



First Presbyterian Church El Campo, Texas

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 and to joyfully celebrate God's love as disciples serving the community and the world.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
February 21, 2021 1st Sunday in Lent

Welcome to Worship!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *A Lenten Melody* Auguste Durand

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 65:1-2 NRSV)

One: Praise to you, O God, in Zion:

All: To you, O God, whom we promise our vows.

One: To you, O God, who answers our prayers!

All: To you, O God, in whom all flesh was created.

One: To you, God, whom we have come to worship this day.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you call us your own. You mark us and claim as your beloved children. We try to be faithful, but our follow through is better some days than others. We get distracted by our lives. We do things that are more exciting than the hard work of loving our neighbors. In this Lenten season, O God, we want to draw close to you and to follow you more faithfully. Hear our intentions and honor our efforts. Forgive us when we fail and remind us again of your way. Amen. (Silent Confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Psalm 65:3 MSG)

One: “We all arrive at God’s doorstep sooner or later, loaded with guilt. Our sins too much for us—but God gets rid of them once and for all.” In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI (Instrumental)

Albert Junos Holden

Lent is a church season observed during the 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. It is a time set aside for Christians to focus on and deepen their spiritual journeys, and to live with anticipation of and preparation towards the resurrection of our Lord.

THE HEARING OF THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:7-13 MSG

“The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They’re full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don’t fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this:

Our Father in heaven,

Reveal who you are.

Set the world right;

Do what’s best—

as above, so below.

Keep us alive with three square meals.

Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.

Keep us safe from ourselves and from evil.

You’re in charge!

You can do anything you want!

You’re ablaze in beauty!

Yes. Yes. Yes.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

I Thess. 5:16-19 NRSV

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Lord's Prayer in scripture is a bit different than the version we pray together in worship. Jesus instructed his followers to pray this prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 within the Sermon on the Mount and in Luke 11:2-4 as a response when one of Jesus' disciples asked him how to pray.

SERMON *Lenten Spiritual Micropractices: Prayer*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostle's 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.

OFFERTORY *Sweet Hour of Prayer* arr. Martha Kelsey

PRAYER 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.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Rigaudon* Jean-Baptiste de Lully

During his earthly ministry, Jesus would sometimes withdraw to a secluded place to pray. The early church followed his practice of regular prayer, and Paul encouraged its continuance in some of his letters. The hymn "Sweet Hour of Prayer" is an expression of the joy that can come when believers, individually and corporately, pray regularly.