



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**El Campo, Texas**  
**March 15, 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

March 15, 2026

11:00 am

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE            *The Lord's My Shepherd*            Daniel Burton, 2020

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP ( from Psalm 23)

One: Come, walk in green pastures.

**All: We follow the Shepherd.**

One: Come, lie down in green pastures.

**All: We trust the Shepherd.**

One: Come, dine at the table of abundance.

**All: We are fed by the Shepherd.**

One: Come, dwell in God's house.

**All: We live in the Shepherd's care.**

\*HYMN #802 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, we have denied you by refusing to know you. We have betrayed you by keeping our distance. We have mocked you by pretending we are not yours. Lord, we are lost; let your forgiveness find us. Welcome us into your strong, forgiving arms and let us feel reconciled again. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: The good news of this Lenten season is this:  
forgiveness of sin and newness of life. In Christ  
Jesus we are forgiven and restored to new life.  
Amen.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*The Lord's My Shepherd* –  
Burton's recent setting of the CRIMOND tune highlights its serene, pastoral character while adding fresh harmonic color. The arrangement moves with gentle dignity, preparing worshipers to enter a space shaped by trust in God's leading. Its calm lines echo the morning's Psalm-shaped themes.

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is* –  
This beloved paraphrase of Psalm 23 rests in the quiet confidence of a Shepherd who seeks, restores, and leads. The Irish tune ST. COLUMBA gives it a gentle, modal lilt, letting the text unfold with calm assurance. It's a hymn of trust that fits the Lenten journey's mixture of wilderness and care.

**\*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

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff-- they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

"Via Dolorosa" Billy Sprague & Niles Borop

Sung by: Richard & Sue Zanne Williamson Urbis

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light- for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

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

*Via Dolorosa* – This contemporary song traces Jesus' path to the cross with vivid, narrative intensity. Written in the early 1980s, it has become a staple of Lenten and Holy Week music for its blend of storytelling and devotion, including one verse in Spanish. The piece invites listeners to walk the "sorrowful way" with reverence, recognizing the costly love at its center. Its dramatic contours offer a poignant contrast to the quieter hymns of trust and light.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*Be a Shining Light*

\*HYMN #377 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY

*Light*

Tiffany Hobson, 2023

\*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.**

\*OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

\*LENTEN STATEMENT OF FAITH

**This is the good news which we have received,  
In which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we believe:  
That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,  
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and  
that he appeared to the women, then to Paul, and to the  
Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.  
We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living  
God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and  
the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* –  
Written in 1970 by  
Kathleen  
Thomerson during  
a season of  
transition, this  
hymn sings of  
longing for Christ’s  
radiance to guide  
every step. Its  
refrain anchors the  
prayer: to be led by  
the brightness of  
the Lord. The tune  
HOUSTON carries  
a hopeful, steady  
glow that pairs  
beautifully with  
today’s theme of  
illumination.

*Light* – Inspired by  
the words of Jesus  
in John 8:12, this  
recent composition  
offers a reflective,  
contemporary  
piano texture that  
shimmers without  
haste. Hobson’s  
writing often  
centers on  
atmosphere and  
clarity, and this  
piece creates a  
moment of stillness  
and simplicity in  
the service. Its title  
and tone reinforce  
today’s focus on  
illumination and  
divine presence.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

\*HYMN #744 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

CLOSING PRAYER

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Finale in C* Arthur Marchant, ca. 1910

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

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Kristine Shultis  
Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director  
Ted Lashley, Music Director  
Layton and Linda dale Raun, Ushers

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** Please sign up in the Church Narthex.

**THIS WEEK AT FPC:**

Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 6:15 p.m. - Session  
Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

**Prayer List**

Dr. Bill & Deida Bourne	Charlie Van Eman	Esther Bender
Steve Porter	Colby Hauser	Scott Mollnar
Kin & Carol Halamicek	Suzanne Hauser	Adam Catete
Sue Zanne Urbis	Avely Miller	Linda Collins
The family of Adam Catete		
The family of Wesley Strnadel		

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!* – Ruth Duck’s text calls the church to rise, shine, and serve in God’s strength. Paired with the energetic tune FESTAL SONG, it becomes a summons to active discipleship. Even in Lent’s quieter tones, this hymn reminds us that God’s light is not passive, but sending with assurance.

*Finale in C* – Marchant’s *Finale* brings a bright, confident close drawn from his early-20th-century, five-volume collection of English organ music, *The Abbey Voluntaries*. Its rhythmic drive and clear cadences send the congregation out with energy after a reflective service. The piece balances stately charm with a touch of celebratory lift.

## **Mark Your Calendars:**

### **March 23 – Deadline to Order Easter Lilies**

We have ordered 30 lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, April 5th (\$15.00 each). If you would like to place a lily in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone, please fill out this form and place in the offering plate along with your payment or mail to the church office. You can also phone in your request. Please pick up your plant after Easter Sunday worship.

### **March 29 – Palm Sunday Service**

All children and youth are invited to participate in our Palm Sunday Service.

### **March 29 – Fellowship Luncheon with Easter Egg Hunt**

Bring your favorite dish and enjoy the fellowship.

## 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

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

979-543-3658

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

Facebook: firstpresbyterianelcampo

