



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.

The flowers in the Chancel are given in loving memory of Al Lewis from Brenda Lewis and family.



Offerings can be given 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.

FESTIVAL of FAITHS SACRED COURAGE

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz states, "Over the past several years I have been renewed in mind and spirit by attending the Festival of Faiths in Louisville, KY. The event has a way of reminding us of our connection to one another while also honoring and allowing space for people of various faith backgrounds to share their rootedness in their own traditions. It has, for me, been an enriching experience of growing in my own faith. I invite you to attend this fall's gathering!"

The Festival of Faiths, a nationally acclaimed gathering of spiritual practitioners, thought leaders, and changemakers, will take place November 11-13, 2026, at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Louisville, Kentucky.

Celebrating its 30th year, the festival's theme, *Sacred Courage*, will explore how we can lead with radical love, pursue justice, and embody purpose-driven bravery through dialogue, workshops, art, and music.

Visit festivaloffaiths.org for more information, and plan to attend an information session with Pastor Ashley on Sunday, August 30, at 10 a.m. in Room 312.

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
Associate Organist & Choral Assistant	Brent McCartney
Director of Children's Ministry	Ann Nielsen
Engagement Coordinator	Eric Varnon
Senior Director of Engagement & Programs	Chris Bartley
Parish Visitor	Matt McGraw
A/V Engineer	Russ Knight
Digital Content Producer	Felix Oyola
Liturgist	Susan Maxwell Campbell

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

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, August 23, 2026 | 11 a.m.

P A R A B L E S REVEAL + DISRUPT



Mironov, Andreï (Andreï Nikolaevich), 1975-. *Parable of the Two Sons*, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Gathering in God’s Name

PreludeHow Great Thou ArtDan Forrest
Saejin Seo, violin

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 AnnouncementsAshley Drake Mertz

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

*Call to WorshipSusan Maxwell Campbell

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness
for those who keep God’s covenants.
**God leads the humble in what is right and teaches them
God’s way.
Let us worship God.

*HymnImmortal, Invisible, God Only Wise12

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of Mercy, we confess that we have failed to live as your
beloved sons and daughters. We have set our minds on the things
of this world, and we have neglected the inheritance of love you
bestow upon your saints. We have pursued selfish aims in our
daily business; we have harbored uncharitable thoughts toward
others; we have avoided difficult responsibilities to our neighbors.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our selfish ways and strengthen
us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

KyrieLord, Have Mercy577

Musical notation for Kyrie: Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy.

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

*Assurance of Pardon

Beloved, our sins are forgiven, for God is merciful and just.
Therefore, be reconciled to the Lord and to one another, walking
in the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God!
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*The Peace

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

*Gloria PatriGlory Be to the Father581

Encountering God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson(page 502, Old Testament)Psalm 25.1-7

Children’s MomentAnn 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 23, New Testament)Matthew 21.28-32

Sermon“the two sons”Brian Coulter

Responding to God’s Word

*HymnGod of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us436

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s PrayerMichael Waschevski

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

OffertoryO LoveElaine Hagenberg
Chancel Choir

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;
and give thee back the life I owe,
that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Joy, that seeks me through the pain, I cannot close
my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

*DoxologyPraise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow606

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

*Prayer of Dedication

Going in God’s Name

*HymnGreat God of Every Blessing694

*Benediction

*Sung Amen601

Postlude‘Allegro’ from Concerto in A minorAntonio Vivaldi