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, 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 Dr. Robin L. Ward, Harry N. Ward, Jr., Jennie Lee Ward, and Harry N. Ward, Sr., from Marian Ward and Suzanne Ward and families.

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.



Help make Christmas special for a Community Crossroads family through First Pres' Christmas Toy Store. Families select two toys for each child, and on December 12, parents will pick up gifts while enjoying breakfast, cookie decorating, and selecting books. Donations are due at the church by November 30. How can you help?

- **Scan the QR code here to access our curated Amazon wish list**, featuring toys that families have preselected. All items purchased through the list will be shipped directly to the church.
- **Prefer to give financially?** Make checks to First Presbyterian Church with "Christmas Toy Store" in the memo, or scan the QR code here to donate online and select "Christmas store" as the fund.

Staff & Worship Participants

Pastor/Head of Staff	The Rev. Dr. Brian Coulter
Senior Associate Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski
Associate Pastor for Mission & Outreach	The Rev. Dr. Robyn Michalove
Associate Pastor for Youth & Belonging	The Rev. Dr. Josh Stewart
Associate Pastor for Care & Connection	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
Young Adult Ministry Coordinator	Laura Catherine Davidson
A/V Engineer	Russ Knight
Digital Content Producer	Felix Oyola
Liturgist	Golda Anne Leonard

Ministers: The Entire Congregation
Partner Congregations in Cuba: Buen Pastor, Resurrection, and Cidra Presbyterian Churches

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, November 8, 2026 | 11 a.m.



Gathering in God's Name

Prelude *Andante* W. Warder Harvey

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 book down your row

*Call to Worship Golda Anne Leonard

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it;
****the world and those who live in it.** (Psalm 24.1)
O come, let us sing to the Lord and shout for joy to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of praise. (Psalm 95.1-2)

*Hymn *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* 687
(v. 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6)

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy and gracious God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trust in your provision, we chase after our own happiness.

Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with your grace, for we know that you are the source of life, the fount of all that is good. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Kyrie *Lord, Prepare Me* 701

*Assurance of Pardon

Because we belong to our Lord Jesus Christ, we need not fear – for Christ lived for us, Christ died for us, Christ was raised for us, Christ prays for us. 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 Peace

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

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

*Gloria Patri *Glory Be to the Father* 581

Encountering God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson *(page 571, Old Testament)* Psalm 121

Children's Moment Grace Clingman and Will Henry

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 204, New Testament)* 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

Sermon "encourage one another" Brian Coulter

Sealing God's Word

*Hymn *Be Still, My Soul* 819

Offering of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory *My Life Flows on in Endless Song* Janet Pummill
Chancel Choir

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation;
through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
it finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord and Savior liveth; what though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. No storm can shake my inmost calm while to the refuge clinging; Since Christ is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it; and day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing; all things are mine since I am his, how can I keep from singing?

*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

Invitation to the Table Robyn Michalove

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister continues the Great Prayer, ending with the Lord's Prayer.
(The Lord's Prayer text is found in *Glory to God* page 35.)

The Bread and the Cup

The bread of heaven.
Amen.

The cup of salvation.
Thanks be to God.

Communion Songs *Brother James' Air* Kathleen Wissinger
Middle School Bell Choir

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us arr. Barbara Brocker
High School Bell Trio

Prayer After Communion Michael Waschevski

Going in God's Name

*Hymn *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* 306
(v. 1, 3, 4, & 5)

*Benediction

*Sung Amen 601

Postlude *The Village March* Ferris Tozer