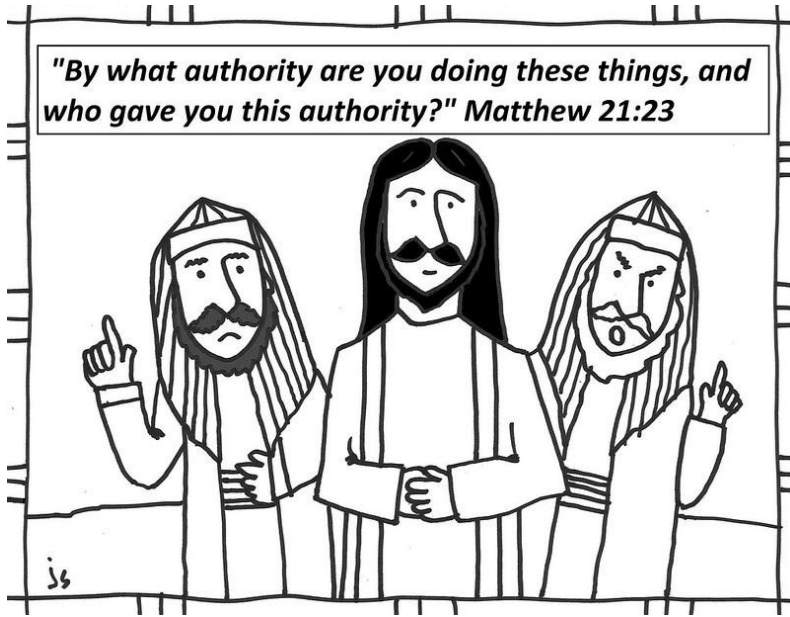




First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
September 27, 2026

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

September 27, 2026

11:00 am

18th Sunday after Pentecost

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Morning Has Broken* arr. Mark Hayes, 2013

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: This week has been filled with joys and sorrows.

All: We have come here this day with burdens on our hearts.

One: God, who hears your cries, will offer you healing love.

All: Thanks be to God for such generous compassion.

One: Open your hearts to God's infinite mercy.

All: We open our spirits to receive God's love for us. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN #475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Loving God, when we wander off your path, when we fail to follow through on our good intentions. When we give our attention to trivial things, gently call us back to you. Empty our hearts of anger and pride. Empty our souls of greed and selfishness. Empty our minds of envy, doubt, and mistrust. As you poured out your very self through your beloved Son, pour your Spirit into our hearts today. Forgive us our wrongdoing. Reclaim us with your love.

A moment of silence for personal reflection

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Morning Has Broken
-- The melody BUNESSAN is a traditional Gaelic tune first published in the 19th century in collections of Scottish folk music. Its association with the hymn *Morning Has Broken* began in 1931 when Eleanor Farjeon's text was paired with the tune. This prelude highlights the tune's gentle, sunrise-like warmth, and sets a peaceful, hopeful tone as worship begins. (see #554 in GtG)

Come, Thou Fount --
The tune NETTLETON first appeared in Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II* (1813), a collection known for shaping early American hymnody. Its lively pentatonic character reflects the folk-influenced style common in frontier singing schools of the period.

*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

Philippians 2:1-13

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Do Everything Without Grumbling

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

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

ANTHEM

Rejoice!

Joseph M. Martin, 1995

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"You Can Change Your Mind"

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #443 *There is a Redeemer*

Rejoice! -- Joseph M. Martin is a prolific American composer and editor whose choral works span traditional, gospel-influenced, and contemporary sacred styles. He earned his Master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin. Published in 1995, *Rejoice!* reflects his characteristic blend of accessible choral writing and bright, rhythmic energy, creating a vibrant call to praise..

There Is a Redeemer -- Melody Green wrote this hymn as a simple, heartfelt expression of gratitude for Christ's saving work. Its gentle melody supports a text that honors Jesus as Redeemer and celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH THE 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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

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.

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.**

*Guide Me, O Thou
Great Jehovah --
CWM*

RHONDDA was
composed in 1907
by Welsh musician
John Hughes for a
church singing
festival. Its strong,
diatonic structure
and broad melodic
lines made it a
defining example
of early
20th-century
Welsh hymn tune
writing. (see #65
in GtG)

*O for a Thousand
Tongues to Sing --*
The hymn tune
AZMON was
composed by Carl
Gläser in 1828 and
later adapted for
English hymn use
by Lowell Mason.
It was Mason's
adaptation that
helped establish
the tune in
American
Protestant
worship, where it
became the
standard setting
for Charles
Wesley's 1739
text.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* arr. Cindy Berry, 2005

*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 BLESSING FOR OUR OFFERING (in unison)
Thank you, God, for providing for us in our earthly life. We give back to you this offering for use for the good of all. Bless this offering and all who give. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING PRAYER (responsive)

One: We have observed this day to honor God. God's promises go with us as we depart.

All: God upholds us and helps us to stand. We are grateful that God strengthens our faith.

One: We do not live or die to ourselves. Christ has claimed us and offered us life.

All: From Christ we have learned to forgive. We have been taught to value every person.

One: Let every knee bow daily before our God. Let every tongue give praise to the Almighty.

All: God helps us turn evil into good. Every day we can know God's loving presence. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #610 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Allegro in G (from the 7th Mass)* Franz Joseph Hay

Allegro in G --
Haydn composed his *Missa brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo* (also called, *Little Organ Mass*) around 1774 during his tenure at the Esterházy court in Austria. The *Allegro* movement reflects the Classical style's emphasis on clarity, balanced phrasing, and light, energetic textures.

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 204677

WORSHIP LEADERS

Kristine Shultis, Pastor

Ronda Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Jana and Robert Fernandez, Ushers

Elizabeth Rasmussen, Elder of the Month

SANCTUARY FLOWERS - please sign up in the Narthex

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Sunday, October 4th - 10:00 am – Choir rehearsal

11:00 am. – Worship Service – World Communion Sunday

Prayer List

Esther Bender

Scott Mollnar

Suzanne Hauser

Gerald Grogan

Colby Hauser

Avely Miller

John Minkert

Ruben Sabrsula

Jimmy Barger

Greg Montello

Ruth McCauley

The family of Cindy Riha

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 – Ronda Paoletti

Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley

Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger

Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel

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