



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 fpibr.org/connect.

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

Contemplative Prayer Hour. Tomorrow at 10 am, Katie and Ryan Forsthoff will lead a quiet hour featuring guided silent prayer based on the reading of Scripture, as well as a brief reflection on the Sunday sermon. This prayer hour takes place every other Monday. All are welcome. More information at fpibr.org.

Christmas Poinsettia Orders. All are invited to contact Sherry in the church office (387.0617 or sherry@fpibr.org) to purchase a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. Poinsettias are used to decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary. \$35 each. Tuesday, December 14 is the deadline to place an order.

Women's Ministry Advent Brunch in Two Weeks. 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 fpibr.org for details and registration. \$10 per person. Childcare is not provided. Advent devotion at noon with an option to Zoom in and listen!

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.

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).

Christmas Offering for City Ministry. 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 from December 13-27. In the joy of the season, we support those who are bringing Christ and his love in tangible ways to others. Donations can be made by check (write Christmas Offering in the memo line) or online at fpibr.org.

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

announcements continue on back panel . . .



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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.

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

Scripture for Next Week: Luke 2: 7

Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.

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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

November 29, AD 2020

11 am

First Sunday of Advent



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



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Whitney Alexander

Prelude

“Christmas Medley” arranged by Gary Lanier
Victor Drescher, clarinet

*Welcome and Call to Worship

From Micah 5

O little town of Bethlehem you may seem insignificant among all the cities of Judah.
Yet from you shall come forth the One who will be ruler of Israel. His origins are ancient, even from the days of eternity.

This One will arise and lead his flock in the strength of the LORD.
He will arise and be their shepherd by the sovereign authority of the LORD his God.

Then his people will dwell secure, and the whole earth will know his true greatness.
And he will be our peace.

*Hymn of Praise

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

*Blessing God

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Candle of Hope will be lit by Liz and Mae Hilton. Their parents are Courtney and Chris.

Scriptural Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Most holy and exalted LORD, we are reminded when we hear of the Messiah’s birth that your ways are not our ways. Your coming to us was in a humble manner. You took the form of a servant. The irony is not lost on us. For we are a prideful, stiff-necked people. We want to be significant and assertive. We want to be served. We see humility as weakness. Have mercy on us. Forgive us for our dreaming and scheming for status. Turn our hearts to embrace the lowliness of the manger and the way of the cross. Then at your glorious return, we shall be raised up with you. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*Standing

*Response

**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

“O Children Come” 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,
Gifts of kindness to renew
Love from hearts sincere and true—
O children come!



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*Hymn of Preparation

“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

Time with God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Luke 2: 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 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.

IN DULCI JUBILO

Micah 5: 2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.

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

Jim Solomon
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Hymn of Response

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer



BENEDICTION

*Response

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

Postlude

III. Allegro from Duo in E-flat Major, Op. 15 by Norbert Burgmüller