderry Air"*. He then approached author and songwriter Brendan Graham (b. 1945) to write the lyrics. *"Silent Story"* became *"You Raise Me Up"*, and Løvland performed it the first time at his mother's funeral. The song was officially released by Secret Garden as part of their *"Once in a Red Moon"* album in 2001. The song became a global hit, particularly after Josh Groban (b. 1981) covered it in 2003; his version was subsequently nominated for a 2005 Grammy Award.

SERMON Between the Alpha and the Omega Rev. Jim DeMent
Revelation 21:6 "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end."

*HYMN #35 *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *Soon and Very Soon* arr. Linda Scholes, 1976

*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 Creed of the
United Church of Canada*

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

"Soon and Very Soon" entered the collective of Christian hymnody in 1976. It became one of the top three songs for which the American gospel singer, songwriter, arranger, record producer and pastor Andraé Crouch would be remembered – the other two being *"The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power"* (written in 1962, age 15) and *"My Tribute (To God Be the Glory)"* (1971). He was referred to as "the father of modern gospel music" by contemporary Christian and gospel music professionals. *"Soon and Very Soon"* was partly inspired by Revelation 21:1-5 (our second Scripture reading this morning, and is #384 in *GlG*).

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: O God of love,

All: **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

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.

*HYMN #829 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* (stanzas 1, 2, 3)

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**May you run and not be weary
May your heart be filled with song
And may the love of God continue
to give you hope and keep you strong.**

**And may you run and not be weary
May your life be filled with joy
And may the road you travel
Always lead you home.**

POSTLUDE *II. Trio from Op. 39, No. 1* Edward Elgar, 1901

In honor of our graduates this morning, today's postlude should be instantly recognized. Sir Edward Elgar (1857–1934) was an English composer, among whose best-known compositions are orchestral works including the Enigma Variations, the Pomp and Circumstance Marches, concertos for violin and cello, and two symphonies. The first of the Pomp and Circumstance marches, subtitled "*Land of Hope and Glory*," became an unofficial second national anthem for the British Empire.

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. James DeMent, Interim Pastor
Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director
Ted Lashley, Music Director
Taylor and Meredith Martin, Ushers

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Given by the Latapie Family in honor of graduating seniors:
Khaki Erwin, Lizzie Erwin, Ava Fernandez, and Hannah Mickelson.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Monday, May 19th

6:15 p.m. – Session Meeting

Sunday, May 25th

11:00 a.m. – Worship, Rev. Wayne Clement

Prayer List

Linda Collins
Dr. Bill & Deida Bourne
Charlie VanEman
Keoki Willis

Cay Krueger Scheumack
Esther Bender
Teresa Ramsey



CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2025

Jessica Erwin
Kim Mickelson
Jackson Clapp – Youth Elder

Lance Lurker
Layton Raun

Class of 2026

Jimmy Barger
Donnie Kainer

Donnie Clapp
Mindi Snyder

Class of 2027

John Kalina
Elizabeth Rasmussen

Ester Latapie

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor – Rev. James DeMent

Choir Director – Dr. Karl Paoletti

Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley

Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger

Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel

203 W. Calhoun St., El Campo, Texas 77437

979-543-3658

www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org

Facebook: firstpresbyterianelcampo