



James Tissot (1836-1902)

September 20, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

785.233.9601

www.fpctopeka.org

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September 20, 2026

Order of Worship

17th 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) — “In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness” — Willbur Held

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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 — “God Is Calling through the Whisper” — Willbur Held

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*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: At every age and stage of life,

People: God calls us to follow into blessing.

Leader: In every situation, whether celebration or grief,

People: God calls us to follow into blessing.

Leader: Just as we are, with our whole life story,

People: God calls us to follow, and be a blessing.

*OPENING PRAYER

***OPENING HYMN #410 — “God Is Calling through the Whisper”**

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you call, and you promise. You invite us into partnership, but we have mostly tried to do things ourselves. Forgive us for hearing your word and still thinking we have to take matters into our own hands. Forgive us for acting as if you have a limited amount of blessing to go around. Forgive us for putting a time and age limit on your calling. Call us once again, and give us ears to hear. Give us hands and feet ready to go and be a blessing to your world in need of good news.

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

MINISTRY OF MUSIC (10:30) — “The Gift of Love” — arr. Hal Hopson

© 1972 Hope Publishing Co.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (10:30)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — Matthew 28:19-20 — p. 34 in NT

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — Genesis 12:1-9 — p. 10 in OT

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE — “Blessed to Be a Blessing”

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN #850 — “In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness” (10:30 only; choir only v. 1)**

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

OFFERING

Offertory (8:30) — “In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness” — Willbur Held

© 1970 Concordia Publishing House

(10:30) — “Nature's Adoration” — Beethoven/ed. Boytim

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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 #49 — “The God of Abraham Praise” (8:30 vv. 1 and 4)**

***ALL-CHURCH PRAYER (back of bulletin insert)**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION — “Go My Children, with My Blessing” — Walter Pelz**

© 1987 MorningStar Music Pub.

***POSTLUDE — “Leoni” (“The God of Abraham Praise”) — Pamela Decker**

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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)

Jason Fish (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: Elliot Lauxman

Fellowship Host: Linda Mets

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

Factotum: Becky Foster

Stephen Ministry Leaders:

John Dorsey, Jane Owen