

***Hymn of Response**
No. 141 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"



LORD'S SUPPER

Sacrament of Communion

The Exchange of Love

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!
We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Communion Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Communing in Christ
Prayer of Thanks

Choral Communion Meditation

"The Sleep of the Child Jesus" by Francois Gevaert
Arranged by Walter Ehret
Madison Kavanaugh, soprano
Sydney Sorbet, mezzo soprano

Instrumental Communion Meditation

"Cavatina" by Stanley Meyers



BENEDICTION

*Response

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

Postlude

"Dona nobis pacem" (Grant us peace) by W. A. Mozart

ST. LOUIS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome. We are glad you're here. If you are visiting with us, please use the Visitor Card in the pew racks, 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 sent to prayer@fpcbr.org, through the church app or by filling out a card in the pew rack.

ADVENT EVENTS:

December 5: Youth Christmas Parties. The middle school party will be at the Vincent's from 5-7 and the high school will meet Jessica Saffell's from 6-8. Bring a \$10-15 white elephant gift. Crazy Christmas sweaters are encouraged!

December 11: Joy to the World! Women's Advent Brunch, 11 am at Amanda Vincent's Home. Visit fpcbr.org for details and registration. There is no charge for this event, but we ask that you register online.

December 11: Men's BBQ, 11 am at First Presbyterian Church. Bring your favorite cut of meat to grill (grill provided) in the Terraced Garden from 11 am-1 pm. No charge but please RSVP online at fpcbr.org.

December 12: Downtown Pilgrimage, FPC stop at 6.30 pm. The journey begins at 5.30 pm at Mount Zion Baptist Church. We'll walk together to several downtown churches and hear wonderful Christmas music.

December 19: Ero Cras Cantata at 9 and 11 am. A morning of visual and musical worship celebrating the ancient "O" prayers.

December 24: 11 am, 4 pm and 6 pm Worship in the Sanctuary

ADVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

Christmas Offering for City Ministry. Our annual Christmas offering (December 12-26) goes directly to support The Christian Outreach Center and the daily operations of Gardere Community Christian School.

Christmas Poinsettia Orders Due December 15. All are invited to contact Sherry in the church office (387.0617 or sherry@fpcbr.org) to purchase a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. Poinsettias are used to decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary. \$35 each.

Christmas Bags for Malachi Dads. Toiletry 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. Cash donations also accepted.

Advent Reading Guides: Pick up your daily guide to praying "O Prayers" and the Scriptures on which they are based as we get ready for Christmas. The guides can also be found online under our Resources tab.

Loving Our rEcess Families!! Once a month volunteers spend a few hours playing with the children of families affected by disability while parents enjoy a night out. We need prayer for this vulnerable group and hands on volunteers. Contact Jess Concienne if you would like to participate in monthly rEcess (jess.concienne@gmail.com or 225.892.3212).

Need a Pastor After Hours? Would you like to reach a pastor after hours? Please call the church office (387.0617) and press 5 to be connected to the pastor on call.

Scripture for Next Week: Isaiah 2: 1-5; Revelation 21: 22-27
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DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD
763 North Boulevard | Baton Rouge, LA 70802
225.387.0617 | fpcbr.org



Advent Sermon Series

ORDER of WORSHIP

December 5, AD 2021
11 am
Second Sunday of Advent



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Darin Travis

*Standing

Prelude

“An Advent Prelude” for flute and organ by Charles Callahan
Suzanne Buerkle, flute
Steve Gustafson, accompanist

*Welcome and Call to Worship

From Hebrews 1 and Colossians 1

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

O Root of Jesse, banner of salvation to all the world, before you, kings shall be silent, the Gentiles shall make supplication.
O Come! Hasten to deliver us.

O key of David and scepter of the House of Israel. You open and none can shut; you shut and none can open.
O Come! Set us free from the prison of darkness and the shadow of death.

*Hymn of Praise

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Blessing God

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Candle of Peace will be lit by Caitlin, Greg, Wells and Arthur Boyd.

Scriptural Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the source of life and the goal of life. You are the deep well that nourishes everything, How often, though, we have lived in the shallows. We have not learned the episodes of your saving history. We have pursued what is trending more than what is real. Lord Jesus, you are the key that opens the door to a real relationship with the Father. How often we have lost our key! Or, worse, thrown it away. We have locked ourselves out of Home. Forgive us. Sink our souls deep in your truth. Open our locked hearts to the joy of your life, Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*Response

SUSSEX CAROL

**On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring.**

**On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring:**

**News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful king’s birth.**

*Greeting and Announcements

Children Kindergarten and younger may go to Children’s Church.

Offertory

“O Children Come” arranged by Kristyn and Keith Getty

Hear the cry from Bethlehem. O children come.
Son of God now born to men. O children come.
Bring your troubles, bring your fears, bring the needs that draw you near,
Find the hope of all the years. O children come.

Peace on earth good will to men. O children come.
Righteous rule that will not end. O children come.
Lay down all your bitterness, turn from sin’s toil and distress,
Find his grace and perfect rest. O children come.

Where the Father’s grace has walked. O children come.
Where you see the hurt and lost. O children come.
Show the mercy shown to you, gift of kindness to renew,
Love from hearts sincere and true. O children come.

Please place your prayer requests and offerings in the plate as it is passed.

*Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!**

*Prayer of Dedication



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*Hymn of Preparation

No. 137 “What Child Is This?”

GREENSLEEVES

Time with God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

The Root

Isaiah 11: 1, 10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Revelation 22: 16

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

The Key

Isaiah 22: 22

And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

Revelation 3: 7-8

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.’

“I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.”

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

Sermon

Gerrit Dawson

The “O Prayers,” Part 2: The Root and the Key



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection