



April 26, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

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April 26, 2026

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Today's organ music was chosen from a list of Pat Yancey's favorite hymns.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC (10:30) — “Here I Am, Lord” — Dan Schutte, arr. Marianne Kim

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: Christ the Lord is risen! Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

PRELUDE — “Will You Come and Follow Me” — Michael Burkhardt

© 2000 MorningStar Music Publishers

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praying together is powerful.

People: Singing to God with one voice is powerful.

Leader: Creating a new reality,

People: creating possibility for justice,

Leader: worship is powerful! So come, let us join in heart, mind, and voice

People: to worship in spirit and truth.

*OPENING PRAYER

***OPENING HYMN #15 — “All Creatures of Our God and King” (10:30 vv. 1, 3, 4, 6; 8:30 vv. 1, 4)**

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liberating God, you set us free for new life with you, for as you opened the tomb so also you open the locked doors and innermost cells and call us to come out. When we are unable or unwilling to live in your way, when we choose self-interest over sacrifice, when frustration overshadows our faith, forgive us. Bring us nearer to you, and help us grow into your likeness. When we are trapped by our own actions, help us not only to make it right but to share your goodness with others. Cast out the fear, arrogance, and injustice within us, leaving only songs of praise for your grace and blessings for all whom we meet.

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

Leader: The One who overcame death raises us to new life with him, even now. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel—in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***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 — “Turn Your Eyes” — arr. Brian Buda

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — Acts 16:16-24 — pg. 136 in NT

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — Acts 16:25-34 — pg. 136 in NT

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***HYMN #71 — “Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me” (10:30 only)**

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

OFFERING

Offertory (8:30) — “Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me” — Jack Noble White

© 1977 Charles Mortimer Gilbert (admin. Church Publishing, Inc.)

(10:30) — “Was It a Morning Like This?” — Jim Croegaert

© 1978 Meadowgreen Music Company

***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 #542 — “God Be With You Till We Meet Again” (8:30 vv. 1 and 3)**

COMPLETION OF PAT'S MINISTRY (10:30; see insert)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

CHORAL BENEDICTION — “A Blessing of Peace” — David Schwoebel

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POSTLUDE — “Lasst uns erfreuen” (“All Creatures of Our God and King”) — David Bednall

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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: John Conlee (8:30)

Melanie McQuere (10:30)

Music Staff:

Dr. Kevin Kellim, *Director of Music*

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans, *Organist*

Dr. Cynthia Neufeld Smith, *Assistant Organist*

Norma Pettijohn, *Organist Emeritus*

Soloist: Lauren Lewis

Fellowship Hosts: Personnel Committee

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