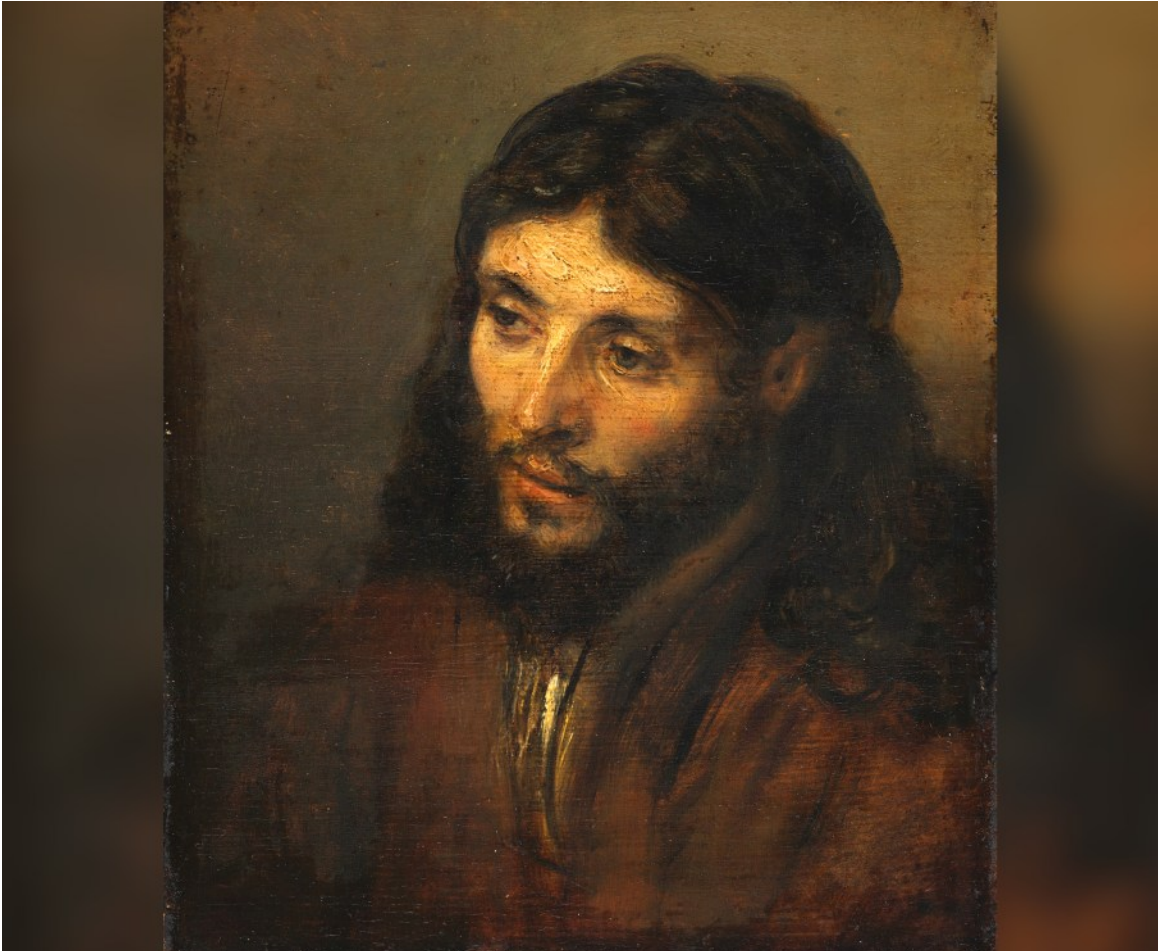




August 23, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

785.233.9601

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August 23, 2026

Order of Worship

13th 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) — Air from “Water Music Suite”

— G. F. Handel, arr. Heinrich Fleischer

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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 — “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” — Paul Manz

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*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our God is an awesome God who reigns from heaven above,

People: and rules over all things with wisdom, power, and love.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

*OPENING PRAYER

*OPENING HYMN #403 — “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” (8:30 vv. 1 and 3)

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful and loving God, we confess to you and to one another that we have broken your commandments by our thoughts, by our words, and in our deeds. Often, we have been disobedient and ungrateful—filled with pride and self-will—and indifferent to the needs of others. Every day our faults and failures are plain to us and to those around us. Eternal Abba, in your goodness and mercy, forgive us. By the power of your Holy Spirit at work in us, give us the strength and courage to serve you and love our neighbors just as Jesus called us and commanded us to do by following him in his way, truth, and life.

SILENT CONFESSION and KYRIE — #575

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA #583**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

***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 — Psalm 138 — p. 577 in OT

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — Romans 12:1-8 — p. 161 in NT

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING — Matthew 16:13-20 — p. 18 in NT

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON — “Who do *you* say that I am? . . . ” — Rev. Bill Nottage-Tacey

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***PROFESSION OF FAITH (pg. 17 in *Glory to God* hymnal)**

***HYMN — “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation ” (see insert; 10:30 only)**

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

OFFERING

Offertory (8:30) — “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” — Hal Hopson

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(10:30) — “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” — arr. Mark Hayes

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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 — “Christ of the Upward Way” (see insert; 8:30 vv. 1 and 4)**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION #601 — “Amen”**

***POSTLUDE — Hornpipe from “Water Music Suite” — G. F. Handel, arr. David N. Johnson**

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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*

Liturgists: Angie Varney (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*

Guest Musician: Justin Moore

Fellowship Hosts: Chris and Jeff Gustin

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