



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.

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www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org Facebook: firstpresbyterianelcampo

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 17, 2023

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *How Firm a Foundation* Early American
arr. Edward Broughton

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Today is the Lord's Day!

All: We have come to give thanks to the Lord our God,

One: Who gives justice to the oppressed,

All: Who forgives us and redeems us,

One: Who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

All: Let us worship God, who is worthy of our praise.

*HYMN #15 *All Creatures of Our God and King* (s. 1,4,6)

1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
so, even in the midst of tears,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Sing praises! Alleluia!

"The Service for the Lord's Day is a service of Word and Sacrament. We meet in the presence of the living Lord, who appeared to his disciples on the first day of the week--the day he rose from the dead--to interpret the scripture and break bread. Following Jesus' example, the church proclaims the fullness of the gospel in Word and Sacrament on the Lord's Day." - BCW

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, our judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others. We want to be more faithful, Lord. Forgive us again and show us your grace. Amen. (Silent Confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God does not deal with us according to our sins, but according to God's own steadfast love for us. 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

Exodus 14:19-30

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that

Today's Exodus scripture recounts the departure of the Israelites from Egypt. God had called Moses out of the burning bush to lead God's people out of Egypt. Pharaoh did not let the Hebrews leave and God sent 10 plagues to confront Pharaoh and his gods. "With the final plague, the night of Passover, God turned the tables on Pharaoh. Just as Pharaoh killed the sons of the Israelites, so God will kill the firstborn sons of Egypt. Unlike Pharaoh, however, God provided a means of escape through the blood of a lamb." - Bible Project

they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.” Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SOLO *Let All Things Now Living* Traditional Welsh Melody
Jimmy Barger, tenor

SCRIPTURE READING Joshua 3

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 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.

*HYMN #69

Here I am Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
made the stars at nights, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you
calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you
lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will
break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest
bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

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

OFFERTORY

Hymn to Our Protector

Donna J. Krieger

Incorporating AR HYD Y NOS

*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.**

Donna J. Krieger's *Hymn to Our Protector* is constructed on her original melody, characterized by supportive and oft-repeated chords. And then, unexpectedly, she quotes the lyrical Welsh melody (commonly known as the lullaby, *All through the Night*) before returning to her own music and a calm ending. The *Glory to God* hymnal includes two hymns set to this Welsh tune, both with lyrics proclaiming God's protection of God's children: #676 *Day Is Done*, and #547 *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*. Read through both hymn texts -- and experience these poignant, poetic paintings of Our Protector.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #649 *Amazing Grace*
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that
Saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
Now am found, was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
Grace my fears relieved. How precious did that
Grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I
Have already come. ‘Tis grace has brought me
Save thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his
Word my hope secures. He will my shield and
Portion be as long as life endures.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright
Shining as the sun, we’ve no less days to
Sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

*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

Recessional on ST. KEVIN

Arthur Sullivan

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Erin McGee, Preaching
Karl Paoletti, Choir Director
Ted Lashley, Music Director
Jana and Ava Fernandez, Ushers

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Given by Jill and Jim Gardner.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Monday, Sep. 18	6:15 pm - Session
Tuesday, Sep. 19	12:00-1:00 pm Adult Book/Bible Study
Wednesday, Sep. 20	5:15-6:00 pm – POW PreSchool & Elem. 6:00-6:30 pm – POW Dinner 6:30-7:30 pm – POW Middle Sch. & High School 5:30-6:30 pm – Circle IV, FPC Living Room 6:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, September 24	11:00 am – Worship

Diane will be out of the office Sept. 18-20. Leigh Ann will be out Sept. 18-25.

Prayer List

Alexander Stillman
Val Alexander (friend of Erin McGee)
Andy Christian
The Family of Keith Junot
Esther Bender

We will keep members and friends on our prayer list for one month. After that, please email the church communications assistant to add that person to the list again.

Mark Your Calendars:

Oct. 22 - 125th Anniversary of Congregation and Church Fellowship Dinner

Adult Book/Bible Study

Beginning on Wednesday, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm and continuing for 6 weeks, adults are invited to gather with Pastor Erin for a lunch-time study of the New Testament book Philippians. We will be reading the Biblical text and the book *Joy Even on Your Worst Days* by Tom Are, Jr. which is full of wonderful stories and strong theological insight. No advance reading is required. No knowledge of the book of Philippians is needed. Come as you are, and together we'll explore this book of the Bible. This study is hybrid, being both in-person and on Zoom. Each week's conversation will be available for 30 days as a recording on the church's website. Questions? Contact Erin in the church office.

Congregational Fellowship Night – Bingo – October 4th.

Mark your calendars! On Wednesday, October 4, everyone is invited to join in the fellowship for our church family of ALL AGES! We'll have pizza and bingo, starting at 5:30 pm (so choir members can come for fun and choir rehearsal!) and end up around 6:30 pm with a prayer circle led by our young people. You don't want to miss it!

CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2023

Jill Gardner
Taylor Martin

Derek Treybig
Lizzie Erwin

Class of 2024

Suzanne Hauser
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

Choir Director – Karl Paoletti
Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley
Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger
Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel
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