



**“Unless I see the nail  
marks in his hands...”**

John 20:25

April 12, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

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April 12, 2026

Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Easter

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

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC — “Christ Is Arisen” — Marcel Dupré/J.S. Bach**

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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 (8:30) — “That Easter Morn, at Break of Day” — James E. Clemens**

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**(10:30) — “The Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” — Ethel Smyth**

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**\*CALL TO WORSHIP — Janet R. Weatherhogg**

**Leader:** I was hard-pressed and was falling, but the Lord helped me.

**People:** God's mercy endures forever.

**Leader:** My strength and my courage belong to the Lord who has been my savior.

**People:** God's mercy endures forever.

**Leader:** The joyful shout of victory in the tents of the just.

**People:** God's mercy endures forever.

**All:** LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,  
WHO IS GOOD AND WHOSE LOVE IS EVERLASTING!

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**\*OPENING HYMN #366 — “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (8:30 vv. 1 and 2)**

## WE CONFESS OUR SINS

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe, and the hope of those who doubt: We confess that our faith is small, and that we trust in our own devices more than in your gracious promises. Lord, increase our faith; quicken us amidst our unbelief, and grant us the faith to receive the fullness of Christ's blessings.

**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”**  
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 — “Like a River in My Soul” — arr. Tim Osiek**

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### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — Psalm 118:14-29 — pg. 565 in OT**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — John 20:19-31 — pg. 115 in NT**

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**SERMON — “Dead Men Don’t Bleed” — Neil Weatherhogg, Pastor Emeritus**

## WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles’ Creed) — (pg. 17 in the *Glory to God* hymnal)**

**\*HYMN TUNE #318 — “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”**

We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ, who spoke as none e’er spoke: “My peace be with you here.”

We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;  
but in your promise we rejoice and cry, “My Lord and God!”

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (pg. 35 in the *Glory to God* hymnal)

### OFFERING

**Offertory (8:30) — “Beautiful Savior” — John Carter**

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**(10:30) — “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth” — George Frederic Handel**

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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 #686 — “God of Our Life”**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION — “Amen” — Dale Wood**

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**POSTLUDE (8:30) — “Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain” — James E. Clemens**

© 1995 Harold Flammer Music

**(10:30) — “Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing” — Healey Willan**

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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:**

Janet R. Weatherhogg

**Music Staff:**

Dr. Kevin Kellim, *Director of Music*

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans, *Organist*

Dr. Cynthia Neufeld Smith, *Assistant Organist*

Norma Pettijohn, *Organist Emeritus*

**Soloist:** Jessica Crowder

**Fellowship Hosts:** Ken and Carol Sook

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

**Assistant to the Pastors:** Treven Broxterman

**Facilities Manager:** Steve Johnson

**Financial Secretary:** Penny Allton

**Childcare Attendants:**

Becky Foster, Samantha Edwards,

Maresella Newton

**Stephen Ministry Leaders:**

John Dorsey, Jane Owen