



**SURELY THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE—AND I DID NOT KNOW IT!**

September 21, 2025

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

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September 21, 2025

Order of Worship

15th Sunday After Pentecost

*Where you see an asterisk (\*), please rise in body or spirit.*

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC (10:30) — “Aria” — Paul Manz

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### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Leader:** This is the day the Lord has made.

**People:** Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

### PRELUDE — “Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!” (“Wie lieblich ist der Maien”)

— Johannes Steurlein, Andreas Nolda

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### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** Stop. Look. Listen. This is holy ground!

**People:** Truly, God is present here.

**Leader:** Pause and breathe: God is offering a blessing!

**People:** Let us open our hands and hearts to God's good gifts.

**Leader:** People of God, welcome home!

**People:** Here we are: let us praise the Lord!

### \*OPENING PRAYER

### \*OPENING HYMN #17 — “Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!” (8:30 vv. 1 and 4)

## WE CONFESS OUR SINS

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You promised, O God, that through your chosen people all the families of the earth would be blessed. We confess that too often we do not reflect your blessing into the world. It is so hard not to see people who disagree with us as the enemy. Forgive us when we judge, assume, and blame. Forgive us when we cling to the false security of material things. Remind us again that you are nearer than we know, and replace our fears with courage, that we might better shine your light in the world around us.

## **SILENT CONFESSION and KYRIE — #551**

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

### **\*GLORIA — #582**

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,**

**whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

### **\*PASSING THE PEACE**

**Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.**

**People: And also with you.**

## **WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

### **MINISTRY OF MUSIC — “Prayers” — Robert Lau**

© 2000 The Sacred Music Press

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23 — pg. 23 in OT**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — Genesis 28:10-17 — pg. 25 in OT**

**Leader: The word of the Lord.**

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **MESSAGE — “Holy Ground”**

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**\*HYMN #406 — “We Are Standing on Holy Ground” (sing three times; 10:30 only)**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER**

## OFFERING

**Offertory (8:30) — “We are Standing on Holy Ground” — Geron Davis**

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**(10:30) — “Come Home” — Craig Courtney and Dan Forrest**

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**\*Doxology — #607**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**WE DEPART IN JOY TO SERVE**

**\*SENDING HYMN #450 — “Be Thou My Vision” (8:30 vv. 1 and 3)**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION — “God Be in My Head” — K. Lee Scott**

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**POSTLUDE — “Slane” (“Be Thou My Vision”) — Robert J. Powell**

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**Ministers:** All the Members of the Congregation

**Pastors:**

The Rev. Sandra Stogsdill Nichols, *Pastor*

Patrick Yancey, *Commissioned Associate Pastor*

The Rev. Dr. Neil Weatherhogg, *Pastor Emeritus*

**Liturgist:** Gordon McQuere

**Music Staff:**

Dr. Kevin Kellim, *Director of Music*

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans, *Organist*

Dr. Cynthia Neufeld Smith, *Assistant Organist*

Norma Pettijohn, *Organist Emeritus*

**Soloist:** Jennifer Roth

**Fellowship Hosts:** Phil and Betty Baker

**Audio/Video:** Treven Broxterman, Will Hartner

**Assistant to the Pastors:** Treven Broxterman

**Facilities Manager:** Steve Johnson

**Family Ministries Coordinator:** Herman Jones

**Financial Secretary:** Penny Allton

**Childcare Attendants:**

Becky Foster, Samantha Edwards,

Maresella Newton

**Stephen Ministry Leaders:**

John Dorsey, Jane Owen