



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 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.



You're invited to First Pres' All-Church Labor Day Retreat, September 4-7, 2026, in the Texas Hill Country. Embrace this year's "Slow Mo" theme with time for connection and renewal. Register by June 1 with a 50% deposit at fpcfw.org/upcomingevents

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
Digital Content Producer	Felix Oyola
Audio/Video Engineer	Tristan Medina
Liturgist	Wendi Gleason

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

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, May 17, 2026 | 9 a.m.



John Singleton Copley, 1738-1815. *The Ascension* (1775), from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude *Fly Me to the Moon* Bart Howard
Jazz Ensemble with Steven Latham, soloist

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 Wendi Gleason

A new day is dawning, Christ is lifted in glory;
****the risen Lord reigns and invites us to live!**
Hope brings us purpose, worship brings us connection;
the risen Lord reigns and invites us to live!

*Song of Gathering *O Sing to the Lord* 637

*Prayer of Adoration

Faithful God, you call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship. We thank you that you are with us throughout the ups and downs of this pilgrimage of faith. We thank you for all those who walked in faith before us, acting in courage and seeking your ways. Make us lifelong learners in the school of faithfulness and hope. With grateful hearts, we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*The Peace

And now, 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."

*Sung Response *Alleluia* 587

Encountering God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth. He subdued peoples under us and nations under our feet. He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm. God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Luke 24.44-53

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "blessing God" Brian Coulter

Responding to God's Word

*Song *Sing a New Song unto the Lord* 276

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 *Let It Be* Lennon-McCartney

*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!**

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*Prayer of Dedication

Going in God's Name

*Closing Song *At the Name of Jesus* 264

*Benediction

Postlude *Joy Spring* Clifford Brown

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