



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**El Campo, Texas**  
**April 12, 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](http://www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org) Facebook: [firstpresbyterianelcampo](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianelcampo)**

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 12, 2026

11:00 am

Second Sunday of Easter

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

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE      *Flourish on "Gelobet sei Gott"*  
arr. Douglas E. Wagner, 2024

### WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: Christ is risen.

**All: Christ is risen, indeed.**

One: God is alive..

**All: New birth is given.**

One: Hope is alive...

**All: A new age is dawning.**

One: Joy is alive...

**All: Redemption is here.**

One: Love is alive

**All: Death cannot harm us.**

One: We are alive...

**All: New life is within us.**

One: The church is alive...

**God's spirit is within us.**

**All:**

**God of life, we worship you.**

**God of creation, we praise you.**

**God of revelation, we learn from you.**

**God of resurrection, we come to celebrate you.**

**\*HYMN #239 *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!***

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Flourish on "Gelobet sei Gott" – This morning's prelude is built on the Easter hymn tune GELOBET SEI GOTT, shaping its bright alleluias into a lively musical flourish. Douglas Wagner's writing highlights the tune's jubilant character through fanfare-like motives and rhythmic energy. It sets a festive tone for the 2nd Sunday of Easter. This tune is the same as that of our first hymn, *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!**

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Loving God, if, at times, we deny you, forgive us. When the risks of discipleship are high, and we are nowhere to be found, forgive us. When we wash our hands of responsibility, forgive us. When we cast our lot with powerful oppressors, forgive us. When fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth, or prejudice keeps us from believing it, forgive us. Loving God, raise us in your love so that, with joy, we may witness to your awesome deeds, in the name of Jesus, the risen one. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: This is the good news: the grave is empty, Christ is risen.

**All: Hallelujah!**

One: This is the good news: we have been made whole. Our sins are forgiven.

**All: Hallelujah! Amen!**

\*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

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death,

*Good Christians  
All, Rejoice and  
Sing!* – This joyful  
Easter hymn calls  
the church to lift  
its voice in praise  
of the risen Christ.  
The tune  
GELOBET SEI  
GOTT, from the  
17th-century  
German chorale  
tradition, carries  
the text with  
bright,  
trumpet-like  
energy. Its  
triple *alleluias*  
echo the season’s  
message of  
renewed life and  
provide a fitting  
conclusion to each  
stanza.

because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

my body also will rest in hope,

because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,

you will not let your holy one see decay.

You have made known to me the paths of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

*I Will Sing Praises*

arr. André Thomas, 1995

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus

*I Will Sing*

*Praises* – Based on text & tune by Theola Booker, this morning's anthem begins with a gentle texture, supported only by light, punctuated piano bass notes. As the piece unfolds, other voices join in and the rhythms grow more intricate; the choir builds toward a full, joyful climax before gradually receding back into quiet simplicity. The anthem ends with one low piano note... a final musical "period" after the choir's exuberant praise.

came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe. Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON *"Living Like Resurrection People"*

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #247 *Now the Green Blade Rises*

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *My Jesus, Fair* arr. Molly Ijames, 2019

\*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.**

*Now the Green Blade Rises* – This beloved Easter text uses the imagery of spring to express Christ's rising as a mystery of new life breaking through the earth. It is set to the French carol NOEL NOUVELET, a tune originally sung at Christmas (*Sing We Now of Christmas*) but beautifully suited to Easter's themes of renewal. The pairing creates a gentle, hopeful meditation on resurrection.

*My Jesus, Fair* – This piano arrangement begins with a soft, tender statement of the hymn, shaped by gentle harmonies and a quiet, reflective texture. As the piece unfolds, the chords grow fuller and the sound broadens, leading to a triumphant presentation of the melody that mirrors the hymn's movement from Christ's sacrifice to His victorious resurrection.

\*OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**Generous and surprising God, when we thought that death had claimed your only Son, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world through our witness to your love. We lay our very lives at your feet, O God, knowing that you will use us to proclaim and embody the gospel. Amen.**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**All: Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles: this we have received, and this we believe. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 HYMN #826 *Lift High the Cross*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Hallelujah! Thine the Glory*  
arr. David Lasky, 2020

*Hallelujah! Thine the Glory*

– Today's postlude is based on the revival hymn *We Praise Thee, O God* with text by William P. Mackay from the 1860s. Its familiar tune, REVIVE US AGAIN, is traditionally attributed to early 19th-century composer John J. Husband. David Lasky's 2020 arrangement sends us out with a bright, confident flourish.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Kristine Shultis

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Brian and B.J. Swenson, Ushers

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** Placed by Brian and B.J. Swenson.

## **THIS WEEK AT FPC:**

Sunday, April 19

11:00 a.m. – Worship Service/ Fellowship Dinner

## **Upcoming:**

Session Meeting – Monday, April 20 6:25 p.m.

## **Prayer List**

Charlie Van Eman

Scott Mollnar

Avely Miller

Kin & Carol Halamiccek

Dee Wilbeck

Esther Bender

Suzanne Hauser

Linda Collins

James Socha

Colby Hauser

Sue Zanne Urbis

Bronson Harfst

Ardis Bacak

## 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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