



# REFORMATION SUNDAY

**First Presbyterian Church**

**El Campo, Texas**

**October 27, 2024**

*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](http://www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org) Facebook: [firstpresbyterianelcampo](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianelcampo)**



**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. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,

All: **who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

One: We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic  
Church.

All: **We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

BJ Swenson

**Holy and gracious God, we confess today  
to the same sins that have always plagued your church:  
we are too stuck in our ways, too resistant to your Spirit,  
too attracted to power and privilege,  
too quick to build walls,  
too slow to build bridges.  
Send more reformation our way  
until we are formed perfectly by you.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

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

One: Sin has always been at work in the world,  
yet God's grace meets it face to face.  
We believe that when the story is over,  
it is forgiveness that will have the last word.  
Believe in God, friends!  
Believe the good news:  
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Martin Luther loved to include music in worship services. These are some of the many glorious things he said about it:

"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

"As long as we live, there is never enough singing."

"The Word should be read, sung, preached, written and set in poetry. Wherever it may be helpful and beneficial, I should gladly have it rung out by all bells and played on all organ pipes and proclaimed by everything that makes a sound."

\*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.**

\*HYMN #687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* (stanzas 1-4)

LITANY FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY Donnie Clapp

One: We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

**All: We confess and acknowledge one God alone,  
distinct in three persons:  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,  
to whom alone we must cleave,  
and in whom alone we put our trust.**

One: We believe that,  
we belong – body and soul, in life and in death –  
not to ourselves but to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

**All: We believe that,  
all things are governed by the Providence of God.**

One: We believe that,  
there is but one only, the living and true God.  
God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being,  
glory, blessedness and perfection, all-sufficient,  
eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible,  
everywhere present, almighty,  
knowing all things, most wise, most holy,  
most just, most merciful and gracious,  
long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

**All: The church's commission,  
upon which its freedom is founded,  
consists in delivering the message  
of the free grace of God  
to all people in Christ's stead,  
and therefore in the ministry  
of his own Word and work  
through sermon and Sacrament.**

One We believe that, the life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission.

**All: We believe that unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ. Through the work of God's Spirit, unity is a binding force. At the same time, unity must be earnestly pursued and sought. Our unity must become visible to the world.**

One: We believe that separation and hatred between people and groups is sin, already conquered by Christ. Anything threatening our unity in Christ has no place in the church.

**All: With believers in every time and place we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Martin Luther sometimes took older melodies or texts and updated them. For example, there was a popular song about the Lord's Supper which Luther took and rewrote to make it more appropriate and substantial. The result was his hymn, "O Lord, We Praise Thee" (1524). The opening phrase, in German, was adopted as the tune name: GOTT SEI GELOBET.

#### NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*John 16:4-14*

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will

glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON *Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda secundum verbum Dei* Rev. Jim DeMent

PC (USA) Book of Order F-2-2.01:

“The church reformed, always to be reformed according to the Word of God.”

ANTHEM *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

William Runyan, 1923; arr. Craig Courtney, 1998

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM Mayson Bridges

One: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: **That I am not my own, but belong—  
body and soul, in life and in death—  
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.  
He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,  
and has set me free from the tyranny of evil.  
He also watches over me in such a way  
that not a hair can fall from my head  
without the will of my Father in heaven;  
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.  
Because I belong to him,  
Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life  
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready  
from now on to live for him.**

SECOND HELVETIC CONFESSION

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*HYMN #321 *The Church's One Foundation* (stanzas 1-3)

\*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.**

This morning's worship service is adapted from "A Legacy of Faith: Reformation Lessons and Carols," by the Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett. © 2021. Used by permission.

## 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.**

\*HYMN #288      *Spirit of the Living God* (twice)

### BARMEN CONFESSION

Jimmy Barger

### A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (*unison*)

**In a broken and fearful world**

**the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

\*HYMN #761      *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* (stanzas 1 and 4)

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**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 will be  
opened unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!**

### POSTLUDE

*O Lord, We Praise Thee*

Martin Luther, 1524; Anonymous setting, 1913

**One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772**

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. James DeMent, Interim Pastor

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Arlette Pustejovsky and Mark Latapie, Ushers

**THIS WEEK AT FPC:**

Wednesday, Oct. 30

6:00 – 6:30 pm – POW Dinner

6:30 – 7:30 pm – POW all ages

6:00 pm – Choir Practice

Sunday, Nov. 3

11:00 am – Worship / Congregational Meeting  
following Worship

**Prayer List:** Steve Porter, Esther Bender, Pres Holcomb, Stephen Gaines

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024,  
FOLLOWING THE 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

Pursuant to a call by the Session, notice is hereby given of a Congregational Meeting of the members of First Presbyterian Church of El Campo, Texas to be held following the conclusion of our 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, November 3, 2024. During this brief meeting, the Chair of the Congregation Nominating Committee will report on the recommendations of the CNC for (a) a young member of our congregation to be elected to serve on the Session for a one-year term (in the Class of 2025) as a Youth Elder commencing January 1, 2025 and (b) four members of our congregation to be elected to serve on the Session for a three-year term (the Class of 2027) commencing January 1, 2025.

The Moderator will invite additional nominations from the floor, if there be any. Before submitting someone to be considered for election to the Session, however, please be sure and confirm with that individual that he or she would be willing to serve if elected.

At the end of such discussion as the Congregation may desire, a vote will be taken to elect a Youth Elder of the Class of 2025, together with four members of the Class of 2027. May God grant us and our new leaders strength and wisdom as First Presbyterian Church enters a new year of hope, promise, and continued service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.