

First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
November 8, 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.

203 W. Calhoun El Campo, Texas 979-543-3658
www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org Facebook: firstpresbyterianelcampo

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 8, 2026 11:00 am 24th Sunday after Pentecost

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Partita on ST. ANNE* Theo Meurs, ca. 2004

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)
One: It is time to wake up,
All: for God is about to surprise us.
One: It is time to prepare,
All: for God's love is about to change the world.
One: It is time to get ready,
All: for God needs us to proclaim the good news.
One: It is time to start planning,
All: for God's invitation will fill our church.
One: It is time to worship,
All: for God is here now!

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN #**367** ***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come***

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)
God of Mystery, we want to stay awake and be ready for your surprises, but we are tired and overcome with the usual routine. We want to wait patiently for the fulfillment of your kingdom, but we are frustrated by our need for immediate gratification. We want to believe your promises from ancient days, but we are overwhelmed with our doubts. Come to us, O God. Awaken us with your unexpected grace. When we are in a hurry, help us remember to prepare for you. Strengthen us with your love and encourage us with your forgiveness. *(A moment of silence.)*

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Partita on ST. ANNE – A partita presents a series of variations on a familiar melody. In this piece, Dutch composer and organist Theo Meurs (b. 1959) explores the enduring hymn tune ST. ANNE, best known for *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*, revealing its strength and expressive richness through contrasting musical textures. Theo Meurs is known especially for composing organ partitas based on well-loved hymn tunes. (see #687 in *GtG*)

*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 **Isaiah 40:28-31**

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

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

ANTHEM *We Bring Our Thanks* Ruth Elaine Schram, 1998

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING **Matthew 25:1-13**

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding

We Bring Our Thanks – This anthem, composed in 1998, combines a spirit of gratitude with a warm expression of faith and devotion. Schram's setting invites worshippers to offer thanksgiving not only for God's gifts, but also for God's abiding presence and care.

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come – Written for an English Harvest Festival in 1844, Henry Alford's text blends thanksgiving for earthly abundance with the biblical image of God's final harvest. The sturdy tune ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR, associated with the text since the nineteenth century, gives the hymn both dignity and joyful energy.

banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON "The Long Wait"

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #**43** ***On Eagle's Wings***

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Can You Count the Stars?* Ami K. Porter, 2021

*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.

*OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

We dedicate these gifts to you, Generous God, even as we dedicate our lives to you. Keep us true to our promise, so that we may witness to you with all that we are and all that we do. Amen.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - On Eagle's Wings Adapted from Mark D Roberts

One: O Lord, you have indeed carried me on your wings.
Many: By your mercy, you have delivered me from sin and death.
One: You have set me free from their bondage.
Many: Once I was a slave, but now I am free to be your servant.
All: Thank you, Lord.
One: Even as I seek to live faithfully as a child of the new covenant,
Many: help me to live each day by grace.
One: May I continue to ride on your wings

On Eagle's Wings – Inspired by Psalm 91 and Isaiah's image of soaring on eagles' wings, Michael Joncas wrote this hymn while serving as a parish musician in Minnesota. Its message of divine protection and care has made it one of the most widely sung contemporary hymns in Christian worship.

Can You Count the Stars? – Based on a vintage children's hymn, this piano meditation reflects on the wonder of creation and God's attentive care for every living thing. Its gentle character echoes the hymn's reassuring reminder that the God who numbers the stars also watches faithfully over each of us.

Many: as you guide and empower me to serve you in every aspect of my life.
All: All praise be to you, gracious Lord, because you carry me on your wings. Amen.

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.

CLOSING PRAYER (Responsive)
One: Go out and stay awake! Go out and keep alert and be ready!
All: We do not know the day or the hour, but we do know that God goes with us at all hours, on all days.
One: Go with the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.
All: We go to witness and serve! Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN ***Thy Word (insert)***

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE #**175** ***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!

Thy Word – Originally written for contemporary Christian worship, *Thy Word* draws upon Psalm 119's celebration of God's guidance and wisdom. Its simple refrain emphasizes Scripture as a lamp for life's journey and a steady source of direction for believers.

POSTLUDE *Processional on HELMSLEY* Karen Beaumont, 2022

Processional on HELMSLEY – The stirring tune HELMSLEY is most often associated with *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*. Karen Beaumont's festive processional transforms this familiar melody into a bold and confident conclusion to worship, sending the congregation forth with energy and hope. (see #348 in *GtG*)

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS
Pastor Kristine Shultis
Ronda Paoletti, Choir Director
Ted Lashley, Music Director
Ed and Melissa Erwin, Ushers

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Placed today by Arlette Pustejovsky in memory of Dottie Collins.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:
Sunday, Nov. 15th 11:00 a.m. – Worship – Congregational Meeting – Fellowship Dinner

UPCOMING – Mark your Calendars

Sunday, Nov. 22nd	Bring College Care Packages to church Join us for Christ the King Sunday! Please stay after worship to help decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas Season.
Sunday, Dec. 6th	Christmas Cantata
Sunday, Dec. 13th	Youth Christmas Program and Cookie Walk
Thursday, Dec. 24th	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 4p.m.

Prayer List

Esther Bender	Colby Hauser	Jimmy Barger
Scott Mollnar	Avely Miller	Greg Montello
Suzanne Hauser	John Minkert	Kayleigh Newman
Gerald Grogan	Ruben Sabrsula	

CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2026

Jimmy Barger
Donnie Clapp
Donnie Kainer
Mindi Snyder
Youth Elder: Porter Beechwood

Class of 2027

Ester Latapie
Arlette Pustejovsky
Elizabeth Rasmussen

Class of 2028

Shawn Beechwood
Debra Hamman
Melba Clapp
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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