



**First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
December 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)

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

One: May the Lord guide your way,
strengthen you in all holiness,
and make you abound in love
for one another and for all.
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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: The Lord is our righteousness.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Jesus—He Shall Be Great
Jimmy Barger, Tenor Soloist

Tom Fettke, 1980

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear

Tom Fettke (b. 1941) is a prolific composer known for his contributions to Christian music, having written over 800 compositions. He has also served as a minister of music in various churches and has been involved in producing recordings and hymnals. "*Jesus -- He Shall be Great*" is one of over 100 vocal solos in a collection Fettke wrote in 1980. He now resides in the "Music City" of Brentwood, Tennessee.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON These Words Will Not Pass Away Rev. Jim DeMent
Luke 21:33: “Heaven and earth will pass away; but my words will not pass away.”

*HYMN #82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *I Come with Joy* arr. Curt Oliver, 1996

"I Come with Joy" is a hymn that highlights the joy of approaching the Lord's Table, emphasizing themes of forgiveness, love, and freedom. The text was written by Brian Wren in 1968, reflecting a shift in Communion hymns to emphasize celebration and joy. The tune DOVE OF PEACE is rooted in the American shape-note tradition, first published in William Walker's *Southern Harmony* in 1835. Since the hymn's introduction in 1968, it has been published in at least 40 hymnals across North America. See #515 in *GtG*.

*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 *from Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39, PC(USA)*
Book of Common Worship

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present,
nor things to come, nor powers,
nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: God is our salvation,
All: **hear our 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.**

*HYMN #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*

*CHARGE

The cover of our Bulletin features what has become a favorite painting for Advent, although the artist is not known to have intended it for that purpose. In 1889, Vincent van Gogh painted this oil on canvas, 'The Starry Night.' The original is displayed in the Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York.

Today's postlude is by Charles-Alexis Chauvet (1837-1871), a talented French organist and composer. He made his debut at the organ of St. Remi church in Marines at just 11 years old and later studied at the Conservatoire de Paris. Chauvet held prominent positions at several Parisian churches, including the Église de la Sainte-Trinité, where he was the first titular organist.

***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 me again.**

**‘Till we meet, ‘till we meet,
‘Till we meet at Jesus’ feet.
‘Till we meet, ‘till we meet,
God be with ‘till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE *Piece for the 1st Sunday of Advent*
 Alexis Chauvet, 1867

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. James DeMent, Interim Pastor
Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director
Ted Lashley, Music Director
Donnie, Jackson and Hadley Clapp, Ushers

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Wednesday, Dec. 4 6:00 pm – POW Dinner/6:30 pm Lesson
Sunday, Dec. 8 11:00 am – Worship, **Choir Cantata**

Prayer List

Steve Porter	Codie Volkmer
Gayle Shelley	Stephen Gaines
Esther Bender	Pres Holcomb

Saturday, December 7th, 11:00 a.m.

Please come help decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas.

Christmas Poinsettias

The cost this year will be \$13.00 each. You may donate a poinsettia in memory or in honor of loved ones. Just send a note how you would like to dedicate your poinsettias with your check and all arrangements will be made. Mail your check to 203 W Calhoun, El Campo, TX 77437, or you may drop it off at the church office or in the mailbox outside the Church office.

Manna Meals – Thursday, December 12th

(NOTE: There is also an annual Ladies Christmas event being held at the same time supporting children's literacy, so we need as many men to serve as possible. Please consider giving a special gift of serving a delicious meal to our community.)

Please join FPCEC as we serve Manna Meals on Thursday, December 12. At our last Manna Meals serving in November, we served 74 community members! The other churches who support Manna Meals are serving approximately 75-85 meals, and we are encouraged to plan accordingly. It's good to know our efforts are meeting needs in the community. Thank you in advance for all you do to make this ministry opportunity successful. Please text/call either Nancy Porter

Our Menu for Manna Meals (planning for 85) is salad, lasagna, bread, pizza, dessert, and tea/water. How can you help? We need at least **10 volunteers** for Thursday, December 12, in addition to those who help prepare the food. Look at your calendars now, let us know how you will be able to help us serve these appreciative community members.

Specific ways to help on Thursday, December 12:

- **Cooks for 6 lasagna packages** (two smaller lasagnas in each package).
- **Two chefs** to prepare a salad for 40-50 people.
- **A volunteer** to pick up pizza.
- **Five volunteers** to arrive at 4 pm to help set up the serving line, receive the lasagnas and salads, prepare the desserts, prepare the tea and water and get the drinks ready to serve.
- **Five or six volunteers** to arrive at 4:45 pm to help with the serving line – servers, those who replenish the food for the serving line, and those who help clean. Please plan to arrive 10-15 minutes before your volunteer time to make sure we serve on a timely basis. *We stop serving at 6:30 pm, but we can be cleaning up before that!*

Thank you for your love and dedication to serving our community.

Nancy Porter (713) 515-9119

Mary Ann Kainer (979) 578-1817

CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2024

Suzanne Hauser
Dick Ramsey

Mary Johnson, Clerk
Lynn Reed

Class of 2025

Jessica Erwin
Kim Mickelson

Lance Lurker
Layton Raun

Class of 2026

Jimmy Barger
Ava Fernandez
Mindi Snyder

Donnie Clapp
Donnie Kainer

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

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