

First Presbyterian Church FORT WORTH

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@fpcf.org.

The flowers in the Chancel are given in thanksgiving from Ann Hoch for family, pastors, teachers, church members and friends who have witnessed the love of Jesus Christ to her.



The World Communion Offering is one of the Presbyterian Church's three special offerings, supporting ministries of reconciliation and grace around the world. Give using the offering envelopes available in the worship spaces or by scanning the QR code to give online.

The Session has called a Congregational meeting for Sunday, October 4 immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. Three items of business include: 1) the report of the Congregation's Nominating Committee for Elders, Trustees, and At-Large Members of the Nominating Committee for service beginning in 2027; 2) election of the Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz as Associate Pastor for Care and Connection (moving from Temporary pastoral relationship to Installed); and Pastors' Terms of Call for 2027.



First Pres is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Learn more about our denomination by visiting www.pcusa.org.



Penn Street Arts *presents*

TEXAS BOYS CHOIR IN CONCERT



**Tuesday, October 6 | 7 p.m.
in the First Pres Sanctuary**

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
Young Adult Ministry Coordinator
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
Laura Catherine Davidson
Russ Knight
Felix Oyola
Sandra Davis

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

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, October 4, 2026 | 11 a.m.



Gathering in God’s Name

PreludeVoluntary in FGeorge Blake

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 AnnouncementsRobyn Michalove

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.

Minute for MissionTres Rios PresbyteryRev. Dr. John Nelsen
Border MinistryPartner Liaison

*Call to WorshipSandra Davis

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
**but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole
wide earth.
How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity.
Let us worship God!

(Psalm 133.1)

*HymnO Christ, the Great Foundation361

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of abundant goodness, we confess that we want your grace
for ourselves but often wish punishment or exclusion on others.
We judge the efforts and motives of others while ignoring the
faults of our own.
Forgive us, we pray, when we are petty even in the presence of
your generosity. Help us to be more merciful toward one another.
We pray in the name of Christ Jesus, by whose grace we are saved.
Amen.

KyrieLord, Prepare Me701

*Assurance of Pardon

God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving or understanding.
Friends, embrace and be embraced by God's amazing grace. Live
and love as grateful and forgiven people!
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 PatriGlory Be to the Father581

Encountering God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson(page 861, Old Testament)Jonah 4.1-8

Children’s MomentAnn Nielsen

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 79, New Testament)Luke 15.25-32

Sermon“Jonah’s anger”Brian Coulter

Sealing God’s Word

*HymnThere’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy435

Offering of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

OffertoryO Lord GodPavel Tschesnokoff
Chancel Choir

O Lord God, hear Thou my pray’r,
Help Thou me and give ear to my pray’r.

Daily do I worship Thy great name and Thy pow’r.
Thou alone canst help me;
O send me Thy peace and love,
O protect me, my God.

Let me never stray, O my Savior.
Leave me not, O God of my salvation.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live,
and praise Thy great name while I have my being.

Hear my pray’r, hear Thou my pray’r;
Help Thou me and give ear to my pray’r.
Glory to God. Glory to God!

*DoxologyPraise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow606

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 TableAshley Drake Mertz

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 SongSanto, Santo, Santo595

Spanish: Santo, santo, santo. ¡Mi corazón te adora!
Mi corazón te sabe decir: ¡Santo eres, Señor! (x 2)

English: Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you! My
heart knows how to say to you: You are holy, Lord! (x 2)

Spanish: Santo, santo, santo. ¡Mi corazón te adora!
Mi corazón te sabe decir: ¡Santo eres, Señor! (x 2)

Prayer After CommunionMichael Waschevski

Going in God’s Name

*HymnHelp Us Accept Each Other754

*Benediction

*Sung Amen601

PostludeChant HéroïqueGeorge Blake