



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, 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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 13, 2021

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Finale from Liturgical Suite in D minor* Michel Corrette

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 92: 1-2, 4)

One: It is good to give thanks to the Lord.

All: We sing praises to your name, O Most High.

One: Let us declare God's steadfast love in the morning,

All: And God's faithfulness by night.

One: For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work.

All: At the works of your hands, we sing for joy.

*HYMN #634 *To God Be the Glory*

To God be the glory; great things he has done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

(Refrain)

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory: great things he has done!

Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.(Refrain)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

“Bells came into use in our churches as early as the year 400, and their introduction is ascribed to Paulinus, bishop of Nola, a town of Campania, in Italy. . . . [They were] useful not only for summoning the faithful to religious services, but also for giving an alarm when danger threatened. Their use was sanctioned in 604 by Pope Sabinian, and a ceremony for blessing them was established a little later. Very large bells, for church towers, were probably not in common use until the eleventh century. *Church Bells*, Roger J. Smith

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious Lord, you took the form of humanity out of great love and for our redemption. We know this fact, and yet we take it for granted. We say we understand a love that is willing to give all, and yet we barely let that fact make an impact on how we live. Forgive us for these failings. Inspire us to be better. Amen. (Silent Confession)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON (2 Corinthians 5:17)**

One: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away; everything has become new. 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.**

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBER

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church; we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you, to share the good news of the gospel with you, and to help you know and follow Christ. May the Spirit continue to strengthen and sustain us together in the worship and mission of the church.

HEARING OF THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 MSG

Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that

Baptism is the foundation for all Christian commitment. "In baptism, each Christian is set from sin, marked as Christ's own, sealed by the Holy Spirit, welcome to the Lord's Supper, made a member of the church, and set apart for a life of service." Joining the church, is a reaffirmation of one's baptism.
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anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 4:26-34 CEB

Then Jesus said, "This is what God's kingdom is like. It's as though someone scatters seed on the ground, then sleeps and wakes night and day. The seed sprouts and grows, but the farmer doesn't know how. The earth produces crops all by itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full head of grain. Whenever the crop is ready, the farmer goes out to cut the grain because it's harvesttime." He continued, "What's a good image for God's kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it's the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; but when it's planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade." With many such parables he continued to give them the word, as much as they were able to hear. He spoke to them only in parables, then explained everything to his disciples when he was alone with them.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Jesus' Parables

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Parables are a common narrative style that use story to explain abstract concepts. Employing an extended allegory, often with every day common situations, the hearer can absorb the new idea in comparison to something already understood. Jesus' parables are often trying to provoke the imagination of the hearer to gain a vision of the kingdom of God.

***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 on 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS 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.

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus* arr. Pam Turner

***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**

Samuel Trevor Frances (1834-1925) was an English preacher and hymn writer, best known as the author of *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*. The hymn is usually heard set to a minor-key Welsh melody called EBENEZER. In the lyrics, Jesus' love is said to be like a mighty ocean, "vast, unmeasured, boundless, free."

*HYMN #366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to
earth come down, fix in us they humble dwelling; all thy
faithful mercies crown. Jesus thou are all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with
thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every
troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us
find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as
its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver; let us all thy
life receive; suddenly return, and never, never
more thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee
without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless
let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfect-
ly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our
crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Seek Ye First

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And his righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you,
Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you.
Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Cortège festif in C Major

Henri Dallier

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Erin McGee, preaching

Ted Lashley, musician, adult music director

John Petty, Rosemary Petty Reeves, Meredith Martin, Taylor Martin – Ushers

FLOWERS: Please sign up in the Church Narthex.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Sunday, June 13

Monday-Thursday, June 13-17

Monday, June 13

Thursday, June 17

Sunday, June 20

1:00 pm – Reboot Meeting

Vacation Bible School – Christ Lutheran

6:15 pm - Session

12:30 pm – Presbyterian Basics 101 Study

11:00 am – Worship

PRAYER LIST:

Gwen Hill

Joy Roppolo

Yvonne Nielsen

Jean McAskill

Diana Whitley

Walter Rutherford

The family of Mike Appling

We will keep members and friends on our prayer list for one month. After that, please email the church communications assistant to add that person to the list again.

Pastor Erin Will Be Away

June 18 through June 29, Erin will be away from El Campo attending the Worship and Music Conference at the Presbyterian Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina. Please keep her I your prayers as she travels and learns!

Bible Study – Presbyterians 101

There is ONE WEEK remaining in Erin's study on Presbyterian Basics. The class is considering what makes Presbyterians different from Baptists or Roman Catholics or other Christians in beliefs and practices. Each Session is held via Zoom and in-person in the Family Center Living Room from 12:30-1:30 pm on Thursdays. June 17 remain. The previous week's recorded lessons is available on the church website. (The entire series will be available via videos beginning in July.) If you would like to receive the zoom link for this week, please email Erin (erin.fpcec@gmail.com).

Session Meeting

The Session will meet tomorrow, Monday, June 14th at 6:15 pm in the Classroom of the Family Center. Elders, you should have received an email with attached documents about this meeting.

El Campo Rotary Raffle

The Rotary Club of El Campo is having their Spring Fundraiser. Raffle tickets are \$100 per ticket and may be purchased from any Rotary member. This year's prizes are: \$20,000 GRAND PRIZE, \$2,000 – second place and \$1,000 – third place. The drawing is to be held during their installation on June 29th. You may contact Mindi Snyder at 979-541-9215.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2021

Leigh Ann Collins
Mary Ann Kainer, Clerk

Jim Gardner
Jeff Snyder

Class of 2022

Gerry Couey
Tommy Hitzfeld

Jana Fernandez
Linda Dale Raun

Class of 2023

Elizabeth Clapp
Taylor Martin

Vicki Ekstrom
Kelly Socha

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Erin McGee
Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley
Secretary – Sherri Ziegenhals
Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel

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