



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 congratulations to Matt McGraw on his graduation from Brite Divinity School by Joy Beavers Paprskar. May he continue to be a blessing to us and the world.

The Peace and Global Witness offering is one of four special offerings within the Presbyterian Church. It enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. 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.

TODAY at First Pres



This morning we welcome the Rev. Dora Ester Arce Valentín to worship. Dora has served as a pastor in the Cuban Presbyterian Church for many decades and she is currently the Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Havana. She is also the General Secretary of the Cuban Reformed church and an executive for the Alliance of Reformed Churches in Latin American and in the Caribbean. She is also a professor in the theology department at the seminary in Matanzas, Cuba.

We celebrate World Communion Sunday with a free All Church Lunch at 11:30 a.m. in the Great Hall! Come enjoy a delicious menu of tamales (pork or jalapeño cheddar), rice, tortilla chips, salsa, and cookies. Sponsored by the Evangelism Work Group — everyone is invited!

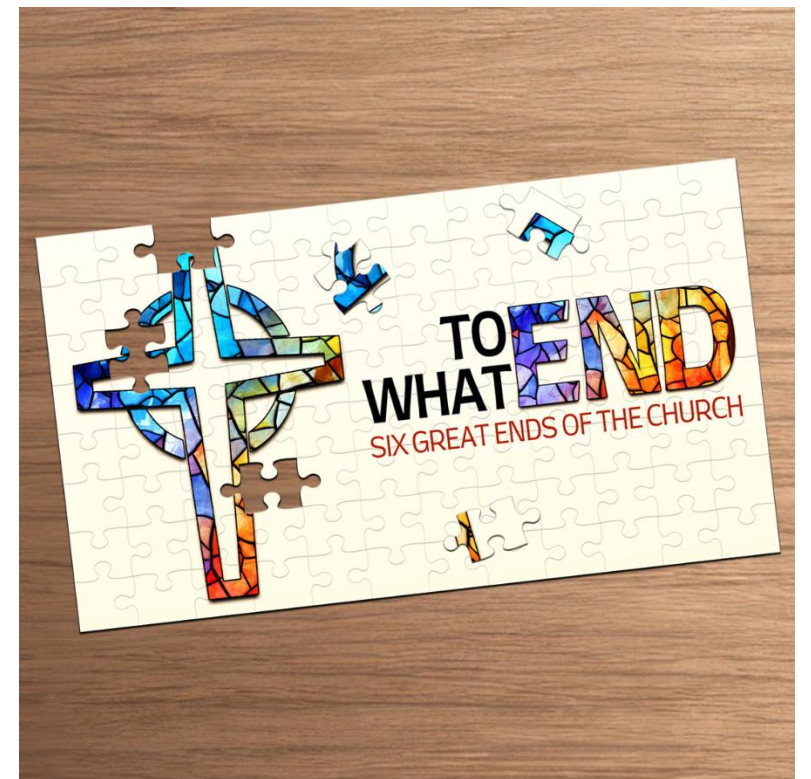
Staff & Worship Participants

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
Director of Young Adult Ministry
Senior Director of Engagement & Programs
Parish Visitor
Parish Visitor
Digital Content Producer
Audio/Video Engineer
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
The Rev. Lynda Dinsdale
Felix Oyola
Tristan Medina
Philip Schutts

*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*

17TH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, October 5, 2025 | 11 a.m.



Gathering in God’s Name

Prelude Joy, Love and Peace Marianne Kim

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 Robyn Michalove

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

*Call to Worship Philip Schutts

Bless the Lord, O people, sing!
****Let the sound of praise ring out.**
Come and hear what the Lord has done,
the Lord who has made everything!
Let us worship God.

*Hymn The Church’s One Foundation 321

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

**God of justice and mercy, we confess that we are quick to
make peace with what is, rather than prepare the way for
what could be. We are silent when we should speak,
comfortable when we should be unsettled, hesitant when we
should act with courage.**

**Forgive us when we close our eyes to the hungry,
turn away from the stranger, or doubt that all flesh shall see
your salvation. Strengthen us at your table and in your mercy
to promote your love. Amen.**

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

Kyrie Lord, Prepare Me

Lord pre - pare me to be a sanc-tu - a - ry, pure and
ho - ly, tried and true With thanks - giv - ing I'll be a
liv - ing sanc-tu - ar - y for You.

Used by Permission

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

*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the good news: Every valley shall be lifted up,
every mountain and hill made low, and all flesh shall see the
salvation of God. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and
sent to live in God’s way.
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 Patri Glory Be to the Father 581

Encountering God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson (page 652, Old Testament) Isaiah 25.6-10a

Children’s Moment Ann Nielsen

Jesus Loves Me! 188

Second Lesson (page 60, New Testament) Luke 3.1-6

Sermon TO WHAT END Rev. Dora Ester
“social righteousness” Arce Valentín

Sealing God’s Word

*Hymn When the Poor Ones 762

Offering of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory Offertory John Ness Beck
Chancel Choir

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before
God on high? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings? Shall
I come before him with yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased
with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I
give him my first-born for my transgressions, the fruit of my
body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O people; He has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to
love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

*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 Brian Coulter

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. The cup of salvation.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

Communion Music Come to the Table 508

Prayer After Communion

Going in God’s Name

*Hymn Come! Live in the Light! 749

*Benediction

*Sung Amen 601

Postlude Grand Sortie John S. Dixon