

WORSHIP



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH of
RICHARDSON

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT | FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Responding to God's love and grace, we WORSHIP with joy, NURTURE with faith, and SERVE others with love.

At First Presbyterian Church of Richardson, we believe that God's love is for everyone—without exception. We welcome all people to worship, serve, and grow with us, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, marital status, or economic circumstance. We affirm the worth and dignity of every person as a beloved child of God, created in God's image. As a church rooted in God's grace, we seek to live with open hearts and open minds. We commit to being a safe and affirming space for all, especially those who have been hurt or excluded by the church in the past. In our worship, our leadership, our fellowship, and our service—we welcome you. We see you. We honor your full humanity. You are welcome here. You are not alone. You are loved.



"There Is Still Room" by Lauren Wright Pittman

We Gather Around the Word

WELCOME

Rev. Alice Hernandez

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Wen Ling Chua, Guest Pianist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Julie Houpt, Liturgist

The good news of the gospel is:

**manna in the desert, water turned into wine,
love after loss, forgiveness after pain.**

The good news of the gospel is:

**release for the captive, hope for the hopeless,
mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.**

So come on in. There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

Let us worship this good-news God.

*OPENING HYMN | #32 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION | *Unison*

Loving God, somewhere along the way

we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious.

We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.

We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.

We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door.

But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed.

You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.

And all of a sudden, we wonder:

Can we be like that mustard seed? Can we be faithful and unruly?

Can we be playful and curious? Can we be messy and still be yours?

We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course.

Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS | *Responsively*

God's grace is wild and unruly.

God's mercy is abundant and surprising.

God's love is expansive and unending.

So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?" the answer is and always will be:

of course, of course, of course.

This is the good news of the gospel.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI | #581 "Glory Be to the Father"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen, amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Children of all ages are welcome to join us up front for a brief children's lesson. Children between the ages of 0-kindergarten are then welcome to go to the nursery following the lesson, or return to their seats.

We Proclaim the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 9:13-15

NRSV OT Pgs. 857-858

John 2:1-11

NRSV NT Pg. 93

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Alice Hernandez

We Respond to the Word

*HYMN OF RESPONSE | #694 "Great God for Every Blessing"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | *Unison*

**I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
It sounds like welcome and feels like home.
It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.
It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
I have seen it alive in the world.
And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach,
I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence.
I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him.
I remember that the good news really is good news,
for I have seen it alive in the world.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Words of Gratitude for Outgoing Elders | *Miriam Durrett, Barbara Phillips, Mary Margaret Healy*

ORDINATION *and* INSTALLATION OF ELDERS | *Questions to the Congregation*

1. Do we, the members of First Presbyterian Church, accept John Fattaruso, Besty Gust, and Connie Smith as elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?
2. Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

LAYING ON OF HANDS *and* THE PRAYER OF ORDINATION

WELCOME OF NEW ELDERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *and* THE LORD'S PRAYER | *Unison*
**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.**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL FOR OFFERING *and* OFFERTORY “Be Thou My Vision”
arr. Craig Courtney
Wen Ling Chua, Guest Pianist

*DOXOLOGY | #608 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.*

We Are Sent Out to Bear the Word in the World

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*SENDING HYMN | #837 “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Wen Ling Chua, Guest Pianist

*Today's liturgy was adapted from liturgy written by
Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*



Ice Cream 
Meet & Greet
TODAY! After Worship
Fellowship Hall

All are invited to stay after worship
today and enjoy a meet and greet
with Pastor Sarah and her family, and
enjoy Braum's ice cream, their favorite!



