



First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
December 14, 2025

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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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 14, 2025

11:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: My soul magnifies the Lord;

All: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

One: The Mighty One has done great things.

All: Holy is God's name!

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Andrea McCann and Doug Vackar

One: Today we light three candles.

Hope still shines, peace still glows,

and joy joins the chorus of light.

Their glow reminds us that Christ is coming,

filling our hearts with a delight no darkness can quench.

After the first two Advent Candles are lit:

All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*HYMN #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (stanzas 5, 6)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of majesty and glory,

we are thirsty for your grace.

You made a way for us in the wilderness,

and still, in our foolishness, we go astray.

We hide our eyes from your presence.

We do not listen to your word.

We are lifeless when we ought to dance

and speechless when we ought to sing.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

**Forgive us, O Lord.
Speak peace to our fearful hearts,
as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.**

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

One: Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness.
Sing a song of redemption!
Let sorrow and sighing be no more.
Believe in God, friends!
Believe the good news:
in 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.**

HEARING OF THE WORD OF GOD

ADVENT LITANY – HOPE

Olivia Barger

One: We stand in awe of a hope that endures.

**All: Though shadows lengthen, the light will not fail.
Though our waiting feels long, your coming is sure.**

One: We join the chorus of saints across time,
singing of hope, longing for redemption,
trusting that even now, Christ is near.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and make hope our song.

JINGLE OFFERING – *Make a loud noise with your coins!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jackson Clapp

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lamb shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
All things will be made new.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PAGEANT

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

We Three Kings

**We three Kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!**

Silent Night

Accompanied by:

Nathan Peters

Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

‘round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY

*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

ADVENT LITANY – PEACE

Nancy Beechwood

One: We long for you peace to flow like water,
quenching our thirst.

All: **Teach us to live as peacemakers,
agents of your reconciling love.**

One: Peace, peace, to the far and the near, says the Lord.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, and make peace our way.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Declaration of Faith

One: What do you believe?

All: **In Christ, God gave us a glimpse of the new creation
God has already begun and will surely finish.
We do not know when the final day will come.**

**In our time we see only broken and scattered signs
that the renewal of all things is under way.
We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering
in the world, the church, or our own lives.
But we see Jesus as Lord.
As he stands at the center of our history,
we are confident he will stand at its end.
He will judge all people and nations.
Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's creation.
There will be no more tears or pain.
All things will be made new.**

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.

ADVENT LITANY – JOY

Nick Fernandez

One: We delight in the joy of your presence,
which no hardship can steal away.

All: **We rejoice that you are Emmanuel, God with us.**

One: You are our glory and our joy!

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, and make joy our strength.**

*HYMN #515 *I Come with Joy* (stanzas 1, 5)

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**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

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Monday, Dec. 15 6:15 p.m. – Session Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 21 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

*****Mark your calendar – Wed., Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve Service 4:00 p.m.****

Prayer List

Charlie Van Eman

Ester Bender

Keoki Willis

Steve Porter

Colby Hauser

Scott Mollnar

Sue Ritz

Suzanne Hauser

Sue Zanne Urbis

Dr. Bill & Deida Bourne

Cindy Kovar

Kin & Carol Halamicek

Pastor's Note

The third candle on the Advent Wreath is pink, and it is known in various traditions as the “Shepherds’ Candle” or the “Joy Candle.”

During our worship service this morning, our youth will tell the Christmas story with props and costumes and biblical dialogue. They will lead us in worship with Scripture readings and Advent Litanies (one each for “hope,” “peace,” and “joy”—corresponding to the three candles on the Advent Wreath that have been lit so far). There will be no sermon from the pulpit this Sunday as your pastor steps aside to allow our youth to remind us of the wonderful—and wonderful—birth of Jesus Christ into a sad and lonely world.

What a great blessing to us are the youth of our church. Let us encourage them, let us celebrate them, and most of all let us thank God for the joy they bring into our lives!

PAGEANT CAST

Reader 1: Mason Bridges

Reader 2: Nick Fernandez

Reader 3: Robert Clapp

Mary: Madelin Martin

Joseph: Colt Hooker

Angel 1: Olivia Barger

Angel 2: Reece Barger

Innkeepers: Nancy Beechwood
 and Jonathan Martin

Shepherd 1: Riott Kubala

Shepherd 2: Jaycie Latapie

Wise Person 1: Jackson Clapp

Wise Person 2: Raider Kubala

Wise Person 3: Harvey Treybig

King Herod: Nathan Peters

Tax Collector: Rage Kubala

Advisor: Porter Beechwood

Sheep: Lydia Treybig
 Amelia & Alani Luna