



BENEDICTION

*Response

Blessed be the LORD I AM, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, amen!

Postlude

“I Saw Three Ships” arranged by David Lasky



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome. We are glad you're here. If you are visiting with us, please use the Connect Card in our church app (FPCBR in the App Store) or online at fpcbr.org/connect.

Prayer Requests. We'd love to pray for you. Prayer requests may be emailed (prayer@fpcbr.org), sent through Facebook Live or by using the church app.

Congregational Meeting Today. The session calls for a congregational meeting during worship today. The purpose is to elect Barry Phillips, Jason Lewis and Pat Canfield as the search committee which intends to call Darin Travis as Associate Pastor for Discipleship, Men's Ministry and Young Adults.

2020 Christmas Offering. Our annual Christmas offering goes directly to support two of our key ministry partners, both of which are making possible meaningful, long-term transformation in our city: The Christian Outreach Center and Gardere Community Christian School. We receive this offering in the spirit of Christmas through December 27. Donations may be made in the offering plate, online or by mail.

Come Pick Up Your Tickets! All those who have made reservations for one of our five Christmas Eve services may pick up your ticket today in the Terraced Garden. Don't forget! You need it when you arrive December 24.

We Need Gifts for Kids! The children's, youth and missions ministries of First Presbyterian Church are teaming up to bring joy to the children in southwest Louisiana. We deeply appreciate your help in blessing others who have been devastated. Gift ideas and details are online at fpcbr.org.

Christmas Bags for Malachi Dads. Items are being collected for Christmas bags to be distributed to the Malachi Dads (prisoners) at Angola Penitentiary. Please consider making a donation and dropping it off at the Connection Center: soap, antiperspirant, toothpaste/toothbrush, shampoo, lotion, body wash, socks or baby powder. Cash donations also accepted.

One Service December 27, 10.30 am. Please join us for combined worship on December 27.

Twice a Week: Hurricane Relief Day Trips. Whitney Alexander leads a group of relief workers each Wednesday and Saturday. Everyone is welcome. Meet him in the church parking lot at 6.30 am. Bring work gloves! Also, relief items continue to be collected in the gym. Immediately needed items: contractor bags, buckets and cleaning supplies (Fabuloso and bleach).

Why Do We Mask? At First, we insist on masks at our gatherings. Is it inconvenient? Yes! Is their effectiveness debatable? Yes! But . . . 1) It's the law, 2) We respect the medical minds in our own congregation and 3) *We love one another.* We have members who are at risk, fellow worshipers who, for safety concerns, would not come if we wore no masks. Scripture (1 Cor. 8) clearly calls on those who have more freedom to inconvenience themselves for those who have less. So, please, wear a mask inside and do it for love's sake.

Scripture for Next Week: Luke 2: 14

Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.

All songs used by permission: CCLI license #207235.

Thank you for your patience as our perimeter construction will require that some entrances may be closed on certain days over the next few weeks.



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

763 North Boulevard | Baton Rouge, LA 70802

225.387.0617 | fpcbr.org



ORDER of WORSHIP

December 20, AD 2020

11 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting with Worship: Jamy Comeaux

Prelude

Fanfare on “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” arranged by Robert Hobby
Steve Gustafson, organ

*Welcome and Call to Worship

From Haggai 2 (KJV) and Luke 1 (NIV) The Magnificat

For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land.

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has filled the hungry with good things.

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised.

*Hymn of Praise

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

*Blessing God

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Candle of Love will be lit by Amanda, Benn, William and Noah Vincent.

Infant Baptism

Eleanor Ramsey Dawson
Parents are Rachel and Micah Dawson

Evelyn Louise Dawson
Parents are Ashley and Jacob Dawson
Brother is Caleb

Grandparents are Rhonda and Gerrit Dawson
Sponsoring Elder is Kyle Beall

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
And born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Greeting and Announcements

Children Kindergarten and younger may go to Children’s Church.
Please place your offering in the baskets as you exit worship today.

Congregational Meeting

Solo

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”
Dedrian Hogan, tenor
Kevin Credeur, guitar

Sweet little Jesus Boy,
They made you be born in a manger.
Sweet little Holy Child,
Didn’t know who you was.
Didn’t know you’d come to save us Lord,
To take our sins away.
Our eyes was blind we couldn’t see,
We didn’t know who you was.

Long time ago you was born,
Born in a manger low.
Sweet little Jesus Boy,
The world treat you mean Lord.
Treat me mean too.
But please sir, forgive us Lord ,
We don’t know who you was.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*Hymn of Preparation

“Joy to the World!”

ANTIOCH

Time with God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

2 Corinthians 5: 15

And he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

1 Thessalonians 1: 8-10, NIV

The Lord’s message rang out from you . . . your faith in God has become known everywhere. . . . They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

No one has ever seen God;
**But the only God, who is at the Father’s side,
He has made him known (John 1: 18).**

Sermon

Gerrit Dawson
“Telling a Better Story”

Come, Desire of nations, come, fix in us thy humble home;
Rise, the woman’s conquering seed, bruise in us the serpent’s head.
Now display thy saving power, ruined nature now restore;
Now in mystic union join, thine to ours, and ours to thine.



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Hymn of Response

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who 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.