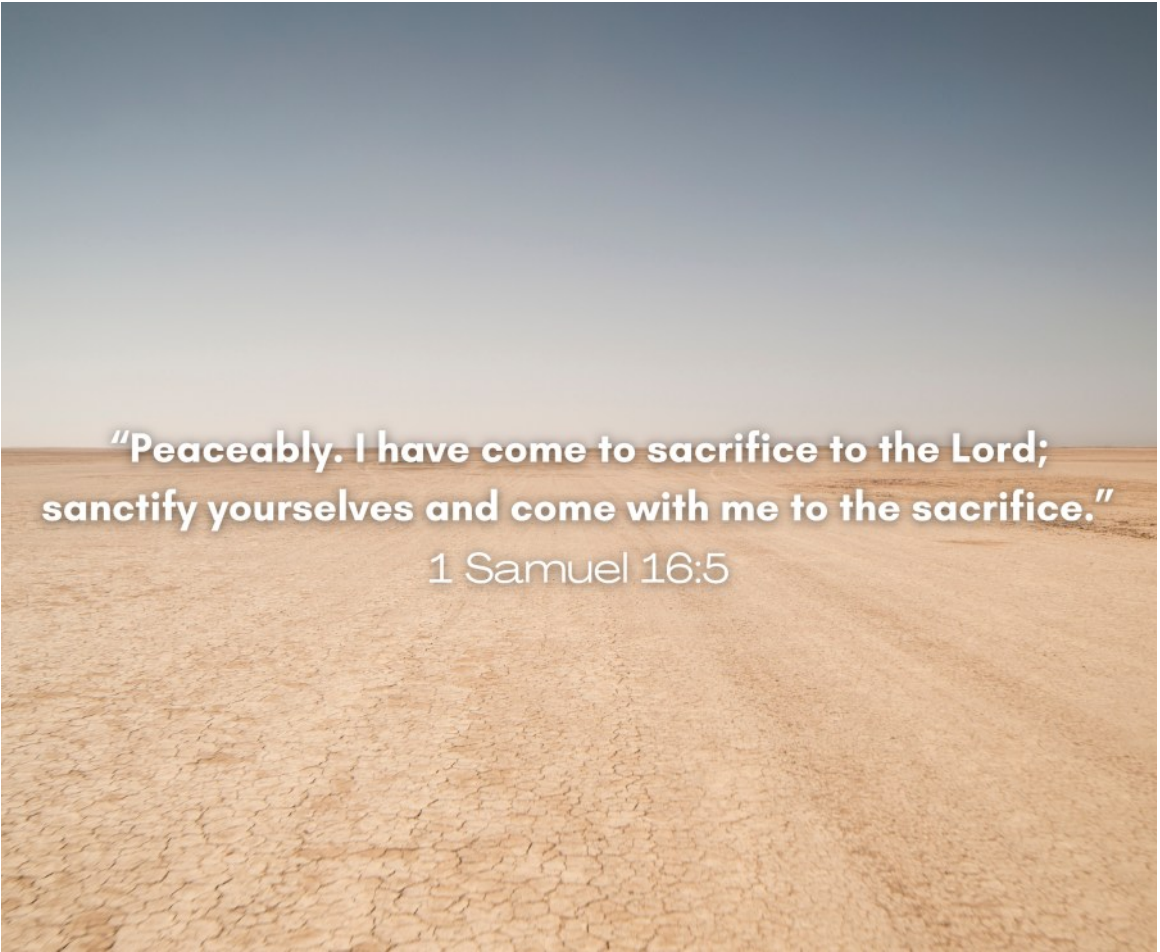




**"Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord;
sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice."**

1 Samuel 16:5

August 16, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

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August 16, 2026

Order of Worship

12th 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) — “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now” — Max Reger/J. S. Bach

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

PRELUDE (8:30) — “This Is My Father’s World” — John Carter

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(10:30) — Sonata in B^b: Allegro — G. F. Handel

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***CALL TO WORSHIP — Janet Weatherhogg**

Leader: We give thanks to you, our God, with our whole heart.

People: Great and beautiful are your works in all the earth.

Leader: Glorious and sublime are your works; your justice stands firm forever.

People: You help us remember all your wonders.

Leader: You are compassion and love.

People: To worship you is the beginning of wisdom.

***OPENING PRAYER**

***OPENING HYMN #15 — “All Creatures of Our God and King” (vv. 1-4)**

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, you have given us the capacity to understand what you seek from us, wisdom to discern what is right, and the moral courage to choose right over wrong. Yet we abuse these gifts and engage in behaviors that clearly violate your intentions for our lives and the world. Grant us a vision, Lord, to look beyond what this world is, to see what it could be, and forgive us when we fall short of that vision. As we look to the future, give us, O God, an eye for beauty, an ear for truth, and a heart that hungers after you.

SILENT CONFESSION and KYRIE — #575

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA #441 — “Hear the Good News of Salvation” (v. 1)**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

CHILDREN’S MOMENT (10:30 only)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — John 9:1-12 — p. 102 in NT

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — 1 Samuel 16:1-13 — p. 259 in OT

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON — “Looking on the Heart” — Neil Weatherhogg, Pastor Emeritus

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***HYMN #730 — “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God” (10:30 only)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (pg. 35 in *Glory to God* Hymnal)

OFFERING

Offertory (8:30) — “Be Thou My Vision” — Larry Dalton

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(10:30) — Chanson, op. 35 no. 3 — Reinhold Glière

Public Domain

***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 #724 — “O Jesus, I Have Promised” (vv. 1-3)**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION #724 — “O Jesus, I Have Promised” (v. 4)**

***POSTLUDE (8:30) — “I Will Arise and Go to Jesus” — John Carter**

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(10:30) — Praeludium Pro Organo Pleno — J. S. Bach

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Ministers: All the Members of the Congregation

Pastors:

The Rev. Sandra Stogsdill Nichols, *Pastor*

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

Liturgist: Janet Weatherhogg

Music Staff:

Dr. Kevin Kellim, *Director of Music*

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans, *Organist*

Dr. Cynthia Neufeld Smith, *Assistant Organist*

Norma Pettijohn, *Organist Emeritus*

Guest Musician: Emily Foltz

Fellowship Hosts: Gordon and Melanie McQuere

Audio/Video: Treven Broxterman, Will Hartner

Operations and Systems Manager:

Treven Broxterman

Intergenerational Ministry Coordinator:

Sherry Lundry

Facilities Manager: Steve Johnson

Financial Secretary: Penny Allton

M.O.D: Becky Foster

Stephen Ministry Leaders:

John Dorsey, Jane Owen