



## **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.*

**203 W. Calhoun El Campo, Texas 979-543-3658**  
**[www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org) Facebook: firstpresbyterianelcampo**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**March 19, 2023** **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

*Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE      *Blest Be the Tie*      DENNIS; arr. Roger C. Wilson

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**All: Worship the Lord with gladness.**

One: Come into God's presence with singing!

**All: For the Lord is a gracious God,**

One: Whose mercy is everlasting,

**All: And whose faithfulness endures to all generations.**

One: Let us worship God!

\*HYMN #611      *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,

God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee;  
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Mortals, join the happy chorus  
which the morning stars began.

The hymn *Blest Be the Tie* (#306 in *GtG*) is sung to the tune DENNIS, which has its origin in an 1828 composition by Hans Georg Nägeli, a Swiss composer. But it was the "Father of American Church Music" Lowell Mason (1792–1872) who took a few bars of Nägeli's hymn and created a new hymn tune named after the town of Dennis in Cape Cod, MA. Included in Dr. Mason's 1,600 hymn tunes are *Joy to the World*, *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*, and *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*.

Love divine is reigning o'er us,  
joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife.  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have turned aside from your ways. We have been misled by pride. We have failed in love. We have neglected justice. We have ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen. (Silent Confession.)**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**One:** The steadfast love of the Lord never fails. In the name of 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.**

**BAPTISM OF HARRELL PAUL BURDEN**

**With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's Church; we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you, to share the good news of the gospel with you, and to help you know and follow Christ.**

**ANTHEM**            *The Prayer (with Lead Us, Lord)*  
Carol Sager & David Foster; arr. Tom Fettke

Today Michael and Sarah Burden bring their son, Harrell Paul, for the sacrament of baptism, as they did their daughter Ila Jean. Harrell is the grandson of Mary and Tommy Johnson and the grandnephew of Richard and Sue Zanne Urbis and Doug and Madge Vackar, and the nephew/cousins of Tyson, Laura, Tyson Dove, and Mary Margret Duncan. We welcome this child into God's big family!

## HEARING OF THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#701 *Lord, Prepare Me*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 47:1-7, NRSVUE

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth. He subdued peoples under us and nations under our feet. He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah* God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN #450

*Be Thou My Vision*

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Be thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight,  
Be thou my armor, and be thou my might;  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,  
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

Today's Affirmation of Faith was written in 1983 when the two largest Presbyterian churches in the United States reunited.

Affirmations or "confessions define what we as a community believe. These statements of faith proactively affirm our beliefs about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and about humanity, the church and the world (the context in which God, humanity, and the church interact). They also reactively counter understandings prevalent in the surrounding culture that do not coincide with our faith. We have confessions because we are fallible human beings, prone to error, and inclined to forget who and whose we are. We need guidance and continual reminders about what we believe." –

PC(USA)

4 High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

SCRIPTURE READING                      Psalm 26:1-3, (Erin's Translation)

Judge me, O Lord,  
for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the Lord without tottering.  
Examine me, O Lord, and prove me;  
Test my will and emotions.  
For your lovingkindness is before my eyes,  
and I have walked in Your truth.  
One:    The Word of the Lord.  
All:    **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON                                      *Be Thou My Vision*

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH                      From *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.  
The same Spirit  
who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.  
In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,**

'As we offer our gifts for God's service, we praise God for letting us have use of all the resources the Lord has provided for us, and we praise God for the opportunity to serve on God's behalf. The Doxology is an ancient chorus of praise with a vision of joining all the created beings of all times and places who forever sing praise to God. (Imagine joining the grand chorus of praise ringing through all of creation.)" -- Teresa Stricklen, Associate for Worship Presbyterian Church (USA)

**to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"  
With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

#### 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        *His Eye Is on the Sparrow*  
Charles Gabriel; arr. James Koerts

#### \*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

\*HYMN #840        *When Peace Like a River*  
1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,

whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul;  
it is well; it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,  
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

3 He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought.  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

\*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

*Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER; Sydney H. Nicholson

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Dr. Erin McGee, Preaching  
Ted Lashley, Music Director  
Layton and Linda dale Raun, Ushers  
Derek Treybig, Liturgist  
Sam Clapp, Acolyte

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** Are placed today by Michael and Sarah Burden in celebration of the sacrament of baptism.

## **THIS WEEK AT FPC:**

Monday, March 20	6:15 pm – Session
Tuesday, March 21	12:00 – 1:00 pm – Adult Book Study
Wednesday, March 22	5:15 – 6:00 pm – POW Preschool & Elementary
	6:00 – 6:30 pm – POW CHOW Dinner
	6:30 – 7:30 pm – POW Middle & High School
	5:30 pm – Circle IV Meeting
	6:00 pm – Choir
Sunday, March 26	11:00 am Worship

## **Prayer List**

Alexander Stillman  
Sydney Slattery  
Judy Wadsworth  
Emma Parker  
Bobby and Sylvia Bustamante  
Lawrence Korenek  
Peggy Parks  
The Etchison Family

## **Fellowship Dinner Sunday, TODAY!**

Join your church family for a splendid after-church potluck in the Family Center today. Bring a dish to share to the Family Center kitchen before 11:00 am worship, and stay after worship for the meal!



## **Easter Lilies**

If you would like to place an Easter Lily in the church for Easter Sunday in honor or in memory of someone, please contact Diane in the church office (979-543-3658 or [presbyterianec@gmail.com](mailto:presbyterianec@gmail.com)). Each lily is \$11.00 and can be taken home after worship on April 17. Order forms are also in the Narthex.

## **CHURCH OFFICERS**

### Class of 2023

Elizabeth Clapp  
Taylor Martin

Jill Gardner  
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

Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley

Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger

Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel

203 W. Calhoun St. El Campo, Texas 979-543-3658

[www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org)

Facebook: [firstpresbyterianelcampo](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianelcampo)