



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.

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 from December 13-27. Donations may be made in the offering plate, online or by mail.

Women's Ministry Advent Brunch on Saturday. Join us for our annual Advent Brunch where we'll dive deep into each Advent candle's meaning and uncover the hope this season brings. Saturday, December 12 from 11 am until 1 pm at the home of Hattie Guidry. Visit fpcbr.org for details and registration. \$10 per person. Childcare is not provided. Advent devotion at noon with an option to Zoom in and listen!

Next Sunday: Hail the Blest Morn. Worship ministry is excited to present *Hail the Blest Morn: A Musical Celebration of the Incarnation* on Sunday, December 13 at 9 and 11 am. Through ancient texts and modern poetry and with various musical styles, we will bring together the many talents in our church to illuminate the great and wonderful mystery of the incarnation of our Lord.

Five Christmas Eve Services! We're eager to celebrate our Savior's birth with you at one of our five (!) Christmas Eve services. Join us at 11 am, 4 pm or 6 pm. In order to provide as much safe seating as possible, we'll offer two services at 4 pm and two at 6 pm; one in the Sanctuary and one in the Gym. All services will include live music, a live message from Gerrit, candlelight, communion and decorations. However, to manage seating, each service must be a ticketed event. Starting Sunday, December 13 at 4pm online reservations go live for each service.

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 Poinsettia Orders. 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. Monday, December 14 is the deadline to place an order.

Foto Sisters CD and Notecard Sets. FPC notecard sets (\$20) and Foto Sisters CDs (\$10) both make great stocking stuffers. Visit the Heritage Room to make a purchase.

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.

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).

Daily Advent Readings. A suggested list of Advent readings is available in print, online or in the church app.

announcements continue on back panel . . .



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 worshippers 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.

Did You Get One? This month's issue of fpcNEWS is now available at the Connection Center as well as other spots throughout the church. Pick one up before you leave today. Don't miss out on the most up-to-date news and events.

Give Online. Visit fpcbr.org or go to the church app to make your gift online. You may also give through the U.S. mail. Email prayer@fpcbr.org if you have online giving questions.

Scripture for Next Week: John 1: 18

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.



ORDER of WORSHIP

December 6, AD 2020

11 am

Second Sunday of Advent



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD
763 North Boulevard | Baton Rouge, LA 70802
225.387.0617 | fpcbr.org



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Jim Solomon

Prelude

“Still, Still, Still” arranged by Antti Hakkarainen
Susannah Knoll, cello
Steve Gustafson, organ

*Welcome and Call to Worship

From Psalm 80

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us.

Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

You transplanted a vine from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. Its branches reached as far as the Sea, its shoots as far as the River.

Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

Look down from heaven and see! Watch over this vine, the root your right hand has planted, the son you have raised up for yourself.

Restore us, LORD God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

*Hymn of Praise

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

*Blessing God

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Candle of Peace will be lit by Rachel and Josiah Kollmeyer.

Scriptural Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, our bridegroom, we are mindful in this Advent season that you have asked us to watch and wait for your return. But we are impatient. We are too easily distracted by the ways of this world. We consume and slip into careless stupor. We are quick to abuse or neglect our neighbors in your absence. Forgive us, we pray. Renew in us the vigilance of those who long for, crave, and eagerly await your appearing. Amen.

Silent Confession

**Standing*

Assurance of Pardon

*Response

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blessed forevermore:
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

*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.*

Anthem

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” arranged by Chris Phillips
Sherry Kadair, piano

Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source the ending, he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.

This is he whom heav’n taught singers, sang of old with one accord,
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long expected,
Let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav’n adore him, angel hosts his praises sing;
All dominion bow before him, and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev’ry voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.

Christ to thee with God the Father, and O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory, evermore and evermore.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*Hymn of Preparation

“What Child Is This?”

GREENSLEEVES

Time with God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

2 Timothy 1: 9-10

[God] saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Luke 2: 7

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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 “His Sacred Face”

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face.



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Hymn of Response

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

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.



BENEDICTION

*Response

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

Postlude

“Gesu Bambino” arranged by Stephen Decesare