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH of
RICHARDSON
established 1870

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WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Sunday, February 22

Coffee Class: 9 am, A111

Present Word: 9 am, A109

Children's Sunday School: 9-10:15 am, CE Building

Nursery: 9-11:30 am, CE Building

Worship: 10:30 am, Fellowship Hall

**Ice Cream Meet & Greet with Pastor Sarah: After Worship,
Fellowship Hall**

Monday, February 23

Faith Sharing: 1 pm, Library

Book Discussion Group: 2 pm, Library

Tuesday, February 24

Prayer Group: 6:30 am, Phone

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: 10 am, Library

Staff Meeting & Lunch: 12 pm, Conference Room; Library

Pastor's Bible Study: 1:30 pm, Google Meet

Wednesday, February 25

Sometimes: 8-11 am

Handbell Rehearsal: 5:45-7:15 pm

Choir Rehearsal: 7:30-9 pm

Saturday, February 28

Taiwanese Ministry Bible Study: 2-4 pm, Library

Sunday, March 1

Coffee Class: 9 am, A111

Present Word: 9 am, A109

Children's Sunday School: 9-10:15 am, CE Building

Nursery: 9-11:30 am, CE Building

Worship: 10:30 am, In-Person & Online

Book Club: 5 pm, Library

**For the full events
calendar that includes
our Community Partners,
please scan the QR code.**



Second Sunday in Lent

Luke 7:36-50; Matthew 25:35-40



the good news is...

great love for
God & neighbor

Pound the Preacher!

Don't worry, no one is going to beat up our new pastor, Rev. Sarah Chancellor-Watson. Instead, we plan to give her an "Old Fashioned Pounding", a tradition where members of the church each give a gift of a "pound" of food items to build up a new pastor's pantry when they move in. A modern "pounding" is not restricted to an actual pound, or even food. Instead, you can get creative with pantry staples, condiments, ingredients for a beloved recipe, or useful household/cleaning items. Sarah & family do not have allergies or diet restrictions. Attach a note of welcome if you'd like, and leave your item in the **Welcome Center** on **February 15 or 22**, or leave in the office during the week. We will gift Sarah and her family with it on February 22. If you miss that deadline with your "pound", don't worry, Sarah is here to stay! Just bring it by the church office when it works for you.



YOU ARE INVITED TO

Ramadan Dinner

March 10 | 6:30, Fellowship Hall

with the Dallas Dialogue Institute

Join us for dinner and a time of fellowship
and learning with our Muslim neighbors.

RSVP in the Friendship Pads



**ONE GREAT
HOUR OF SHARING**



There Is Still Room

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Luke 14:15-24

Digital drawing with collage

This image is meant to be viewed from the center, moving outward. The host sets a table,¹ with arms stretched wide in welcome. Surrounding this initial invitation, the first invitees form a ring of rejection around the host—arms crossed, closed off, and distracted by their material wealth and status. One surveys their vast vineyard, another counts their livestock, and the third navigates the economics of joining two households.

Trees, rooted in the central scene of the guestless table,² break through the ring of rejection. The

next layer includes four figures—with the host's same open-armed posture—extending welcome to people in neighborhoods, markets, and communal spaces. In the parable, the initial invitation is cast more broadly; everyone is welcome despite any status or condition that might typically isolate them from community. The invited reject, but the rejected are embraced. In the art, the welcoming branches of the tree bear good fruit.³ The invitation continues to grow and flourish despite all the worldly barriers that would keep us apart and isolated. In the final ring, a crowd is gathered around an even larger table, one that still has open seats.⁴

It can be easy to focus on what feels negative in this text, but in order for the invitation to truly be an invitation, it cannot be coercive. There must always be the option to decline the invitation, and even that is good news. Still, the deeper good news is this: the host never stops inviting, and when all is said and done, there is still room at the table. —Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Look

Look closely at all the people in the outermost ring of the image.

What do you notice about the empty seats?

¹ The center of the table holds Communion elements, which serve as a nod to the storyteller of the parable and an allusion to Christ's ever-expanding welcome.

² I placed a photograph of soil as the ground upon which the central table sits. This crumbly dirt texture represents how this open invitation is fertile ground for the good news to take root.

³ The tree is also a visual reference to the *Tell Me Something Good* logo, which includes abstract people forming the branches of a tree.

⁴ The final green ring holds the texture of the leaves of a healthy, thriving tree.