



ORDER *of* WORSHIP

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July 7, AD 2024

10.30 am



# GATHERING TO PRAISE

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*Assisting with Worship: Pastor Ron Hicks*

## **Prelude**

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

*From Isaiah 40*

Children of God, why do you say, “My way is hidden from the LORD. He does not see my trouble?” Have you not known? Have you not heard?

**The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.**

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

**He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.**

Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;

**But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.**

### **\*Hymns and Songs of Praise**

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

“Rejoice”

### **\*Blessing God**

## **Scriptural Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Gracious Father, forgive us our sins.

For all we meant to do but never did:

For all the prayers that got pushed aside [*pause*],

For all the calls we planned to make [*pause*],

For all the love we hoped to give,

For all the mercy we promised to show,

For all the bounty we intended to share,

For all the wrongs we meant to right,

O God our Father,

For all we meant to do but never did:

Forgive us.

We arrive in your presence far short of all we hoped to be.

We ask for the power of your Spirit

To make us more like Christ.

We ask for the obedience of Jesus

To flow through us from the inside out.

We ask you to restore us in his name, amen.

*\*Standing*

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

#### **\*Song of Preparation**

“Yet Not I but through Christ in Me”

#### **\*Greeting and Announcements**

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

#### **Offertory**

“Come Jesus, Come” by Fowler, Bentley, McWhirter

Sometimes I fall to my knees and pray;  
Come Jesus come, let today be the day.  
Sometimes I feel like I’m gonna break;  
But I’m holding on to a hope that won’t fade.

Come Jesus come, we’ve been waiting so long;  
For the day you return to heal every hurt and right every wrong.  
We need you right now, come and turn this around.  
Deep down I know this world isn’t home,  
Come Jesus come.

There’ll be no war and there’ll be no chains.  
When Jesus comes, let today be the day.  
He’ll come for the weak and the strong just the same;  
And all will believe in the power of his name.

One day he’ll come, and we’ll stand face to face.  
Come and lay it all down, ’cause it might be today.  
The time is right now, there’s no need to wait.  
Your past will be washed by rivers of grace.

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

#### **\*Prayer of Dedication**



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### **Time with God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

*Mark 2:1-12*

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction,  
**That through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.**

### **Sermon**

Whitney Alexander

"Jesus Forgives and Jesus Heals"



## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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### **Time of Reflection**

#### **\*Hymn of Response**

No. 404 "The Solid Rock" (vs. 1, 3 & 4)

SOLID ROCK



## 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

#### 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



## BENEDICTION

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#### \*Response

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

#### Postlude

#### MUSICIANS

Blake Hanna, trumpet  
Steve Gustafson, piano/organ  
Bobby Struppeck, keys  
Charles Myer, electric guitar

Jake Wood, acoustic guitar  
Joey Carnaggio, bass guitar  
Eli Williams, percussion



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Welcome!** We're so glad you could join us today. Each week we seek to press deeper into Christ and then follow his lead to go further into the world with his love. As part of that mission, we'd love to pray for you. Prayer requests may be sent to [prayer@fpcbr.org](mailto:prayer@fpcbr.org), through the church app or by filling out a card in the pew rack.

**Women's Jonah Study Starts This Tuesday.** Women's Ministry will further explore the depths of God's mercy and grace at its summer Jonah Bible study on Tuesday, July 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 6–7.30 pm at Amber McConnell's home (4325 Woodside Dr). Light refreshments will be served.

**No Experience Necessary.** Join us Wednesdays in July in the Choir Room at 6.30 pm for an hour of casual, joy-filled rehearsal. No auditions or previous experience required. All ages are welcome. You can sing for just one Sunday or you can sing for the entire month of July. No long-term commitment required!

**Blood Drive July 21.** Stop by the LifeShare mobile blood bank in the Convention St. parking lot between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm on Sunday, July 21. Help someone in need by donating blood.

**A New Book by Jill Garner.** *StrongHeart* is a new book for parents written by our own Jill Garner, director of Manners of the Heart. *StrongHeart* emphasizes the importance of nurturing and protecting the hearts of children from negative influences in society while also preparing them to navigate the world with a strong foundation in their beliefs and values. Copies are available at the Connection Center for \$15 each but we have seven complimentary copies for those who ask.

**Officer Nominations for the 2027 Class.** The Officer Nominating Committee nominates elders and deacons by receiving suggested names of members from the congregation, prayerfully preparing a slate, and presenting the slate at the annual October congregational meeting for election. Please pray about who you might suggest. Suggestion cards are in the pew racks or online ([fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org)) and are due July 31.

**10.30 am Worship Through August 4.** Each Sunday in July, as well as August 4, we will gather and worship together for one 10.30 am service in the Sanctuary. There will be no Sunday school.

**Purple Cow Needs Donations.** Donation bins are in the Gym ready for gently used clothes and house ware items for the Purple Cow, a ministry of the Christian Outreach Center.

**You're Invited to a Pool Party!** International Friendship Partners invites you to help welcome internationals to Baton Rouge at a pool party on Friday, July 26 from 6 to 8 pm at Garland and Billy Wilson's (2077 Ramsey Drive). There will be swimming, games, hot dogs and burgers and watermelon.

**July Is McKinley School Supplies Month.** We are helping the teachers and families of McKinley Elementary get ready for the 2024–2025 academic year by collecting supplies in July. Visit the Connection Center or [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) for further details and a list of needed items. A handy Amazon link to needed items is online at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org).

**Assistance for the Hard of Hearing.** We are pleased to offer headphones to assist the hard of hearing during our Sanctuary services. Headsets and packs are available to check out at the Connection Center.

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*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.*

*Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.*

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