



## ORDER *of* WORSHIP

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Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 18, AD 2022  
11 am



# GATHERING TO PRAISE

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*Assisting Pastor: Whitney Alexander*

## **Prelude**

“Sleepers Awake” from *Cantata No. 140* by J.S. Bach  
Steve Gustafson, organ

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

*From Ruth 4 and Luke 1*

Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer.  
**May his name be renowned in all the world!**

He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age.  
**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.**

And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David.  
**He will reign forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.**  
**His name is Jesus and we worship him, the newborn king.**

## **\*Hymn of Praise**

No. 155 “Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

## **\*Blessing God**

## **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Kathleen and Trace Pourciau will light the Candle of Love.

## **Scriptural Call to Confession**

## **Prayer of Confession**

**O God in the midst of the Christmas crush, forgive us for being deceived about what matters. We have lost the way to Bethlehem. We have gone so far down wrong roads that it is hard to turn back. Our hearts have hardened. Our minds have shrunk. Save us before it is too late! Lighten our darkness. Guide our steps. Illumine our minds to see the real Jesus. Soften our hearts and make them pliable in your loving, shaping hands, in the name of Christ our Lord, amen.**

## **Silent Confession**

*\*Standing*

## Assurance of Pardon

### \*Response

SUSSEX CAROL

**On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the new the angels bring.  
On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring:  
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.**

### \*Greeting and Announcements

*Children Kindergarten and younger may go to Children's Church.*

### Offertory

"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" by Philipp Nicolai, 1599

"Wake, awake, for night is flying,"

The watchmen on the heights are crying, "Awake, Jerusalem, at last!"

Midnight hears the welcome voices, and at the thrilling cry rejoices:

"Come forth, ye maidens, night is past!

The Bridegroom comes; awake, your lamps with gladness take; Alleluia!

And for his marriage feast prepare, for you must go to meet him there."

Zion hears the watchmen singing,

And all her heart with joy is springing; she wakes, she rises from her gloom,

For her Lord come down all-glorious, the strong in grace, in truth victorious;

Her Star is ris'n, her Light is come!

Ah, come, thou blessed Lord, O Jesus, Son of God, alleluia!

We follow 'til the halls we see where thou hast bid us feast with thee.

Now let all the heav'ns adore thee,

And men and angels sing before thee, with harp and cymbal's clearest tone;

Of one pearl each shining portal,

Where we are with the choir immortal of angels round thy dazzling throne;

Nor eye hath seen, nor ear hath yet attained to hear what there is ours;

But we rejoice, and sing to thee our hymn of joy eternally.

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

### \*Advent Doxology

GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo,**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

### \*Prayer of Dedication



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### \*Hymn of Preparation

No. 137 “What Child Is This?”

GREENSLEEVES

### Time with God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

*Ruth 4: 13-17*

So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

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

“Not Left Without”



## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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### Time of Reflection

### \*Hymn of Response

No. 136 “The First Noel” (vs. 1, 2, 6)

THE FIRST NOEL



## 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

#### Communion Meditations

“Naomi’s Song” by Christopher Phillips

“Good Christians All Rejoice” arranged by Quentin Thomas



## BENEDICTION

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#### \*Response

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

#### Postlude

“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow” arranged by Betty Roe



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Prayer Requests.** We'd love to pray for you. Prayer requests may be sent to [prayer@fpibr.org](mailto:prayer@fpibr.org), through the church app or by filling out a card in the pew rack.

**Christmas Offering for City Ministry.** Our annual Christmas offering (December 11-25) goes directly to support The Christian Outreach Center and the daily operations of Gardere Community Christian School. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks or you may use the online donation form.

**Christmas Worship, December 24 and 25.** Three festive Christmas Eve services of carols, candlelight and communion: 11 am (family-friendly), 4 and 6 pm. On Christmas Day, we will have "A Quiet Christmas" service at 5 pm in the Chapel.

**New Year's Combined Worship.** Join us for our one 10.30 am service on January 1, 2023. There will be no Sunday school.

**Socks and Mittens for "Jonathan's Joy" Ministry.** Jonathan's Joy is a ministry in honor of Jonathan Pugsley which collects socks and mittens during the holidays for the needy. All are invited to drop donations in the collection boxes located in the So Loved and Kingdom Kids halls. Men, women and children's items are appreciated.

**Christmas Bags for Malachi Dads.** Toiletry 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. Cash donations accepted.

**Need a Pastor During the Holiday Break?** The church office is closed December 26 to January 2 but we are still here if you need a pastor. Please call the church office (387.0617) and press 5 to be connected to the pastor on call.

**Distaster Relief Trip to Fort Myers, January 2-7.** Please call Whitney Alexander if you would like more information (225.810.2607).

**First Presbyterian Church and Social Media (Instagram, YouTube and Facebook).** Sanctuary services are livestreamed on the web and we frequently post photos of members engaged in fellowship at our small groups, worship services and events. If you have any questions, contact Katie Robinson ([katie@fpibr.org](mailto:katie@fpibr.org)) or Jay High ([jay@fpibr.org](mailto:jay@fpibr.org)).

**FPC App.** Sermon video, sermon audio, sermon transcripts, lectures, ESV Bible, news, announcements . . . if it's on the website, it's on the app. Download from your favorite app store by searching FPCBR.

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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.*

*Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.  
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DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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