



## **First Presbyterian Church El Campo, Texas**

*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

January 29, 2023

4th Sunday after Epiphany

*Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!*

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

#### PRELUDE

*Meditation on CHRISTE ANCTORUM*  
Anthony Giamanco; ("Christ Is the World's Light")

#### WELCOME

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come seeking Jesus, the Light of the world!

**All: Shine in our hearts Lord Jesus!**

One: We believe in the strength of God to illuminate dark places.

**All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it.**

One: Lord, in this hour of worship, kindle in us the light of your love.

**All: Let your light shine through us, even now as we come to worship you.**

#### \*HYMN #12 *Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise*

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:  
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

"The Gospel of John reminds us . . . that to believe in Jesus is to hold the fullness of Jesus' humanity and Jesus' divinity together. When we collapse Jesus' humanity into Jesus' divinity, it gets harder to imagine the purpose and pathos of the cross. After all, if that was God nailed to a tree, to what extent was that true suffering? And when we minimize Jesus' divinity, it becomes easy to reduce Jesus to an above-average teacher, miracle worker, and advocate for the poor." --Prof. Karoline Lewis, Luther Seminary

4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Eternal God, we confess we have tried to hide from the brightness of your knowing. We have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to tend to those in need. Set us free from a past we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ the light of the world. Amen. (Silent Confession.)**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**One:** Our righteousness is found in Christ alone, the light of the world. 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**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 42:1-7  
Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD,

Isaiah 42:1-9 is one of the four "Servant Songs" in the book of Isaiah. The church has nearly universally seen these texts as pointers to Jesus. Jesus himself read Isaiah 42 (as told in Luke 4) after which He proclaimed, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

### SCRIPTURE READING

John 8:12-20

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” Then the Pharisees said to him, “You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid.” Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid, for it is not I alone who judge but I and the Father who sent me. In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf.” Then they said to him, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*I AM: The Light of the World*

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostle’s 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**

The hymn, *Jesus, the Light of the World*, began as a campfire song, to which George D. Elderkin (1845--1928) added a refrain in 1890. He later published it in a hymn book, *The Finest of the Wheat, Book No.3*, in 1904. A slightly different version of this hymn appeared as *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, with a completely different text by another writer (#127 in *GtG*). Finally, in 1998, contemporary hymn writer Ken Bible reworked both words and music; it is his version that was arranged for today’s anthem. It’s all about the Light!

**buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at 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.**

Today's offertory is an arrangement of the hymn, *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (#377 in *GtG*).

HYMN #630            *Fairest Lord Jesus* (s. 1,3)

1 Fairest Lord Jesus,  
Ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth come down,  
thee will I cherish,  
thee will I honor,  
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

3 Fair is the sunshine,  
fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling, starry host.  
Jesus shines brighter;  
Jesus shines purer,  
than all the angels heaven can boast.

ANTHEM            *Jesus, the Light of the World*  
George Elderkin; arr. Ken Bible

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 GIVE

\*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

\*HYMN            *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*

O Splendor of God's glory bright,  
from light eternal bringing light;  
O Light of Light, light's living spring,  
true Day, all days illumining:

Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,  
rain down your radiance from above,  
and to our inward hearts convey  
the Holy Spirit's cloudless ray.

O joyful be the passing day  
with thoughts as clear as morning's ray,  
with faith like noontide shining bright,  
our souls unshadowed by the night.

O Lord, with each returning morn,  
your image to our heart is born;  
O may we ever clearly view  
our Savior and our God in you.

\*BENEDICTION

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

*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

*Let Your Light Shine*

Barney Elliott Warren

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Dr. Erin McGee, Preaching  
Ted Lashley, Music Director  
Blake and Kristi Barger, Ushers  
Nancy Porter, Liturgist  
Samantha Clapp, Acolyte

**THIS WEEK AT FPC:**

Wednesday, Feb. 1	5:15 – 6:00 pm – POW Preschool & Elementary 6:00 – 6:30 pm – POW CHOW Dinner 6:30 – 7:30 pm – POW Middle & High School 6:00 pm – Choir
Thursday, Feb. 2	Manna Meals, FPCEC
Sunday, Feb. 5	11:00 am Worship - Communion

**Prayer List**

Alexander Stillman  
Deida & Bill Bourne  
Marcia Roberts  
John Charles Miracle

## **Flower Calendar**

The 2023 Flower Calendar is posted in the Narthex. Please take a moment to sign up to provide flowers for our worship service in honor or memory of someone special!

## **The Souper Bowl of Caring Canned Food Drive**

In the month of January our children and youth will be leading the congregation in a food drive called the Souper Bowl of Caring. In 1990, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.” Since then, more than \$170 million has been generated for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need. Until the Super Bowl football game, everyone at FPC is invited to bring canned goods or monetary donations (\$1=2 cans)! All of the donations collected will go directly to the Blessing Cup Ministry in El Campo to help those in hunger right here in our community (as does our monthly collection)! Share in God’s love for our neighbors in need and give generously EVERY Sunday through February 12.

## **Annual Congregational Meeting is February 12**

The Session has called our Annual Congregational Meeting on February 12, following the 11:00 am worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the annual report and church budget; vote on the pastor's terms of call; elect a Trustee; and elect the next class of the nominating committee. John Petty has been nominated by the Session to serve as a Trustee, class of 2025 (with Layton Raun, class of 2023 and Dick Ramsey, class of 2023). BJ Swenson and Mauri Couey have been nominated by the Session to serve on the Nominating Committee as the class of 2024 (with Katie Treybig and Thomas Williamson, class of 2023).



## CHURCH OFFICERS

### Class of 2023

Elizabeth Clapp  
Taylor Martin

Vicki Ekstrom  
Derek Treybig

Lizzie Erwin

### Class of 2024

Diane Barger  
Dick Ramsey

Mary Johnson, Clerk  
Lynn Reed

### Class of 2025

Jessica Erwin  
Kim Mickelson

Lance Lurker  
Steve Porter

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Erin McGee

Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley

Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger

Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel

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