



First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
September 1, 2024

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 1, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Heaven's Bread* Susanna Keeney, 2002

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God has lavished us with every perfect gift
 from above

All: **and called us to living intimacy through the
 beloved one, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*HYMN #14 *For the Beauty of the Earth* (stanzas 1, 2, 3)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving, righteous God,
our hearts are defiled with the wickedness
you hate.**

**You have called us to yourself, but we have
gone away.**

**Forgetting your living Word, we cling to
dead traditions.**

**Deceiving ourselves, we abandon
your commandments.**

**Hypocrites, we honor you with our lips
while our hearts are far from you.**

**Cleanse our hearts from evil intentions;
cleanse our tongues from evil words
so that our worship may be pure and undefiled
and we may live with you in love for others. Amen.**

Susanna Keeney's organ solo, "Heaven's Bread," is not based on a hymn tune. Both its title and mood suggest Communion, but it is the beauty of its simple melody that can calm one's mind and still one's soul -- and allow the still, small voice of God to speak. *Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, ... it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."* (John 6:32-33 NRSVUE)

*Please stand in body or spirit.

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

One: Our generous God has given us the perfect gift
of forgiveness,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who has liberated us from dead tradition
and made us new by the living Word,
filling our hearts with God's love.
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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Song of Solomon 2:8-17

The voice of my beloved!
Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.
Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.
My beloved speaks and says to me:
"Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;
for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;

the time of singing has come,
 and the voice of the turtledove
 is heard in our land.
 The fig tree puts forth its figs,
 and the vines are in blossom;
 they give forth fragrance.
 Arise, my love, my fair one,
 and come away.
 O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
 in the covert of the cliff,
 let me see your face,
 let me hear your voice;
 for your voice is sweet,
 and your face is lovely.
 Catch us the foxes,
 the little foxes,
 that ruin the vineyards—
 for our vineyards are in blossom.”
 My beloved is mine and I am his;
 he pastures his flock among the lilies.
 Until the day breathes
 and the shadows flee,
 turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle
 or a young stag on the cleft mountains.

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

ANTHEM *Jesus, Name Above All Names* arr. Mark Hayes, 1990
 (with "O, How I Love Jesus")

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from
 above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is
 no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own

"Jesus, Name Above All Names" is an unpretentious song comprised of just one stanza of 18 words. And those 18 words don't even form true sentences with a subject and a verb; they're simply a list of descriptors of Jesus. The tune is just as unassuming as the words -- just 37 notes in length encompassing only one octave, and 32 of the 37 notes fall within the first four tones of the scale. The harmony is also quite modest, consisting of only four common chords. Yet this humble song, composed by Naida Hearn in 1974 while doing her family's laundry in New Zealand, became a global success. *"Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord; Immanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word."*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: God of all compassion, in Jesus Christ you have laid claim to our entire selves and shown us that nothing is too grand or insignificant for your mercy to touch. Therefore, we are bold enough to lift our prayers to you this morning. We give you thanks for the goodness that overflows in our lives.

All: For sunrises and sunsets.

One: For family, friends, and loved ones around us.

All: For little ones and not-so-little ones returning to school.

One: For fellowship luncheons and Presbyterians on Wednesday.

All: For the sweetness of the last watermelon of the season.

One: We ask for your healing and grace for those places that are broken, in the world and in our lives.

All: For nations plagued by warfare and souls plagued by shame.

One: For people without food and people without friendship.

All: For your loved ones in hospitals, domestic violence shelters and refugee camps.

One: Purify our religion, O God, that it might bear fruit in the world.

All: Send forth your church that we might care for all people in distress.

One: All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ,

All: our Lord and Savior. Amen

ST. ANNE is the tune always associated with the hymn text, "*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*" -- a hymn written in 1708 by Isaac Watts that paraphrases Psalm 90. The tune was composed by William Croft, an English organist and composer. Croft was organist at St. Anne's Church in London for 11 years, and was elected organist of Westminster Abbey in 1709.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

One: And so, with all your people,
with angels, archangels,
and with all the company of heaven
we praise and magnify your glorious name,
joining our voices in the eternal hymn:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

One: Remembering the grace of your Son Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine,
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming,
proclaiming the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

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.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

HOLY COMMUNION

The elements used in the Lord's Supper are wine (red) or juice (golden) and bread or gluten-free crackers (in the small dish). When passing the bread to your neighbor, say, "This is the Bread of Life." When passing the wine or juice to your neighbor, say, "This is the Cup of Salvation." You may partake of the elements as you receive them.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: We give you thanks, Almighty God,
That you have refreshed us
through the healing power
of this gift of life.

All: **In your mercy
strengthen us through this gift
in faith toward you
and in fervent love toward one another;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*CHARGE

*HYMN #610 *O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (stanzas 1, 4, 5)

*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 meet again.**

**Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet.
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE *Recessional on ST. ANNE*

arr. Victor C. Johnson, 2014

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. James DeMent, Interim Pastor
Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director
Ted Lashley, Music Director
Kim & Hannah Mickelsen, Ushers

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Monday, Sept. 2	Church Office is Closed for Labor Day
Tuesday, Sept. 3	FPC Pre-School begins
Wednesday, Sept. 4	6:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, Sept. 8	11:00 am - Worship

Prayer List

Steve Porter
Esther Bender

POW Information:

Here are the dates we are planning to meet for POW. They are not all the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Some weeks have been changed due to other activities going on such as testing or holidays. Jana came up with this great schedule for us. We have a few things planned, but need to add a couple of congregational bingo/game nights. If there is anything we have done in the past that is not on here and you or your child would like to add it, please let Jana or Kim know. We also will be asking the congregation to provide dinner on one of the nights each month. Please spread the word about the dinners. September 11 is the first day of POW and it will be from 6:00-7:30 for all students. Dinner will be served from 6-6:30. Please let Jana or Kim know if you have any questions. See you all in a couple of weeks!

Fall:

September - 11 First Day of POW

September - 25 Disaster Relief Buckets (if we get the supplies in time)

October - Nine weeks testing is during the 2nd week, so POW is moved to the 3rd & 5th Wednesday of October.

October - 16

October - 30

November - 6

November - 20

December 4th & 11th are back to back but we figured we could do pageant practice and maybe a Christmas craft or something.

Sunday, December 14th - possible date for Christmas pageant

Spring:

January is technically the 2nd Wednesday, but it is the first day that the kids go back to school, so POW will be moved to the 3rd & 5th Wednesdays.

January - 15 - Souper Bowl of Caring

January - 29 - Make Valentine Cards for the elderly members or we could do this on Feb 12th

February - 12

February - 26

March is crazy with 9 week testing and then Spring Break.

March - 26

April - 9 - Make palm crosses for Palm Sunday

April 16- Possible end of year celebration??

April 19th is Easter, we usually don't meet after that.

*Women of
First Presbyterian
Social*

Wednesday | 18 | SEPTEMBER
5:30 p.m. | 2024

Melissa Erwin's
1304 Ave. K

Bring an appetizer to share.



CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2024

Suzanne Hauser
Dick Ramsey

Mary Johnson, Clerk
Lynn Reed

Class of 2025

Jessica Erwin
Kim Mickelson

Lance Lurker

Class of 2026

Jimmy Barger
Ava Fernandez
Mindi Snyder

Donnie Clapp
Donnie Kainer

CHURCH STAFF

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 979-543-3658

www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org

Facebook: firstpresbyterianelcampo