



First Presbyterian Church El Campo, Texas

February 2, 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
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Let Us Break Bread Together* arr. Richard Blake, 2015

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: From the very beginning, God calls us.

All: God sets us apart with a meaning and a purpose.

One: We come up with excuses to avoid our calls,
for we are afraid.

**All: But God reassures us in many and various ways
through the course of our days.**

One: Even if we are brought to the edge of a cliff,

All: God is with us and sustains us.

*HYMN #307 *God of Grace and God of Glory* (stanzas 1, 2, 4)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, our Deliverer,

we confess that we are too reluctant

to speak and to live according to your truth.

**We grow comfortable with the way things are,
passively condoning injustice.**

We see ourselves as “insiders,”

excluding those we consider “outsiders.”

We find it easier to pluck up and pull down,

to destroy and overthrow,

than to build and to plant.

Forgive us, O God, for being timid disciples.

"Let Us Break Bread Together" is a traditional African-American spiritual that originated during the era of slavery in the United States. It was passed down through oral traditions, so its exact authorship remains unknown. This adds a layer of mystery and communal ownership to the song, reflecting the collective experiences of those who sang it. Its timeless message of unity and breaking bread together transcends its anonymous beginnings. (See #525 in GtG.)

*Please stand in body or spirit.

**Empty us of fear and shame,
and fill us with love that is
humble and patient and kind.
We pray this in the name of
the One who humbled himself,
Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: God has loved us since the beginning,
And God's love for us will never end.
Do not fear, therefore,
but have faith in God's steadfast love,
God's healing power,
and God's ability to make all things new.
Believe in God, friends!
Believe the good news:
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

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know
how to speak,
for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me,
"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,

and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”
Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth;
and the LORD said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

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

ANTHEM *I Am Light, I Am Life, I Am Love*
Mary McDonald, 2019

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

"I Am Light, I Am Life, I Am Love" is a gentle communion anthem known for its smooth beauty and profound simplicity. Written in 3/4 time, the piece encourages listeners to engage in the solemn remembrance of Christ's ultimate sacrifice. It also includes a moving setting of the first stanza of the beloved spiritual *"Let Us Break Bread Together"* at its conclusion.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Love Never Ends Rev. Jim DeMent
1 Corinthians 13:13: And now faith, hope, and love abide, these
three; and the greatest of these is love.

*HYMN #318 *In Christ There Is No East or West*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *The Gift of Love* arr. Don Phillips, 2000

*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 Apostles' 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 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: O God of all creation,

All: **be our hope and trust.**

"The Gift of Love" is a beautiful hymn that sets new lyrics to the traditional English tune O WALY WALY, which has its roots in both Scottish and English folk music. It first appeared in print in the early 18th century, with one of the earliest known versions being in William Thomson's *Orpheus Caledonius* of 1725. The lyrics of "The Gift of Love" are inspired by 1 Corinthians 13, often referred to as the "Love Chapter" of the Bible. (See #693 in GtG.) The tune has been used as a setting for numerous other texts, including "When Love Is Found," "The Water Is Wide," and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

One: You sent Jesus to show us the depth of your love for us,
to call us back to faithfulness by the example
of his own life,
and to welcome us as his siblings
and your beloved children.
Therefore we praise you, joining the heavenly chorus
and the global choir, singing forever to the glory of
your name:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

One: Remembering the grace of your Son Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine,
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming,
proclaiming the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gordon Young (1919–1998) was an American organist and composer known for his significant contributions to church music. He studied at Southwestern College and the Curtis Institute of Music, and later served as the music director at First Presbyterian Church in Detroit for fifteen years. Young composed nearly 1,000 works, including the notable piece, "Cathedral Fanfare" (1983).

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

HOLY COMMUNION

The elements used in the Lord's Supper are wine (red) or juice (golden) and bread or gluten-free crackers (in the small dish). When passing the bread to your neighbor, say, "This is the Bread of Life." When passing the wine or juice to your neighbor, say, "This is the Cup of Salvation." You may partake of the elements as you receive them.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.

All: **Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit to give ourselves for others
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*CHARGE

*HYMN #610 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (stanzas 1, 3, 5)

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

POSTLUDE

Cathedral Fanfare

Gordon Young, 1983

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. James DeMent, Interim Pastor

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Liz Reed and Russ Graves, Ushers

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Wed., Feb. 5

NO POW this week

Sunday, Feb. 9

11:00 a.m. - Worship

Prayer List

Pres Holcomb

Stephen Gaines

Teresa Ramsey

Esther Bender

CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2025

Jessica Erwin

Lance Lurker

Kim Mickelson

Layton Raun

Jackson Clapp – Youth Elder

Class of 2026

Jimmy Barger

Donnie Clapp

Donnie Kainer

Mindi Snyder

Class of 2027

John Kalina

Ester Latapie

Elizabeth Rasmussen

Madge Vackar

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

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