



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@fpcf.org.

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



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.



Staff & Worship Participants

- Pastor/Head of Staff
Senior Associate Pastor
Associate Pastor
Associate Pastor for Youth
Parish Associate for Pastoral Care
Director of Music/Organist
Music Associates
Associate Organist & Choral Assistant
Director of Children’s Ministry
Engagement Coordinator
Senior Director of Engagement & Programs
Parish Visitor
A/V Engineer
Digital Content Producer
Liturgist
- The Rev. Dr. Brian Coulter
The Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski
The Rev. Dr. Robyn Michalove
The Rev. Dr. Josh Stewart
The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz
Dr. Ahreum Han Congdon
Rebecca Sawyer, Laura Collins
Brent McCartney
Ann Nielsen
Eric Varnon
Chris Bartley
Matt McGraw
Russ Knight
Felix Oyola
Cecilia Sordini

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

8TH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, July 19, 2026 | 9 a.m.

PARABLES REVEAL + DISRUPT



Hochhalter, Cara B. *A Parable - Where to Sit* (2019), from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Gathering in God’s Name

Prelude

Shaker Song

Spyro Gyra

Jazz Ensemble

Welcome, Greeting and Announcements

Michael Waschevski

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

Cecilia Sordini

Come, let us sing to the Lord with joy.
****Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.**
Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.
In humility and gratitude, we offer ourselves to God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

*Songs of Gathering

Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord

Bob Hudson

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord
Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord
And He shall lift you up.
Higher and higher and He shall lift you up. (x 3)

Our God is an Awesome God

616

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, You welcome us with generous love, yet we often spend our lives trying to earn what you freely give. Forgive us when pride shapes our choices, when insecurity drives our ambition, and when fear keeps us from celebrating the gifts of others.

Teach us the joy of humility— not thinking less of ourselves, but thinking of ourselves less, trusting that our worth rests securely in your love. Seat us again at your table, where every place is prepared by grace and every guest is welcomed in Christ. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: Christ has welcomed us, forgiven us, and called us beloved. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are 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

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

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Encountering God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Proverbs 25.1-7

These are other proverbs of Solomon that the officials of King Hezekiah of Judah copied. It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out. Like the heavens for height, like the earth for depth, so the mind of kings is unsearchable. Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel; take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness. Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence or stand in the place of the great, for it is better to be told, “Come up here,” than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Luke 14.7-11

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“the wedding guests”

Robyn Michalove

Responding to God’s Word

*Song

Here in This Place

401

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Ashley Drake Mertz

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

Humble and Kind

Lori McKenna

Laura Collins and Jennifer Willis, duet

*Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

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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

Now Go in Joy

745

(sung 2 times)

*Benediction

Postlude

Summertime

George Gershwin