

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## DEDICATION SUNDAY

**First Presbyterian Church  
El Campo, Texas  
December 7, 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](http://www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org) Facebook: [firstpresbyterianelcampo](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianelcampo)**

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 7, 2025

11:00 am

The Second Sunday of Advent

*All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!*

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* arr. James Southbridge, 2011

### WELCOME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ, the One who was, and is, and is to come,  
welcomes you to this place.

**All: As one body, with one voice,  
we honor and glorify the giver of wisdom,  
counsel, knowledge, and joy.**

### \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *Jimmy and Diane Barger*

One: Today we light two candles,  
their light steady and sure against the dark.  
Hope burns beside peace,  
witnessing to God's enduring promises.  
The glow spreads wider each week,  
reminding us that peace is possible,  
and God's kingdom is drawing near.

*After the first two Advent Candles are lit:*

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

### \*HYMN #88 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (stanzas 3 and 4)

### CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Let us lay before God and one another  
the distances between us,  
the impatience, idolatries, and lack of compassion  
that form our confessions this day.

**All: For if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves.  
Yet in mercy, God will forgive us and renew us.**

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* – This tender carol, set to the tune TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM, reflects the humble birth of Christ. Southbridge's arrangement begins and ends with a different tune – FRENCH CAROL, commonly known as *Sing We Now of Christmas*. The piece highlights the gentle simplicity of the text, with flowing lines that evoke Mary's quiet devotion.

\*Please stand in body or spirit.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and welcoming God,  
have mercy on your people.  
We confess that we do not believe in your incarnation.  
We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do.  
We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends  
as beloved children whom you have made.  
In your mercy, forgive us,  
for we repent of our ways  
and look to your power  
to heal us and raise us up,  
so that, at the last, you will gather us to you  
and give us peace. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

**One:** The reign of God has come near.  
Be filled with hope,  
believing in the power of the risen Christ  
to bring you to new life.  
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.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

*Isaiah 11:1-10*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

The ancient hymn  
*O Come, O Come,  
Emmanuel*, drawn  
from the medieval  
*"O Antiphons,"*  
voices Israel's  
longing for the  
Messiah. Stanzas 3  
and 4 call Christ  
"Lord of might"  
and "Root of  
Jesse," images of  
light and awe and  
salvation sung in  
the hymn's  
haunting minor  
mode.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
     or decide by what his ears hear;  
 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
     and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
 he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
     and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
     and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
 The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
     the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
     and a little child shall lead them.  
 The cow and the bear shall graze,  
     their young shall lie down together;  
     and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
     and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;  
     for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
     as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the  
 peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall  
 be glorious.

\*HYMN #82     *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY   *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Mark Hayes, 2007

\*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

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*,  
 Charles Wesley's  
 1744 hymn, prays  
 for Christ to bring  
 freedom, joy, and  
 kingship to all  
 nations. Set to the  
 beloved Welsh tune  
 HYFRYDOL, its  
 soaring melody  
 invites the  
 congregation to sing  
 with confidence and  
 expectation this  
 Advent Sunday.

*Lo, How a Rose  
 E'er Blooming* –  
 This beloved  
 German chorale,  
 dating to the 16th  
 century, portrays  
 Christ as the rose  
 springing forth from  
 Jesse's lineage.  
 Mark Hayes' piano  
 setting blends lyrical  
 beauty with rich  
 harmonies,  
 illuminating the  
 mystery of the  
 Incarnation. The  
 offertory becomes a  
 meditation on God's  
 promise fulfilled in  
 Jesus.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39, PC(USA)*  
*Book of Common Worship*

**We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present,  
nor things to come, nor powers,  
nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

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.**

CANTATA

The Chancel Choir; Karl Paoletti, Director  
Narrators: BJ Swenson and Derek Treybig  
Bells: Melissa Erwin and Christi Beechwood  
Guest Musicians: Aiden Meeks (flute)  
and John Pursel (Guitar)

*The Glory of Christmas:  
Celebrating Christ's Birth*  
by Lloyd Larson 2025

(with the addition of two pieces by other composers)

Narration1: The Hope of Christmas  
*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

Narration 2: The Promise of Christmas  
*Prepare the Way of the Lord!*

Today's service features Lloyd Larson's *The Glory of Christmas*, a cantata that proclaims the wonder of Christ's birth. Through scripture, narration, and song, it traces the story of God's promise fulfilled in Jesus, weaving together familiar carols and new musical settings. The choir's offering becomes both worship and witness, inviting us to rejoice in the glory of the Incarnation and carry its message of hope into the season.

Narration 3: The Wonder of Christmas  
*Jazz Gloria*, arranged by Natalie Sleeth, 1990

Narration 4: The Majesty of Christmas  
*Jesus is Born Tonight*

Narration 5: The Mystery of Christmas  
*The First Noel*, incorporating Pachelbel's *Canon in D*,  
arranged by Michael Clawson, 1990

Narration 6: The Glory of Christmas  
*The Glory of Christmas* (Finale)

\*CHARGE

\*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      *God Rest Ye Merry*      arr. Larry Shackley, 2020

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

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. James DeMent, Interim Pastor

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Pam, Jackson and Robert Clapp, Ushers

*God Rest Ye Merry* – One of the oldest English carols (melody ca. 1750), this tune proclaims the “tidings of comfort and joy” given through Christ’s birth. Shackley’s lively arrangement sends the congregation forth with energy, echoing the carol’s call to rejoice.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** Given by Bill and John Bender in memory of those who died on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**THIS WEEK AT FPC:**

Wednesday, December 10

6:00 pm – POW Youth Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, December 14

11:00 am – Worship – **Youth Christmas Pageant**

**Prayer List**

Steve Porter

Dr. Bill & Deida Bourne

Charlie Van Eman

Keoki Willis

Esther Bender

Colby Hauser

Kin & Carol Halamicek

Scott Mollnar

Sue Ritz

Suzanne Hauser

Sue Zanne Urbis

**Christmas Poinsettias**

The cost this year will be \$15.00 each. You may donate a poinsettia in memory or in honor of loved ones. Just send a note how you would like to dedicate your poinsettias with your check and all arrangements will be made. Mail your check to 203 W Calhoun, El Campo, TX 77437, or you may drop it off at the church office or in the mailbox outside the Church office.

**Mark Your Calendar:**

Sun., Dec. 14 – Youth Christmas Pageant, 11:00 am

Wed., Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Worship, Candlelight, and Communion, **4:00 pm. There will no Worship Service on Christmas Day.**

Sun., Dec. 28 – Worship, 11:00 am

**Pastor's Note:**

The second candle on the Advent Wreath is known in various traditions as the “Bethlehem Candle” or the “Love Candle.”

Whatever designation is used for each of the candles lit in sequence during the four Sundays of Advent, culminating with the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve, the lighting of the candles by various members of the congregation is intended to commemorate the unfolding story of the Advent Season—the story of our redemption through God’s grace made manifest in his only begotten Son, Our Lord and Savior.

Come Lord Jesus, Come Emmanuel!

## 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  
Arlette Pustejovsky

Ester Latapie  
Elizabeth Rasmussen

## 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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Facebook: firstpresbyterianelcampo