



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**El Campo, Texas**  
**April 13, 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.*

**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 13, 2025

11:00 am

Passion Sunday

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

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE      *The Old Rugged Cross*      George Bennard, 1913  
Andrea McCann, vocal solo & guitar

### WELCOME

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

**All: God's steadfast love endures forever!**

One: The stone that the builders rejected

**All: Has become the chief cornerstone.**

One: Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

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

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

**All: God's steadfast love endures forever!  
Let us worship God.**

\*HYMN #462      *I Love to Tell the Story*

#### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Have mercy on us, O God,  
for we are broken vessels.**

**You call us to follow you,  
but we deny, abandon, and betray.**

**You call us to pursue justice and righteousness,  
but we stick to the status quo.**

**You lead us to the cross,  
but in our discomfort, we try to skip to the empty tomb.  
Transform us, O God.**

*"I Love to Tell the Story" was penned by Katherine Hankey (1834-1911), a remarkable woman who wrote the words while recovering from a serious illness in 1866. William G. Fischer wrote the tune HANKEY (in honor of the hymn's author) and the words to the refrain; the complete hymn was published in 1869 in *Joyful Songs*.*

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

**Pour out your Holy Spirit upon all our brokenness,  
that your grace may fill in the cracks of our broken places  
and make us whole. Amen.**

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

**One:** It is the Lord who helps us; who will declare us guilty?  
Because of the grace we received in baptism,  
we have nothing to fear.  
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**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

*Psalm 118:1-9, 26-29*

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let the house of Aaron say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

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 in a broad place.  
With the LORD on my side I do not fear.  
What can mortals do to me?

*"When I Survey  
the Wondrous  
Cross, the final  
hymn which we  
shall sing this  
morning, is Isaac  
Watts's powerful  
reflection on  
Christ's sacrifice --  
a hymn that has  
moved generations  
with its poignant  
imagery and  
theological depth.  
The hymn is most  
often sung to the  
somber tune  
HAMBURG,  
composed by  
Lowell Mason in  
1824 and based on  
a chant in the first  
Gregorian tone.  
The entire melody  
consists of only  
five notes.*

The LORD is on my side to help me;  
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.  
It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to put confidence in mortals.  
It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to put confidence in princes.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.  
We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God,  
and he has given us light.  
Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.  
You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

One: The Word of the Lord  
All: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM *My Savior and My God* Jay Althouse, 1994

A CONGREGATIONAL READING "The Passion According to  
Mathew" *Matthew 26: [1-13] 14-27:66*

Narrator:	Lynn Reed	Witness:	Olivia Barger
Jesus:	Cooper Sherwood	High Priest:	Layton Raun
People:	The Congregation	Servant:	Hannah Mickelson
Judas:	Nick Fernandez	Pilate:	Randy Clapp
Peter:	Porter Beechwood		

\*HYMN #703 *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*

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

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* Ithamar Conkey

*"Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me,"* sung to the tune ST. CATHERINE, beautifully expresses the profound depth of divine love. The text was written in 1653 in Germany and translated by John Wesley in 1739. The tune's composer, Henri F. Hemy (1818-1888), was organist at St. Andrews Roman Catholic Church in Newcastle, England.

*"My Savior and My God"* is a Lenten anthem by Jay Althouse, written and composed in 1994. The tender text of dedication to the *"Lamb of God who died for me"* opens with a haunting reminder of the Savior's sacrifice, set in a minor mode. It then flows into a powerful promise of lifelong stewardship, appropriately set in the bright major version of the same key.

\*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

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from Philippians 2:5-11*

**We trust in God, the source of all hope,  
even as we call on God to meet us  
in places of hopelessness.  
We commit to be disciples of Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself  
and was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death –  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus ever knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the father. Amen.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**One:** God of all hope,  
**All:** hear our 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.**

This morning's offertory is an arrangement in Celtic style of the hymn, "*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*," set to the tune RATHBUN. Ithamar Conkey (1815-1867), born of Scottish ancestry in Shutesbury, MA, wrote both words and music for this hymn in 1849; it was published two years later in *Psalm and Hymn Tunes*. After moving to New York City, Conkey served as bass soloist at Calvary Episcopal church and Grace Church; later, he served as bass soloist and choir director of Madison Avenue Baptist Church (see #213 in *GtG*).

\*HYMN #223 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

\*CHARGE

\*BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**God be with you ‘till we meet again;  
by His counsels guide, uphold you,  
with His sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you ‘till we me again.**

**‘Till we meet, ‘till we meet,  
‘Till we meet at Jesus’ feet.  
‘Till we meet, ‘till we meet,  
God be with ‘till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE

*REX GLORIAE*

Henry Smart, 1868

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

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

- Rev. James DeMent, Interim Pastor
- Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director
- Ted Lashley, Music Director
- Brian and BJ Swenson, Ushers

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** Given by Dee Wilbeck.

**THIS WEEK AT FPC:**

- Wednesday, April 16 5:30 p.m. – Circle IV
- Thursday, April 17 7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Service with Communion
- Sunday, April 20 11:00 a.m. – Easter Sunday Service

A setting of the tune, REX GLORIAE ("*King of Glory*") provides a stately postlude at the end of today's service. The tune was composed in 1868 by Henry Smart (1813-1879), a capable composer of church music who wrote some very fine hymn tunes, including REGENT SQUARE ("*Angels from the Realms of Glory*") and LANCASHIRE ("*Lead On, O King Eternal*"). Smart became proficient in composition and organ playing, and edited the *English Presbyterian Psalms and Hymns for Divine Worship* (1867) and the *Scottish Presbyterian Hymnal* (1875).

## **Prayer List**

The family of Pres Holcomb  
Linda Collins  
Cay Krueger Scheumack  
Dr. Bill & Deida Bourne  
The family of Madge Vackar

Charlie VanEman  
Esther Bender  
Marion Lurker  
Becky Chomout

### **Pastor's Note**

The custom arose in the early church, when literacy was rare, of depicting Christ's passion in paintings or sculptures at 14 different "stations" which recalled the route that Christ took from Pilate's house to Calvary. Said to have arisen from the practice of Christian pilgrims in Jerusalem trying to walk the same "way" as Jesus did as he carried his cross to Golgotha, each station marked an event that occurred during his passion, crucifixion, and burial. Especially in the Roman Catholic tradition, the practice of adorning churches, cathedrals, and other religious sites with the 14 stations, and of penitent believers meditating and praying before each station in sequence, remains strong to this day.

On our Bulletin cover is a large statute of the "Fifth Station of the Cross," depicting the first of three times that Jesus fell on the way to his crucifixion. In this instance, the Roman centurions "seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus" (Luke 23:26). Even though he did not volunteer, Simon surely helped to ease Jesus' burden. If we would follow in Jesus' way, we could ease the burdens of the weak, the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, the wrongly convicted. The miracle Jesus promises is that for us his yoke is easy and his burden is light (Matthew 11-30).

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### Class of 2025

Jessica Erwin  
Kim Mickelson  
Jackson Clapp – Youth Elder

Lance Lurker  
Layton Raun

### Class of 2026

Jimmy Barger  
Donnie Kainer

Donnie Clapp  
Mindi Snyder

### Class of 2027

John Kalina  
Elizabeth Rasmussen

Ester Latapie

## CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor – Rev. James DeMent

Choir Director – Dr. Karl Paoletti

Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley

Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger

Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel

203 W. Calhoun St., El Campo, Texas 77437

979-543-3658

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

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