



CREATING A **NEW** WAY FORWARD

October 19, 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

785.233.9601

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October 19, 2025

Order of Worship

19th 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) — Pastorale — Dale Grotenhuis

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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 — “Pleading Savior” (“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”) — Charles Callahan

© 1992 Concordia Publishing House

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord sees not as humans see. People look on outward appearance,

People: But the Lord looks upon the heart.

Leader: God calls the unlikely, the overlooked, and the ordinary,

People: Anointing them with the Holy Spirit, giving them new purpose.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who sees, who calls, and who renews.

People: We come with open hearts, ready to be made new.

*OPENING PRAYER

***OPENING HYMN #23 — “God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”**

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, who looks deep into our hearts, we confess that what you see is not always pleasing. We cling to pride when you call us, to humility. Rather than seek the truth, we chase after appearances. We rely on our own strength instead of your Spirit. Forgive us, Lord. Create in us clean hearts and renew within us a right spirit. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with a willing spirit. Anoint us anew, that our lives may reflect your grace and our hearts may beat in rhythm with yours. Through Jesus, our redeemer and shepherd, we pray.

SILENT CONFESSION and KYRIE — #288

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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 — “Blessed Be the Name of the Lord” — Dale Grotenhuis

© 1975, 1980 Curtis Music Press/Neil A. Kjos Co.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — 1 Samuel 16:1-13 — pg. 259 in OT

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — Psalm 51:10-14 — pg. 520 in OT

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE — “God’s Not-So-Surprising Choice”

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN #695 — “Change My Heart, O God” (10:30 only; sing 3 times)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

Offertory (8:30) — “Change My Heart, O God” — Eddie Espinosa

© 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing

(10:30) — “Come, Ye Blessed” — John Prindle Scott

© 1917, 1944 G. Schirmer, Inc.

***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 #726 — “Will You Come and Follow Me” (8:30 vv. 1, 4, and 5)**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION — “Courage” — Gordon McQuere**

By permission

POSTLUDE — “Music for a Festival” — Calvin Hampton

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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: Jason Fish

Music Staff:

Dr. Kevin Kellim, *Director of Music*

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans, *Organist*

Dr. Cynthia Neufeld Smith, *Assistant Organist*

Norma Pettijohn, *Organist Emeritus*

Soloist: Elliot Lauxman

Fellowship Host: Birthday Sunday

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