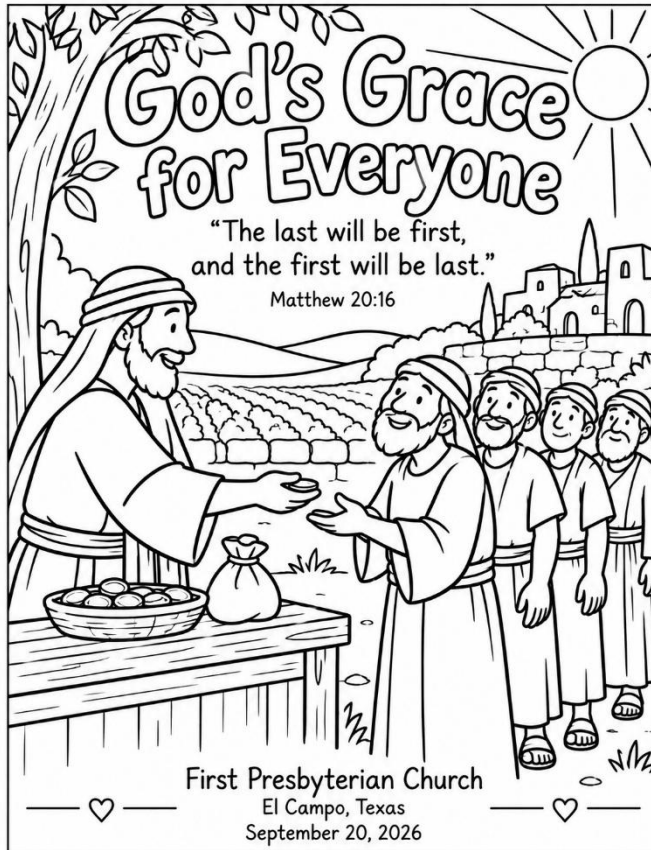




First Presbyterian Church El Campo, Texas September 20, 2026

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
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 20, 2026

11:00 am

17th Sunday after Pentecost

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *This Is My Father's World* Daniel Burton, 2020

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: Open your hearts to God's loving mercy.

All: Lord, come into our hearts this day.

One: Having received God's mercy, bring that love to others.

All: Lord, be with us as we reach out to others in compassion.

One: Feel your spirits filled with the goodness of God.

All: Lord, we thank you for the many blessings which you pour into our lives.

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN #36 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

O God, we have wavered in our faith while suffering and we have not persevered in prayer. We have claimed to be wiser than we are and have even tried to correct you. We make excuses for ourselves rather than listening for your direction and heeding your call. Our days are so filled with the busyness of this world that we cannot see your reign among us. We are so weighed down by our own concerns that we have no energy to serve in your realm. Send your cleansing fire among us, forgiving God. Amen.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

This Is My Father's World – Burton's arrangement highlights the tune's pastoral character, bringing out its sense of wonder at God's handiwork. The organ's colors give the melody a spacious, contemplative feel. This prelude sets a tone of gratitude and attentiveness as worship begins. The tune's name, TERRA BEATA, means "blessed land," and was composed in 1913.

For the Fruit of All Creation – This hymn is set to the Welsh tune AR HYD Y NOS, originally an evening song whose gentle, lullaby-like character has been cherished for generations. Its smooth, flowing phrases and warm harmonies give the melody a calm, twilight feel that beautifully supports the hymn's gratitude for God's daily provision.

*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

BLESSING OF BAG/BACKPACKS ...

**ALL: We bless these bags and all who carry them in the name of
the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them,

'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *Sing the Goodness of the Lord* Larry Shackley

A MODERN READING OF SCRIPTURE

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON "That's Not Fair!"

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #649 *Amazing Grace*

Prayer (Responsive)

One: Come, let us give an account of our lives to God.

All: The first shall be last, and the last shall be first.

One: Let us give an account of our stewardship, everything we have done since we said yes to Jesus.

All: The first shall be last, and the last shall be first.

One: The harvest is great but there are just a few of us.

All: The first shall be last, and the last shall be first.

One: We must work while it is day because when night comes, none of us will be able to work.

All: The first shall be last, and the last shall be first.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sing the Goodness of the Lord – This joyful anthem weaves scriptural phrases into a vibrant call to praise. Shackley's energetic original theme blends seamlessly with the familiar hymn "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," creating a musical dialogue between tradition and fresh expression. The piece invites the congregation to celebrate God's goodness with confidence and joy.

Amazing Grace – This classic hymn remains one of the most enduring testimonies to God's mercy. The pentatonic NEW BRITAIN tune gives the text a simple, heartfelt sincerity that has resonated across generations. Singing it together reminds us of grace that restores, redirects, and renews.

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.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *The Love of God* arr. James Koerts, 2020

*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 BLESSING FOR OUR OFFERING (in unison)

**Receive our offering, gracious God, as an expression of our
thankfulness. Here, in this church we become aware that the
greatest gifts we receive are not material, and we learn how best to
use the particular gifts you give us. At the same time, you show us
how our material advantages can help others. May many be
blessed through our sharing of these offerings and the sharing of
ourselves. Amen.**

*CLOSING PRAYER (responsive)

One: Seek every day the presence we have known here. God offers
strength for every challenge we face.

**All: We will give thanks and call on God's name. We will open our
eyes to see God's daily miracles.**

One: God promises life in all its fullness, not earthly riches. Life is
fruitful when lived for others.

**All: With mutual affection, we honor one another. With hope and
joy, we reach out helping hands.**

The Love of God – Koerts' setting of this beloved hymn emphasizes its sweeping, expressive lines. The piano arrangement moves between quiet reflection and fuller, resonant harmonies, mirroring the text's meditation on God's boundless love. It offers a moment of warmth and devotion during the offering. The author of the hymn text, Frederick Lehman, also composed the tune (1917).

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending – BEACH SPRING is one of the sturdy early American tunes shaped by the simplicity of folk melody. Its pentatonic design – built from the five-note scale common to Appalachian and Shaker traditions – gives the tune its open, generous character. That clarity and warmth make it an ideal partner for texts that invite commitment, gratitude, and steady faithfulness.

One: Let worship continue as we pray for one another. May God’s will be done as we overcome evil with good.

All: Praise God for all the wonders of this life. Praise God for opportunities to serve in Christ’s name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #716 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Con Spirito* Alphonse Cary, 1885

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Kristine Shultis
Ronda Paoletti, Choir Director
Ted Lashley, Music Director
Jana and Robert Fernandez, Ushers
Elizabeth Rasmussen, Elder of the Month

SANCTUARY FLOWERS - please sign up in the Narthex

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Monday, September 21st 6:15 pm Session
Sunday, September 27th 10:00 am – Choir rehearsal
11:00 am. – Worship Service

Prayer List

Esther Bender	Colby Hauser	Jimmy Barger
Scott Mollner	Avely Miller	Linda dale Raun
Suzanne Hauser	John Minkert	Carole Halamicek
Gerald Grogan	Willie Bender	Carole Roades
Colter Kresta	Ruben Sabrsula	Greg Montello

Con Spirito – This spirited postlude from Morley’s Voluntaries, Vol. 2 brings worship to a lively close. Alphonse Cary’s writing features bright, confident gestures that showcase the organ’s brilliance. Its energetic character sends the congregation forth with uplifted hearts. Cary was one of the more prominent organists and composers during the late-Victorian, early-Edwardian era of English church and cathedral music.

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 – Ronda Paoletti

Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley

Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger

Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel

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