

Advent 2023

Light from Light

November 26, AD 2023
First Day of Advent
11 am



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting with Worship: Jamy Comeaux

Prelude

“Joy to the World” arranged by James Curnow

Blake Hanna, trumpet

Steve Gustafson, piano

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

From Isaiah, Psalm 118, Ephesians, James & Hebrews

Come beloved, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

The LORD is God and he has made his light to shine upon us.

Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead and Christ will shine upon you!

The light of the world has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon us.

Darkness will cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

But the LORD will rise upon us, and his glory will be seen upon us.

And nations shall come to his light, and kings to the brightness of his rising.

They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praises of the Lord.

O come let us by the Spirit adore the Father of Lights and his only Son, Jesus, who is the radiance of his glory!

***Hymn of Praise**

No. 123 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

***Blessing God**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Candle of Hope will be lit by Bonnie Kate and Max Zoghbi.

Infant Baptisms

Ophelia Calvin and Andrea Jean Anderson

Parents are Kalyn and Luke Anderson

Sponsoring Elder is D.J. Davis

Hudson Michael Hollingsworth

Parents are Kendall and Blake Hollingsworth

Sponsoring Elder is Jason Lewis

William Hillsman Ortego

Parents are Caroline and Town Ortego

Sponsoring Elder is Jason Lewis

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
And born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Greeting and Announcements

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

Offertory

"The Singer" by Christopher Phillips

Dedrian Hogan, tenor

The music began at his command and the Singer drew his breath.
The melody rose and dawned on the land and pierced the emptiness,
And from a barren and lonely place life began to spring.
As on the stage of time and space, God threw back his head and began to sing.

"Let there be light, invade the darkness.
Fill up the void, replace the noise with sweet harmony!
Let there be joy and echoes of laughter."
And the Singer sings on and still writes the song of the redeemed.

Though beautifully sung, the song went unheard and darkness returned again,
But God had a plan, in the second verse, to win back the hearts of man.
A star rose up in the eastern sky that night in Bethlehem;
And as the baby Jesus cried, God sang out his song and the angels joined in.

Star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Let there be light, let the darkness be shaken.
Let there be light, let the soul be awakened. Let there be light!

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

*Response Doxology

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo!

Prayer of Dedication



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*Hymn of Preparation

No. 128 “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” (vs. 1, 3 & 4)

CAROL

Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Genesis 1:3-5; 14-16

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.

Revelation 21:22-25

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

In your light alone do we see light.

Sermon

Gerrit Dawson

“Light Before the Sun”



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

***Hymn of Response**

“Sussex Carol”

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

“Angels We Have Heard on High” arranged by Stephen Bulla

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 Jolie Berry who faithfully served the church as Deacon, Elder and Presbytery Moderator, by her husband Gene and their children Katherine Hearn and David Berry.

Scripture for Next Week: Isaiah 9:2–7; Luke 1:76–79

Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.

All songs used by permission: CCLI license #207235.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

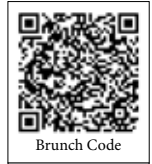
Welcome. We are glad you're here. If you are visiting with us, please use the Visitor Card in the pew racks, our church app (FPCBR in the App Store) or online at fpibr.org/connect.

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.

Mid-Week Advent Services Begin Wednesday. Join us Wednesday, November 30, December 6 and December 13 for a short Advent service of Communion in Dunham Chapel. Our Scriptural focus will be on Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55 as a marvelous preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. Service times are 12-12.45 pm.

Live Nativity This Friday! Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angels, wise men and shepherds will re-enact Jesus' birth. Join us Friday, December 1 at 5.30 and 6.30 pm in the Terraced Garden.

Women's Advent Brunch, December 9. Please join us for the Women's Ministry Advent Brunch Saturday, December 9 at 11 am at the home of Stephanie Bennett. We will enjoy food, fellowship and a special devotion led by Lauren Fowler based on Luke 2:15-20. Register online or use the QR code. \$10 per person.



Brunch Code

It's Not Too Late! There's still time to rededicate your gifts and talents in reply to God's beautiful grace. Estimate of Giving cards are still available in the pews, online at fpibr.org or use the QR code.

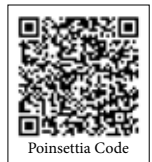


Stewardship Code

Christmas Cantata: O Blessed Light. Join us Sunday, December 10 for two special presentations of *O Lux Beata* (O Blessed Light) at 9 and 11 am worship. There will be no 7.45 am service.

Downtown Pilgrimage, December 10. The annual Downtown Pilgrimage is the evening of Sunday, December 10. The Pilgrimage begins at Mt. Zion at 5.30 pm and arrives at FPC at approximately 6.30 pm.

Christmas Poinsettia Orders. All are invited to help decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. The cost is \$35 per plant. Please place your order by Sunday, December 10 using order forms at the Connection Center, the online form (fpibr.org) or the QR code.



Poinsettia Code

Christmas Worship, December 24 and 25. Three festive Christmas Eve services of carols, candlelight and communion: 11 am, 4 and 6 pm. There are no services on Christmas Day.

Christmas Bags for Malachi Dads. Items are being collected for Christmas bags to be distributed to the Malachi Dads (prisoners) at Hunt and Angola Penitentiaries. Please drop off donations at the Connection Center: soap, antiperspirant, toothpaste/toothbrush, shampoo, lotion, body wash, socks or baby powder. Cash donations also accepted.

Combined Youth Tonight! Middle and high school students are invited to our final Sunday night study in "Judges & Kings" until the new year from 5 to 7 pm at the church.

Youth Christmas Party, December 2. Join us for food, games, cookie decorating, "ugly" sweaters, and a Christmas movie on the terrace from 5 to 9 pm at the church this Saturday!



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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