



LESSONS FOR LIFE
from Ephesians

Walking in Love • Walking in Light
Mutual Submission
How to Work Well
Suiting Up for Battle

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Epiphany Sunday
January 7, AD 2024

11 am



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Scott Graham

Prelude

Prelude No. 2 in G Major by Felix Mendelssohn
Steve Gustafson, organ

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

From Ephesians 5 & 6

Beloved children, let us walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.
Let us be filled with the Spirit.

Let us sing and make melody to the Lord with our hearts.
Let us give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be strong in the Lord. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the evil one.
Peace and grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

***Hymn of Praise**

No. 163 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

DIX

***Blessing God**

***Scriptural Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Our God and Father, have mercy on us. We have not walked in love. We have not considered the redeeming sacrifice of our beloved Jesus. Neither have we lived sacrificially in his name. We have entered your presence with the smell of the world lingering on us. But this is not who we are. We are children of the light. Ours is the work of the good, right and true. Our lives are for your pleasure and greater glory. Holy Spirit, renew us and make us fragrant with the aroma of Christ. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response**

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.**

***Greeting and Announcements**

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

Offertory

"Pretty Little Baby" by David Davenport
Arranged by Dedrian Hogan

Pretty little baby, born, born in Bethlehem.

Mary and Joseph, they knelt beside him,
Star in the east was there to guide them.
Up yonder in the heavens, a star is in the sky,
The people come to see my Lord, they come from far and wide.
The wise men and the shepherds, to him their gifts to bring.
The people come to worship him, the little newborn king.

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

*Hymn of Preparation

No. 92 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

BEECHER

Time with God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Ephesians 5:1-10

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

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

“Walking in Love”



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Hymn of Response

No. 379 “Take My Life and Let It Be” (vs. 1, 2 & 5)

HENDON



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

“Vocalise” by Sergei Rachmaninoff



BENEDICTION

*Response

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

Postlude

“God of Grace” by Paul Manz



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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

Women's Spring Bible Study Begins the Week of January 15. Join Women's Ministry as we study two of Paul's most God-centered letters, 1 & 2 Thessalonians. These letters teach us to remain grounded in the gospel in the midst of a fallen world. Bible studies begin the week of January 15. For more information visit fpibr.org.

Stay & Pray, Thursday, January 18. Parents, grandparents, volunteers and friends of educators are all invited to a casual time of prayer in Dunham Chapel Thursday, January 18 from 9.05 to 9.30 am. It's a wonderful way to start the new year with confidence in God's plan for our children, families and educators.

Discover First Dinner, January 21. This is an opportunity for you, in a smaller setting, to learn more about how you can be part of our mission and ministry. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Emily Viguerie (emily@fpibr.org).

International Friendship Partners Game Night, January 26. IFP is hosting a Game Night Friday, January 26 from 6–8 pm in the Gym. There will be many games with food and fellowship. It's fun for the whole family!

MDO Registration. Church member priority registration for the Mother's Day Out 2024–2025 school year is Monday, January 29. Contact Whitney Weiner (mdo@fpibr.org or 225.620.0245) for more information.

Needed: Lent Community Group Leaders. Community Group leaders are needed for our Lenten study, *Lyrics for His Life: Praying the Psalms with Jesus*. Please contact Kelly Wood (kelly@fpibr.org) for details. Groups begin meeting the week of February 18.

Youth Group Resumes Tonight! Join our Middle and High School Youth Groups tonight at the church from 5 to 7 pm.

Crying Babies/Nursing Mother's Room. Our Bride's Room doubles as a Crying Babies/Nursing Mother's room on Sunday mornings. This location, as well as the Parlor, are available with closed circuit TV simulcasting the 9 and 11 am services.

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.

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers serve to honor a departed loved one or celebrate with thanksgiving cherished people or events. If you would like to donate flowers for a particular Sunday, please contact Kathy Mullins at 603.4735.

Scripture for Next Week: Ephesians 5:8b–21

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

763 North Boulevard | Baton Rouge, LA 70802 | 225.387.0617 | fpibr.org