



**First Presbyterian Church  
El Campo, Texas**

**March 29, 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

March 29, 2026

11:00 am

Palm Sunday

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

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

\*PROCESSION OF THE PALMS

Hymn # 196 *All Glory, Laud,  
and Honor*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus entered into Jerusalem humbly on a donkey, seeking to transform the people.

**All: People gathered from everywhere to wave palm branches and to praise him as royalty.**

One: Jesus enters into our lives humbly, seeking to transform our hearts and lives.

**All: Let us worship Jesus Christ together and receive him into our presence.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

OPENING PRAYER

\*HYMN #385 *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Loving God, we confess that our hands are not clean, and that our hearts are not pure. Forgive our capricious discipleship and keep our faith constant. Lead us always to a deeper experience of your love. Enliven us by the familiar but always new story of shame and triumph, suffering and hope that this week reveals. Mold us to the ways of the Savior whose life we honor this morning. Amen.**

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*All People That on Earth Do Dwell* – Often called the “Old Hundredth Psalm,” this hymn invites the whole congregation to lift a unified voice of thanksgiving. Its familiar tune carries a sense of communal strength, reminding us that praise is both a personal act and a shared calling. Singing it after the procession grounds the service in joyful gratitude.

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

One: Hear the Word of the Lord in Psalm 118: Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. In Christ, God answers us and sets us free! In 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**

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrew Bible Reading:  
Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

One: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

*Jerusalem, Behold Your King*  
D. Angerman & M. Barrett, 2017

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken

*Jerusalem, Behold Your King* – This contemporary anthem paints the Palm Sunday scene with vivid musical color, blending lyrical lines with rhythmic energy. The text calls the city — and us — to recognize Christ's humble kingship. Angerman and Barrett weave together anticipation and reverence, mirroring the tension of Holy Week's beginning. It offers a powerful choral meditation between the triumph of the palms and the shadow of the cross.

through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON **“Choose Your Parade”**

SILENT REFLECTION

\*HYMN # 630 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Jesus, Light of the World, how quickly the joy and exuberance of the people on this day was turned hostile and angry by political manipulation, and even your friends betrayed you. Let us walk with you through this coming Holy Week, remain in your presence, and never deny that you are our Savior.

All: **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

One: Jesus, Light of the World, help us to engage the hearts and minds of the leaders of this world, our country, and our community, that we

*Fairest Lord Jesus* – This beloved hymn blends simplicity with beauty, offering a quiet confession of Christ’s lordship over creation. The tune’s gentle contours evoke the peace and clarity of spring landscapes. It becomes a moment of calm reflection within the larger Palm Sunday celebration.

may eliminate the fear-mongering, posturing, and oppression that leads to a death like yours.

**All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

One: Jesus, Light of the World, enfold with your loving arms, those who are ill, desperate, or hopeless, and those who worry and care for them. We pray especially for....

**All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

One: Jesus, Light of the World, as you came to lead us all into the glory of eternal life, turn our grief into joy and comfort knowing those we mourn are with you now in everlasting peace. (We pray especially for...)

**All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

One: Jesus, Light of the World, we *pause* in this moment to offer you our own prayers, aloud or silently...

**All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

One: God of Mercy, as we re-experience the events of this day and of the week to come, help us to see the times in our lives when we, too, have deserted Jesus and given in to the ways of the world instead. Grant us the willingness to confess through our words and actions that Jesus Christ is Lord. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Ride On, King Jesus!* arr. Gina Sprunger, 2016

\*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.**

*Ride On, King Jesus!* – Sprunger’s arrangement brings fresh vitality to this spiritual, highlighting its confident proclamation of Christ’s authority. Syncopated rhythms and expressive harmonies give the piece a sense of forward motion, fitting for a day centered on Christ’s entry into Jerusalem. The offertory becomes both a musical testimony and a moment of spirited praise.

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* – A favorite for children and adults alike, this hymn retells the Palm Sunday story through the eyes of the young. Its bright, lilting tune captures the energy of waving branches and eager voices. It closes the service with the same joyful spirit that opened it.

\*OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

**Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. Blessed be God, now and forever.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AS WE ENTER HOLY WEEK

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

\*CLOSING HYMN #197 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Paeon on HYMN TO JOY* David Lasky, 2023

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

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Kristine Shultis

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Blake and Kristi Barger, Ushers

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** Placed by Bill and John Bender in loving memory of JoAnn Bender.

*Paeon on HYMN TO JOY* – Lasky's recent postlude transforms the familiar HYMN TO JOY into a jubilant organ celebration. Bold harmonies and rhythmic drive send the congregation out with energy and hope. Its triumphant character echoes the day's theme: joy that rises even as Holy Week begins. A fitting, radiant finale after a service full of movement and praise.



## CHURCH OFFICERS

### Class of 2026

Jimmy Barger

Donnie Kainer

Youth Elder: Porter Beechwood

Donnie Clapp

Mindi Snyder

### Class of 2027

John Kalina

Arlette Pustejovsky

Ester Latapie

Elizabeth Rasmussen

### Class of 2028

Shawn Beechwood

Melba Clapp

Debra Hamman

B.J. Swenson

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Kristine Shultis

Choir Director – Karl Paoletti

Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley

Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger

Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel

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