



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**El Campo, Texas**  
**January 19, 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

January 19, 2025

11:00 am

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE     *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*  
                  arr. John Carter, 1995

### WELCOME

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: How precious is the steadfast love of God.  
**All: All people may take refuge in the shadow of  
God's embrace.**  
One: Christ is the fountain of life.  
**All: In Christ we behold the Light of God.**

\*HYMN #267 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

#### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God,  
we confess that we have been led astray  
by the idols of our world.  
We have depended on our possessions  
and have not placed our trust in your grace.  
We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer  
and have failed to be faithful stewards  
of the earth's resources.  
We have sought security in the might of the sword  
rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Lead us to true repentance  
that we may serve you faithfully.  
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

This morning's prelude is based on the hymn "*Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*" (see #285 in *GtG*). The text was written in 1981 by Carl P. Daw Jr. (b. 1944), an Episcopal priest and a hymn writer. Peter Cutts (1934-2024) an English composer, church musician and teacher, wrote the tune BRIDEGROOM in 1968. It quickly became his most popular tune, currently appearing in almost all major hymnals. References to the Holy Spirit being likened to the *murmuring* or *moaning* of a dove can be found in Romans 8:26, Isaiah 38:14, and Isaiah 59:11.

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Christ unmask the idols of our world  
and frees us from slavery to all that would oppress us.  
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 36:5-10*

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.  
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,  
your judgments are like the great deep;  
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
They feast on the abundance of your house,  
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.  
For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,  
and your salvation to the upright of heart!

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Cast Thy Burden Upon The Lord*  
Benjamin Harlan, 1989

SECOND SCRIPTURE

*1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Gifted and Talented

Rev. Jim DeMent

1 Corinthians 12:11: All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

\*HYMN #721 *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *Thy Holy Wings, O Savior* arr. Terry Osman, 2018

*"Cast Thy Burden upon the Lord"* is a well-known choral anthem by American composer, Benjamin Harlan (b. 1954). The text is based on Psalm 55:22 -- "*Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved*" (KJV). This anthem is characterized by its soothing, comforting melody and gentle harmonies, and is often used to express complete reliance on God during times of hardship or worry. Harlan has gained an international reputation as a composer and arranger of choral, keyboard, handbell, and congregational music.

\*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

*Excerpt from  
A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen**

*"Thy Holy Wings,  
O Savior" is a  
hymn by Karolina  
Sandell (1832-  
1903), written in  
1860 and  
reworked in 1865  
to fit the tune  
chosen to  
accompany it -- an  
anonymous  
Swedish folk  
melody called  
BRED DINA  
VIDA VINGAR.  
The hymn's  
opening lines were  
inspired by Psalm  
91:4 -- "He shall  
cover thee with his  
feathers, and  
under his wings  
shalt thou trust:  
his truth shall be  
thy shield and  
buckler" (KJV).  
Karolina found her  
voice in the poetry  
of hymns, writing  
as many as 2000  
texts during her  
lifetime.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: **hear our prayers.**

**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.**

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

\*CHARGE

\*BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**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

*Marche Religieuse*

P. Bonnin, 1886

Today's postlude, "*Marche Religieuse*," appeared in *La Tribune des Organistes* -- a monthly periodical of organ music published in Paris, France during the years 1875-1886. Each issue of 16 to 18 pages cost 8 francs, or about \$1.50 at that time. This majestic march in C-Major appeared in one of the issues from the final year of publication. Interestingly, no information can be found about its composer, P. Bonnin.

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

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. James DeMent, Interim Pastor

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Donnie Kainer and Kim Michelson, Ushers

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** The 2025 calendar is posted in the Church Narthex. Please sign up when you have the opportunity.

**THIS WEEK AT FPC:**

Sunday, January 19	12:00 p.m. – Fellowship Luncheon
Monday, January 20	6:15 p.m. – Session Meeting
Sunday, January 26	11:00 a.m. – Worship

**Prayer List**

Pres Holcomb  
Esther Bender  
Stephen Gaines

Bulletin Cover

A contemporary photograph of the ancient ruins of Corinth appears on our bulletin cover this morning. Originally founded as a Greek city-state, Corinth was reestablished as a Roman colony by Julius Caesar in 44 B.C. Surrounded by fertile plains and blessed with natural springs, ancient Corinth thrived, and by the time of Paul’s missionary journeys, Corinth had become a vibrant, multicultural city in the Roman Empire where bustling commerce created many prosperous inhabitants.

The Christian community in Corinth presented special problems for Paul, as his two known letters to the Corinthians readily attest. For the next several Sundays, we will be studying passages from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians as we consider how Paul addressed the problems of a diverse, argumentative congregation, the members of which had strong, often competing, ideas about how to practice their new-found faith in Jesus Christ. As we study Paul’s admonitions about how to behave as followers of Jesus in the context of the First Century, let us open our ears, our minds, and our hearts to how those admonitions may apply to us, 2,000 years later, in the context of our modern society.

## 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  
Madge Vackar

## 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