



GENESIS

STORIES FROM THE START

ORDER OF WORSHIP
JUNE 25, AD 2023
11 AM



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Colton Underwood

Prelude

“Turn! Turn! Turn!” arranged by Steve Gustafson

Steve Gustafson, piano

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

From the Gospels

When Jesus saw the great crowd, he had compassion for them.

He saw the truth of us, that we are harassed and helpless, sheep who need a shepherd.

When Jesus saw the widow who had lost her only son, his heart went out to her.

He saw the truth of us, how frail we are and how fast life goes.

When Jesus saw the rich young ruler, he loved him.

He saw the truth of us, that we need more than we get through money or power.

When the Son of God stepped into the world as Jesus Christ, he looked upon us and saw through to the truth of us. He knows, and he loves.

So we rise in worship to look back at Christ, in love and gratitude.

***Hymn of Praise**

No. 97 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

CORONATION

***Blessing God**

***Scriptural Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Ah Lord God, we are masters of appearance! We know how to present well to others. Our posts are all smiles, our clothes appealing and our good humor smooths every path. We get along and we do well. But so much remains hidden. Therefore, we remain lonely. Frightened of exposure. Fearful the shell will crack. You see all of that. For you see within. You see us when our worst nightmares are realized and you rush to hold us. When we are discarded, you pick up the pieces tenderly. When the truth of us is revealed, you are not surprised. You are ready to mend us. Forgive our hiding. Give us courage to come to you before it all falls apart and to know the pleasure of your loving gaze in Jesus.

***Silent Confession**

**Standing*

*Assurance of Pardon

*Response

**Who is like the Lord, our God? Strong to save faithful in love?
Our debt is paid and the victory one, the Lord is my salvation!**

*Greeting and Announcements

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

Offertory

"In His Hands" by Tim Osiek

He's got the whole world, the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world, all people, all lands.
In time of doubt and fear, remember, God is near
With calm assurance that is here in his hands.

He's got the sun and moon in his hands.
He's got the wind and rain at his command.
When it's more than you can bear, know God's strong arm is there
With all the power, love, and care in his hands.

Gentle power, loving strength, always holding me
Healing touch, tender care and amazing grace.
What do I have to fear when he holds me near
And I'm safely here in his hands!

He's got you and me in his hands.
He's got all of us as only he can, in his hands.
In the darkness I can see God reaching out to me.
To know forever I will be, in his hands.

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

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

ST. COLUMBA

Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Genesis 16: 1-16

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!" But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.

The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." The angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." The angel of the LORD also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." And the angel of the LORD said to her,

“Behold, you are pregnant
and shall bear a son.
You shall call his name Ishmael,
because the LORD has listened to your affliction.
He shall be a wild donkey of a man,
his hand against everyone
and everyone's hand against him,
and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.”

So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

All Scripture is breathed out by God, and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness.

So the person of God might be equipped for every good work.

Sermon

Gerrit Dawson

“The God Who Sees”



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Hymn of Response

No. 89 "Our Great Savior" (vs. 1, 3 & 5)

HYFRYDOL

Pastoral 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.



BENEDICTION

*Response

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

Postlude

"Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals" by Sigfrid Kark-Elert

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 our parents, Dorothy & Joachim Aubert and Emma & Pete Ramos, by Fé and Murphy Aubert.

Scripture for Next Week: 2 Kings 6: 8-17

Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.

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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 fpcbr.org/connect.

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

Women's Summer Luncheon, This Thursday. The Women's Ministry "So, I've Got a Question . . . Counseling Edition" summer luncheon is Thursday, June 29 at 11 am. Join us for a time of fellowship and thoughtful discussion led by Sherry Kadair, Director of the Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center, along with Kaci Treadaway, Dr. John Otzenberger, Joel Gilbert and Stacy House. Details and registration are online at fpcbr.org.

"Pack a Backpack" in Two Weeks. We need your help filling 110 kindergarteners' backpacks for the newly forming McKinley Elementary! Deacons will be in the Reception Room to help you "adopt" an empty backpack before and after our 10.30 am services July, 9, 16 and 23. More information is at fpcbr.org.

July Combined Services. Each Sunday in July we will gather and worship together for one 10.30 am service in the Sanctuary. There will be no Sunday school. Gerrit's sermon for July 2 will be, "Message to American Christians: Live Like a Narnian!"

Rehearsals Begin Wednesday. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to sing in the choir at First Presbyterian? The month of July is your chance! Beginning Wednesday, June 28, join us in the choir room at 6.30 pm for an hour of casual, joy-filled rehearsal. No audition. Young and old are welcome. Sing for just one Sunday or for the entire month of July.

Praying for RYM Middle School Campers. Reformed Youth Ministries encourages and challenges students to know Scripture with the hope that they grow closer to God and to each other. Please be in prayer for our 6th through 8th graders headed to camp June 26-30.

Hallowed Be Thy Name: Women's July Bible Study. Join Women's Ministry this summer as it explores God's lesser known, but powerful names found in Scripture and contemplates the ways in which each name draws us into a unique, personal relationship with him. We will meet each Wednesday in July from 6.30 to 8 pm at Amber McConnell's home (4352 Woodside Drive). Fellowship starts at 6.15 pm.

S.T.A.R.S. Sports Camp Needs Volunteers. July 5-7 are the dates of the annual S.T.A.R.S. soccer camp with Abounding Love Ministries. Consider volunteering to coach the children and share the gospel with Baton Rouge inner city kids. Contact Whitney Alexander to volunteer (225.810.2607).

Officer Nominations for the 2026 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 be in prayer about who you might suggest. Please make your suggestions by July 31. Cards are available in the pew racks as well as online at fpcbr.org.

New Crying Babies/Nursing Mother's Room. Our Bride's Room now 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.

