



INTERCESSION

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer



BENEDICTION

***Song of Response**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

***Response**

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 9 and 11 am worship today. The purpose of the meeting 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.

announcements continue on back panel . . .



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 continues.



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

9 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Whitney Alexander

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Candle of Love will be lit by Bethany, Clint, Sam, Eleanor and Genevieve McCullough.

*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.

*Songs of Praise

“Behold Your God”

“The First Noel”

*Blessing God

**Standing*

*Song of Praise

“Light of the World: Sing Hallelujah”



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*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

Time with God’s Word

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

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

Special Music

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”

Dedrian Hogan, tenor

Kevin Credeur, guitar

*Song of Praise

“What Child Is This?”

Scriptural Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O Lord of Hosts, like our parents in the Garden, we have been seduced by the voice of the ancient serpent. We have believed his lies. Our behaviors and thoughts have been deformed and deadly. Have mercy on us. Without you, we dry up and fall apart. Speak to us, Desire of nations. Put us back together, Word of God. Restore us, Son of man. Feed us, Tree of Life. In the name of Emmanuel we ask it. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon