

ORDER of WORSHIP  
February 16, AD 2025  
11 am

# EARLY STORIES

# LATE PARABLES





# GATHERING TO PRAISE

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*Assisting Pastor: Scott Graham*

## **Prelude**

“Simple Gifts” arranged by Hollis Elisabeth  
Rachel Reese-Kollmeyer, violin  
Steve Gustafson, organ

## **\*Welcome and Call to Worship**

*From Colossians 3*

Come you who are in Christ, you who are holy and beloved of the Lord, let us clothe ourselves with compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,  
**Let us bear with one another and forgive each other; as the Lord has forgiven us.**

And above all these let us put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.  
**And let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**

Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly.  
**Let us sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. And in and through the name of the Lord Jesus, let us give thanks to God the Father.**

## **\*Hymn of Praise**

No. 1 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

## **\*Blessing God**

## **\*Scriptural Call to Confession**

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

**O Lord, from you we have gladly received with open hands your ridiculously generous forgiveness. But with clenched, white-knuckled fists we have withheld forgiveness for small grievances done against us. We have taken the best from you and wished the worst upon others. Lord Jesus have mercy. This must not be! Holy Spirit enable us to humbly obey the indivisible commandments to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

## **\*Silent Confession**

## **\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Response**

BUNESSAN

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless free!  
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.**

**\*Greeting and Announcements**

*Children ages three through kindergarten are invited to Children's Church.*

**Minute for Mission**

MacGregor Magruder, Tributary Retreat Center

**Offertory**

"Ubi Caritas" attributed to Paulinus of Aquilea, 796 AD  
arranged by Christopher Phillips

*Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est.*

The love of Christ has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice and be pleased in him.  
Let us fear and let us love the Living God.  
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

Where charity and love are, God is there.  
As we are gathered into one body,  
Beware, let us be divided in mind.  
Let strife depart from us, let malice cease,  
And may Christ our God be in our midst.

Where charity and love are, God is there.  
O Christ, together with the saints above,  
May we see your glorious face  
This our boundless joy through countless ages  
World without end. Amen.

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

**\*Response Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### \*Hymn of Preparation

No. 455 "Come, All Christians Be Committed"

BEACH SPRING

### Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

*Matthew 18:21-35*

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

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

"The Peril and the Power: Unforgiveness and Forgiveness"



## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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### Time of Reflection

### \*Song of Response

"Trinity Song"



## LORD'S SUPPER

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### 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

**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.**

#### 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

*Please come forward to receive communion.*

#### Communion Meditation

“Like a River Glorious” arranged by Paul S. Jones



## BENEDICTION

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#### \*Response

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

#### Postlude

“The God of Abraham Praise” arranged by L. Richard Carroll



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Last Day to Register!** Everyone over the age of 60 is invited to the Prime Time Club luncheon on Thursday, February 20 from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm in the Reception Room. Register online ([fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org)), in the Reception Room, or call Maureen Rucci at 225.933.5813. Deadline for registration is today!

**Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler: Women's Social this Thursday.** Women's Ministry is hosting a social for women in their 20s and 30s on Thursday, February 20 at Morgan Shirley's home (541 Woodgate Blvd.) from 6 to 8 pm. Please RSVP to Jaime Carnaggio ([jaimc@fpcbr.org](mailto:jaimc@fpcbr.org)).

**High School Bonfire This Friday.** All high school students are invited to a bonfire on Friday, February 21 from 6 to 9 pm at Amelia and Jim Wood's home (15721 Philemon Thomas Drive).

**GriefShare® Group Starts In One Week.** A new GriefShare® group will begin on Sunday, February 23 from 4 to 6 pm. Please let Scott Graham or Laura Shaw know if you are interested in participating (225.387.0617).

**Lent Guides Arrive In One Week!** This year's Lent guide, *Golden Threads: Tracing the Tapestry of Scripture*, includes a published book, daily emails and a daily podcast. Visit the Resources tab at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) to subscribe to the emails. Lent guides will be distributed in worship on Sunday, February 23 and March 2.

**Foster Care Training, February 21 and 22.** Considering becoming a foster family? Vine BR, our foster care ministry, is hosting streamlined training in conjunction with DCFS on February 21 and 22 at First Presbyterian. Contact Barat Travis for more information (504.710.8587).

**Lent Community Groups Forming Now.** Community Groups for *Golden Threads: Tracing the Tapestry of Scripture* are forming now. Contact Blake Fowler to be a member or leader of a group ([blake@fpcbr.org](mailto:blake@fpcbr.org)). Groups begin meeting the week of March 5.

**Ash Wednesday Noon Service, March 5.** The season of Lent begins with a traditional service at noon in the Sanctuary followed by lunch in the Reception Room. Please email Emily ([emily@fpcbr.org](mailto:emily@fpcbr.org)) to RSVP. Wednesday noon services will continue throughout Lent in Dunham Chapel without lunch.

**Seminar: Embracing God's Design: The Spiritual and Psychological Crisis Behind Transgender Identity.** Saturday, February 22, 9 am to Noon, Community Bible Church. Led by Dr. Jennifer Bauwens and Walt Heyer, who lived 8 years as a transgendered woman. <https://www.516church.org/events> for information and registration.

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*Prayer Time: Join us at 10.10 am each Sunday for additional prayer in the Prayer Room (just to the left of the elevator in the Sanctuary building). One or more pastors/elders, along with others willing to intercede on your behalf, will welcome you.*

*Chapel and Sanctuary Flowers: Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Austin S. Bridgforth III honoring his birthdate of February 15, by his wife Ernestine, his son-in-law Steve, and his grandchildren.*

*Scripture for Next Week: Matthew 19:16-30*  
*Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.*  
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