



ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 4, AD 2024 11 am





GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Gerrit Dawson

Prelude

Introduction and Andantino from *Le Montagnard*, op. 34 by Napoleon Coste

Rachel Ciraldo, flute

Nicholas Ciraldo, classical guitar

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

From Revelation 5

Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?

Jesus, the Lion of Judah, is worthy!

Jesus, the Lamb of God, has ransomed you by his blood.

Not only us but also people from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!

***Hymn of Praise**

No. 231 "Jesus Shall Reign"

DUKE STREET

***Blessing God**

***Scriptural Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

O Lord Jesus, because of you we have a new song to sing, but we have warbled the tuneless, one-hit wonders of this world and age. We have preferred the company of the wicked to the glorious, mysterious company of creatures, elders and angels surrounding your throne. Have mercy on us. Be for us the Lamb of God slain for our sins. Be for us the mighty Lion of Judah and rule in our hearts as king. For your greater power, honor and glory we ask it. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

**Standing*

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine—
For thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
“If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.”

*Greeting and Announcements

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



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Revelation 5:1-12

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll,
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

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

David Mathis

“Lord and Savior—and Treasure: The Complex Beauty of Christ”

We welcome to the pulpit David Mathis this morning. David serves as teaching pastor at Cities Church in Minneapolis, is the author of Rich Wounds, Workers for Your Joy and is executive editor of Desiring God.



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

Offertory

“Fairest Lord Jesus” by Derek Hakes

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nations, O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul’s glory, joy and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heav’n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise and adoration now and forevermore be thine! Amen.

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

*Response Doxology

REGENT SQUARE

**Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One.
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn of Response

No. 233 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

HYFRYDOL



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.

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

"Abide With Me" by William H. Monk



BENEDICTION

*Response

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

Postlude

Allegretto espressivo from Grando Duo Concertant, op. 85 by Mauro Giuliani



ANNOUNCEMENTS

“What Christian Men Need Most” Lunch Is Tomorrow! Join Men’s Ministry for lunch tomorrow at 11.45 am in the Reception Room with guest speaker Pastor Steve Savelich. Cost: \$10. RSVP at fpcbr.org.

Family Super Bowl Watch Party. All youth students and their families are invited to a picnic-style Super Bowl Watch Party Sunday, February 11 at 5 pm in the Terraced Garden. Please bring an appetizer, folding chairs and blankets. Let Colton know if you’re coming (colton@fpcbr.org). Surprise halftime announcement!

Ash Wednesday Noon Service in Sanctuary. The season of Lent begins February 14 with a traditional service of the reception of ashes and the Lord’s Supper, followed by lunch with Shelton’s famous gumbo in the Reception Room (\$5 per person). Wednesday noon services will continue throughout February and March in Dunham Chapel without lunch.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 18. The session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, February 18 at 10.10 in the Sanctuary. The purpose is to receive a report on 2023, hear a presentation from The Foundation, propose the 2024 budget, elect at-large members to the nominating committee and conduct any other business that is before us. These annual meetings give us a great opportunity as one church to give thanks for all that God has done and is doing in our midst. There will be no adult Sunday school classes that day.

Joyful Noise Begins February 18. Joyful Noise Children’s Choir is for children ages K–5th grade and prioritizes building a heart for worship. We begin Sunday, February 18 at 4 pm. If you’re interested, please email Lauren at (lauren@fpcbr.org).

Subscribe to Daily Lent Emails and Podcast. In addition to the printed book, this year’s Lent guide, *Lyrics for His Life: Praying the Psalms with Jesus*, includes both a daily email as well as a daily podcast. Visit the Resources tab at fpcbr.org to subscribe. Lent guides will be distributed in worship on Sunday, February 18.

Lent Community Groups Forming Now. Community Groups for *Lyrics for His Life: Praying the Psalms with Jesus* are forming now. Contact Kelly Wood to be a member or leader of a group (kelly@fpcbr.org). Groups begin meeting the week of February 18.

Two New Church Portals. FPC has launched two new safe and secure sites to help you manage your church membership data online: the Member Portal and the Giving Portal. Links to each are at fpcbr.org or the church app. Separate login information is required for each site. Contact Laura Shaw (225.620.1222) if you have issues setting up your account.

Lost and Found Clean Out. It’s time to clean out the Lost and Found cabinet in the Sanctuary building. Any unclaimed items not claimed by the end of February will be “shared” with the Purple Cow or thrown away.

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 loving memory of Helen and John Waldie, parents of Joann Thurston and Robert Moore Thurston, father of Scott Thurston given by Joann and Scott Thurston.

Scripture for Next Week: Ephesians 6:10–23

Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.

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DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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