



**Welcome to First Pres!** We are so glad you are here today. First Pres is an exciting faith community in which to live out your Christian discipleship. If you are a first time visitor to First Presbyterian Church, please take a moment to see one of the greeters on your way out for a special visitor gift. They will also be glad to answer any questions you might have.



**We celebrate your participation in worship today.** Please take a moment to register your attendance using the QR code here.

**Interested in Joining First Pres?** If you are considering church membership, please speak with a minister following worship. You may also call the church office at 817.335.1231 to speak with Chris Bartley (Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

**Children of all ages are a welcome blessing in worship!** Children are invited to worship with their families. Parents, ask an usher for a worship bag full of activities to keep children engaged. Members, having children in worship is a gift and sign that our congregation is growing. Please welcome children and offer parents a smile of encouragement.

**Stephen Ministry** cares for people in crisis or transition. For more information, contact the Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz in the church office, 817.335.1231 ext. 264.

**Large print bulletins and personal sound systems** are available from an usher.

**Our in-person and online congregations share worship together.** This service may be livestreamed or recorded. Your image (photos and video) may appear on our Facebook page, YouTube channel, and our website. Questions about this policy? Please email [communications@fpcfw.org](mailto:communications@fpcfw.org).

**The flowers in the Chancel** are given by Betsy and George Pepper in loving memory of their parents, Nita and Jack Pepper and Elisabeth and Jacob Rohrbaugh.



**The One Great Hour of Sharing offering** is one of four special offerings within the Presbyterian Church, and benefits those whose lives have been affected by poverty, hunger, or disaster. Offerings can be made by using the envelopes provided in the worship spaces and placing your gift in the offering plate, or by using the QR code here to give online.



First Pres is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Learn more about our denomination by visiting [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org).



Mark your calendars for the Annual All Church Picnic and Blood Drive! On Sunday May 4, start your day with worship, and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. enjoy a delightful, free lunch in the Great Hall. Enjoy fun activities like a bounce house, ice cream truck, Billy Buttons, balloon artist, face painting, and more! You'll also have the opportunity to contribute to our community by donating blood. This event is sponsored by Wellness Together.

## Staff & Worship Participants

Pastor/Head of Staff	The Rev. Dr. Brian Coulter
Senior Associate Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Robyn Michalove
Associate Pastor for Youth	The Rev. Dr. Josh Stewart
Parish Associate for Pastoral Care	The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz
Director of Music/Organist	Dr. Ahreum Han Congdon
Music Associates	Rebecca Sawyer, Laura Collins
Director of Children's Ministry	Ann Nielsen
Director of Young Adult Ministry	Eric Varnon
Senior Director of Engagement & Programs	Chris Bartley
Parish Visitor	Matt McGraw
Parish Visitor	The Rev. Lynda Dinsdale
Video Producer	Richard Massey
Audio/Video Engineer	Tristan Medina
Liturgist	Susan Leach

*Ministers: The Entire Congregation*  
*Partner Congregation in Fort Worth: Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church*  
*Partner Congregations in Cuba: Buen Pastor, Resurrection, and Cidra Presbyterian Churches*

**EASTER**  
Sunday, April 20, 2025 | 11 a.m.



Gathering in God’s Name

Prelude

*Rigaudon* Andre Campra, arr. D Haislip

“Hallelujah Chorus” from *The Messiah* G.F. Handel,  
arr. Douglas D. Haislip

*Easter Rejoicing* arr. Todd Marchand

Jeremy Garnett, trumpet; Brian Walker, trumpet; Janet Nye, French horn;  
Joe Dubas, trombone; Ed Jones, tuba; Jacob Garcia, timpani

Use the prelude to make the transition from getting here to being here.  
Open yourself to the Spirit of God moving in our midst.

Welcome, Greeting and Announcements

Ashley Drake Mertz

Please pass the Ritual of Friendship down your row and back  
to the side aisle during worship in order to greet one another by name.

\*Call to Worship

Susan Leach

Beloved church, behold the victory of our God:  
Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.  
**\*\*Christ is risen! Alleluia!**  
Sin and death shall reign no more.  
**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**  
Let this place resound with joy.  
**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

\*Hymn

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

232

\*Prayer of Adoration

Michael Waschevski

Glory to you, O God: you have won victory over death, raising Jesus  
from the grave and giving us eternal life. Glory to you, O Christ: for  
us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate  
to everlasting life. Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: you lead us into the  
truth. Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

\*The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Please share the peace with those around you by saying,  
“The peace of Christ be with you,” and responding, “And also with you.”

\*Easter Response

*Alleluia!*

587

\* The congregation may stand. \*\* Words in bold are read in unison.

Encountering God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson (page 129, New Testament) Acts 10.34-43

Children’s Moment Ann Nielsen

*Jesus Loves Me!* 188

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

TEXT: Stanza 1, Anna Bartlett Warner, 1859; stanza 2, David Rutherford McGuire, 1971.

Second Lesson (page 33, New Testament) Matthew 28.1-10

Sermon "So they left the tomb" Brian Coulter

Responding to God’s Word

\*Hymn *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* 248

\*The Apostles’ Creed Josh Stewart

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.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Robyn Michalove

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.

Offering of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory “Hallelujah” from *Mount of Olives* L.v. Beethoven  
Chancel Choir

*Hallelujah unto God’s Almighty Son.  
Praise the Lord, ye bright angelic choirs, in holy songs of joy.  
All, proclaim his grace and glory.  
Hallelujah unto God’s Almighty Son.  
Praise the Lord in songs of joy,  
O praise the Lord in holy songs of joy.*

\*Doxology *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* 609

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God above ye heavenly host,  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1989; © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-705474.

\*Prayer of Dedication

Going in God’s Name

\*Hymn *The Day of Resurrection!* 233

\*Benediction

\*Sung Amen 601

Postlude “Toccata” from *Symphony V* C.M. Widor