



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 at left. You will have the ability to share if others from your household worshipped with you as well.

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.

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.

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



Offerings can be given by using the envelopes in the worship spaces and placing your gift in the offering plate or 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.

Wellness Together invites you to

THURSDAY

AROUND THE TABLE

Enjoy delicious food and connect with fellow members of the First Pres community.



**Thursday, January 22
at 6 p.m. in the Atrium**

Staff & Worship Participants

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|--|---------------------------------|
| 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 |
| Digital Content Producer | Felix Oyola |
| Audio/Video Engineer | Tristan Medina |
| Liturgist | Amelia Durham |

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

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 18, 2026 | 9 a.m.



Gathering in God’s Name

Prelude

Teach Your Children

Crosby, Stills,
Nash & Young

Jazz Ensemble with Steven Latham, soloist

Welcome, Greeting and Announcements

Ashley 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 Worship

Amelia Durham

O God, open us to the powerful winds of your Spirit.
**Open our eyes to the wonders of your creation.
Open our nostrils to the smells of life.
Open our ears to the words of justice and truth.
Open our mouths to the taste of freedom and love.
Open our arms to the touch of the beloved community.

*Song of Gathering

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

39

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, Giver of life, who loves and forgives us though unworthy, we confess that we are burdened by excess baggage as we travel the roads you send us down. We are caught up too soon in the trappings of religion. We seek too quickly to be a successful organization rather than a church on a mission. Too often we wish to be served rather than to serve, giving in to the drum major instinct that longs to be out front, noticed, and praised, rather than walking in your way of humility, service, and love.

For all this, forgive us, and free us to walk the paths of righteousness, through Jesus Christ the Way. Hear now our personal prayers of confession Amen.

We continue with a moment for silent prayers and personal confession.

*Assurance of Pardon

If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation, the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven.
Thanks be to God!
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

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

*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.”

*Sung Response

We Are One in the Spirit

300

(v. 1)

Encountering God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 40.1-11

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods. You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, “Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord. I have not hidden your saving help within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 1.35-42

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God! “The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah”. He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“What are you looking for?”

Brian Coulter

Responding to God’s Word

*Song

Open My Eyes, That I May See

451

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Josh Stewart

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

Leonard Cohen

*Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

606

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

*Closing Song

You Are My Strength When I Am Weak

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*Benediction

Postlude

Make Someone Happy

Jule Styne