



Frederic Edwin Church, 1846

October 18, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

785.233.9601

www.fpctopeka.org

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October 18, 2026

Order of Worship

21st 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) — “Rhosymedre” — Ralph Vaughan Williams

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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 — “Aurelia” (“Great God of Every Blessing”) — David Blackwell

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*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, we gather to worship and to serve the Lord.

People: Whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies.

Leader: God is our refuge and our strength; God teaches us the way we should go.

People: Give ear, O people, to God's teaching; incline your ears to God's word.

*OPENING PRAYER

***OPENING HYMN #694 — “Great God of Every Blessing”**

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and gracious God, we often wander in a wilderness of our own making. We put our faith and hope in places and practices that go counter to your good will for us. We are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. We chase after our own happiness rather than trusting in your provision. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. May we seek your way and your grace, for we know that you are the source of life and of all that is good.

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) — “Let All the World in Every Corner Sing”

— Ralph Vaughan Williams/arr. Wood

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CHILDREN'S MOMENT (10:30) — Sherry Lundry

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — Joshua 24:1-7 — p. 215 in OT

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — Joshua 24:8-15 — p. 216 in OT

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE — “We Were Once Nomads” — Gregg Van Sickle

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN #716 — “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” (10:30 only)**

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

OFFERING

Offertory (8:30) — “Beach Spring” (“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”)

— David Schelat

© 1997 Birnamwood Pub.

(10:30) — “Come to Me” — 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 #722 — “Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak”**

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

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION — “God Be With You Till We Meet Again” — William Tomer**

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***POSTLUDE — Postlude in G Major — Arnold Cooke**

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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: Lee Cook (8:30)

Susan Rowell (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: Jennifer Roth

Fellowship Host: Lynn Mueller

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