

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

*** This morning we will come forward to receive communion. You may place your prayer card in the baskets up front. Ushers will direct worshipers from the back pews: outer sections first, center section next and the balcony last. You may partake of the bread and wine after returning to your seat.*

Communion Meditation

"Minuet and Dance" by Christoph Willibald Gluck

Choral Communion Meditation

"Jesu, Joy of My Heart" by G. R. Woodward
Harmonization by J. S. Bach
Cara Waring, soprano

Jesus, joy of my heart,
Blessed Jesus, bliss unto my soul thou art
Holy Jesus, sure defense from Satan's dart, sweetest, Jesus
Jesus, sweetest Jesus.

Thousand times I think of thee, my Redeemer,
Only yearn thy face to see, my Redeemer,
Longing for thy company, my Redeemer
Jesus, my Redeemer.

Naught is lovelier than thou, dearest Jesus,
None is friendlier than thou, gentlest Jesus,
Nor is any sweet as thou, sweetest Jesus.
Jesus, sweetest Jesus.



BENEDICTION

*Response

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

Postlude

"Allegro" from Sonata in G Major by Georg Phillip Telemann



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Prayer Requests. We'd love to pray for you. Prayer requests may be sent to prayer@fpibr.org, through Facebook Live and the church app or by filling out a card in the pew rack and placing in the offering basket as you come forward to receive communion.

What Are We Doing About Masks? Our session has decided to ask worshipers to wear masks through May 23. Why? A significant number of our attendees are still completing the vaccination process. As much as we all want to rip away these annoying coverings and sing out freely, we know that waiting just a bit longer allows anyone who wants to be immunized against COVID to do so. After May 23, we can each make our own personal decisions.

Postponed: Statues, Pedestals and Jesus: A Recital.

10.30 Worship Memorial Weekend. Join us for our single 10.30 am service Sunday, May 30. There will be no Sunday school.

Youth and Children's Summer Important Dates. *Son Servants* (rising 9th-12th graders) is June 28-July 3. Registration ends June 1. *Lake Forest Ranch* (ages 7-12) is July 18-22. Registration must be paid in full by May 23. *A Great Escape* (rising 6th-8th graders) is July 26-31. Registration ends July 19. *Vacation Bible School* is July 26-29. Stay tuned for details and registration. More details can be found at fpibr.org.

Confirmation. Following a year of preparation, 31 of our 6th grade students were confirmed on May 2 at a special worship service. They professed Christ and were confirmed as active members of our church.

Give Meaning to Your Spring Cleaning. The Purple Cow Thrift Stores significantly support the work of the Christian Outreach Center. They're eager to receive donations of clothing, housewares and furniture at both the Perkins and Jones Creek stores.

College Scholarships. College scholarships are available for entering or continuing students through the Women's Ministry Memorial Scholarship Fund. Applications can be emailed to interested students or are available online at fpibr.org. The deadline to apply is June 1. Contact Jaci Gaspard for more information (jaci@fpibr.org or 620.0221).

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!

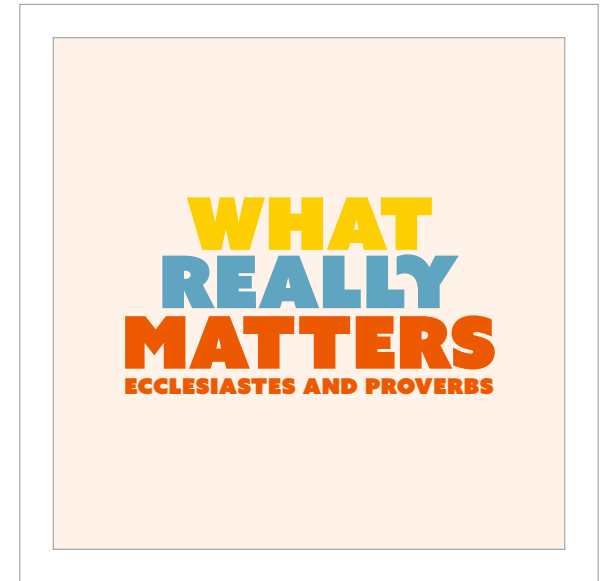
Chapel and Sanctuary Flowers: The flowers are given in celebration of Jackson Ferriss and Bonnie Blair who were married here last night.

Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.

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



ORDER of WORSHIP

May 16, AD 2021
11 am
Ascension Sunday



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Whitney Alexander

Prelude

“Cantabile” from Sonata in G Major by Georg Phillip Telemann
Rachel Ciraldo, flute
Steve Gustafson, organ

*Welcome

Special Music

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”
Joyful Noise Children’s Choir

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 47

God has gone up with a merry noise; the LORD has ascended with the sound of a trumpet.
Clap your hands, all peoples; shout to God with the voice of joy.

The Son of God who came down has now gone up above the heavens.
This day, Christ has led the first fruits of our nature into heaven.

All that is good, all that endures in this earthly flesh has gone up!
Nothing is lost. Nothing is left behind except our mortal frailty.

So the memory of love now sundered,
Is more than memory; it is anticipation.

The dream of a body which works without pain, without weakness,
Is more than a dream; it is anticipation.

The hope that neglect and negation, harm and hurt, will cease,
Is more than hope; it is anticipation.

For Christ Jesus has gone up with a merry noise!
The Lord has ascended with a shout of triumph.
This ascension Sunday, let us worship the Lord!

*Hymn of Praise

No. 234 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

DIADEMATA

*Blessing God

Scriptural Call to Confession

*Standing

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, forgive us for our failure of imagination. Most days we content ourselves with but a trivial religion. We hardly realize the grandeur of your salvation: you are in heaven. Yet you are still man as well as God! You have taken our very humanity to the throne. You have entered the Holy of Holies on our behalf. You have presented yourself to the Father in our name and for our benefit. You have gone where no man has ever gone. Joined to you, we can go within the veil. We can come into the Father’s presence. We can enter your joy. Oh make us bold to stretch mind and heart toward the glory of your love. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*Response

**Who is like the Lord our God?
Strong to save, Faithful in love.
My debt is paid, and the victory won.
The Lord is my Salvation.**

*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.*



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*Hymn of Preparation

No. 347 “Be Still, My Soul”

FINLANDIA

Time with God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Ecclesiastes 1: 1-3; 2: 1-11

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.
What does man gain by all the toil
at which he toils under the sun?

I said in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself.” But behold, this also was vanity. I said of laughter, “It is mad,” and of pleasure, “What use is it?” I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—

and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man.

So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

The secret things belong to the LORD our God.

**But what has been revealed belongs to us, and to our children forever.
That we may do all the words of this law.**

Sermon

Gerrit Dawson

What Really Matters, Part 1: “Trying Everything”



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Hymn of Response

No. 404 “The Solid Rock”

SOLID ROCK



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.