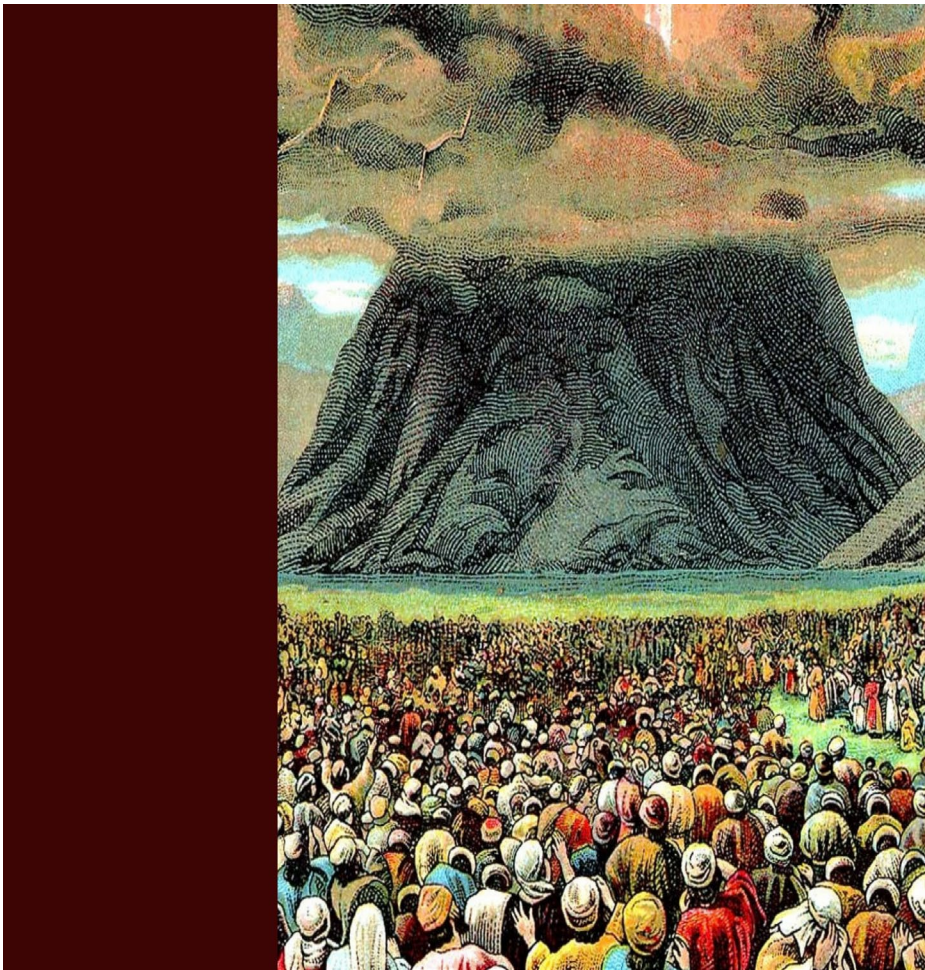




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October 11, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

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October 11, 2026

Order of Worship

20th 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) — “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

— Tom Colvin, setting by John Carter

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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 — “For the Beauty of the Earth” — Walter L. Pelz

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***CALL TO WORSHIP — Janet Weatherhogg**

Leader: Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord or declare all God's praise?

People: Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

Leader: Let all the people say, “Amen.”

People: Amen! Praise the Lord!

***OPENING PRAYER**

***OPENING HYMN #14 — “For the Beauty of the Earth”**

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great and good God, we have broken faith with you by fashioning our own solutions to our problems. We have pressed forward with our own plans and wishes rather than waiting confidently upon you to do that which is for our good and to your glory. In so doing, we have grieved your Holy Spirit. Just as you forgave your people their sins in days of old when Moses interceded for them, so forgive us our transgressions through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord and Savior.

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) — “Prayer to Jehovah” — Molly Ijames

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CHILDREN'S MOMENT (10:30) — Sandra Willetts

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — 1 John 4:7-12 — p. 241 in NT

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — Exodus 19:3-8; 20:1-17 — p. 65 in OT

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING — Mark 12:23-34 — p. 49 in NT

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE — “Not Far From the Kingdom” — Neil Weatherhogg, Pastor Emeritus

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN #203 — “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” (10:30 only)**

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

OFFERING

Offertory (8:30) — “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” — arr. Tom Colvin

© 1982 Hope Publishing Company

(10:30) — “And Can It Be?” — Dan Forrest

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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 #693 — “Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love)”**

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

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION — “Amen, Alleluia” — Doug Wagner**

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***POSTLUDE — “Dix: Declamation” (“For the Beauty of the Earth”) — Craig Phillips**

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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: Carolyn Little (8:30)

Janet Weatherhogg (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: Ken and Carol Sook & Marilyn Meyer

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