

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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***Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY	God of Great and God of Small	Jack Brooks
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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**

***—Sending—***

**\*HYMN #15                      All Creatures of Our God and King (v. 1-4)**

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE	For the Beauty of the Earth	Jack Brooks
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*You may be seated after the light passes you in the aisle.*



First  
**Presbyterian**  
Church  
Henderson, Texas

Debbi Ricci.....Administrative Assistant  
Jack Brooks .....Guest Organist



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HENDERSON, TX**  
**2nd Sunday of Easter**  
**April 27, 2025**

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(\*) Please rise in body or in spirit  
*Bold Italic Letters* indicate congregational response

— Gathering —

PRELUDE Earth and All Stars! Jack Brooks  
GREETING Liturgist: Suzanne Cross

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*

WELCOME

MINUTE FOR MISSION

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
*whose trust is the LORD.*  
They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
*sending out its roots by the stream.*  
It shall not fear when heat comes,  
*and its leaves shall stay green;*  
in the year of drought, it is not anxious,  
*and it does not cease to bear fruit.*

OPENING PRAYER

Sower of Seeds: you place faith deep within us, so we can bear witness to your just and loving kingdom. Open our hearts, so we can welcome all in your name.  
Giver of Life: you anoint us with living water, so we may go out and serve the world. Open our eyes so we will see everyone as our sisters and brothers.  
Breath of Life: when we cannot see the way, you take us by the hand so we can step forward, in faith, into the kingdom. You fill us with hope, so we can sing God's joy all our days. God in Community, Holy in One, hear us as we pray.

\*HYMN #475 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Almighty God, we recognize that oftentimes our hearts are hard, our faith is shallow, and our lives are crowded. Break through our hard hearts and plant your seeds deep within us, so that faith, hope, and love may take root and bear fruit. Clear out the thorns that threaten to crowd you out of our lives. Strengthen our roots and stretch our branches so that we remain rooted in you and ready to welcome and bless others.*

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI #581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.*

\*HYMN #22 God of the Sparrow

—Word—

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Revelation 22:1-5 Bible p. 245, LG p. 316  
The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL READING Matthew 13:1-9; 31-32 Bible p. 13-14, LG p. 16-18  
The word of God for the people of God.  
*Thanks be to God!*

SERMON Strengthening Roots, Stretching Branches Rev. Kenny Rigoulot

—Response—

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *The Brief Statement of Faith* - PC(USA))

*In sovereign love, God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.*