

# BEHIND THE CURTAIN

The Book of Revelation



ORDER OF WORSHIP

---

September 1, AD 2024  
11 am



# GATHERING TO PRAISE

---

*Assisting Pastor: Colton Underwood*

## **Prelude**

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

*From Psalm 84*

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!  
**My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.  
**Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!**

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.  
**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.  
**No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!**

### **\*Hymns & Songs of Praise**

“Victory Chant” Song of Call and Response

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

“Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King”

### **\*Blessing God**

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

*Children ages three through kindergarten are invited to Children’s Church.*

*\*Standing*



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

---

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

Prayer for Illumination

*Revelation 2:1-7*

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

“I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy,  
**And blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it,  
for the time is near.**

### **Sermon**

Gerrit Dawson

“Recovering First Love”

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Lord Jesus, we remember when you called us to yourself. The cool cleansing of forgiveness. The sweet sense of your presence. The bright hope of the future you have for your people. The passion to share this good news as the power of God for salvation. We confess that our hearts have cooled. We've lost connection to our first love. But we do not want to be parted from you. We do not want there to be a break! We want to remember in your house and at your table, your mighty deeds in your days among us. We want your Spirit to fan our hearts back into flame, for the glory of your Father and the salvation of the world. Amen.**



## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

---

### Time of Reflection

#### \*Hymn of Response

No. 364 “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

GORDON



## 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 bring your prayer requests and offerings forward during communion.*

## Communion Meditation

“Holy Forever” by Johnson, Tomlin, Ingram, Wickham

A thousand generations falling down in worship,  
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb,  
And all who've gone before us and all who will believe  
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb.

Your name is the highest. Your name is the greatest.  
Your name stands above them all.  
All thrones and dominions. All powers and positions.  
Your name stands above them all.

And the angels cry, holy. All creation cries, holy.  
You are lifted high, holy. Holy forever!

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed,  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.  
If you walk in freedom and if you bear his name,  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.  
We'll sing the song forever and amen.

And the angels cry, holy. All creation cries, holy.  
You are lifted high, holy. Holy forever!

Hear your people sing, holy; to the King of kings, holy.  
You will always be, holy.  
Holy forever!



## BENEDICTION

.....

### \*Response

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

### Postlude

“Tocatta” by Ulrich Nehls  
Steve Gustafson, organ

.....

*Sanctuary Flowers: Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory with thanksgiving for Van Andrew Wilson on his birthday, by his parents Claire and Steve Wilson.*

*Scripture for Next Week: Revelation 3:14–22*

*Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.*

CCLI license #207235



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

**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@fpibr.org](mailto:prayer@fpibr.org), through the church app or by filling out a card in the pew rack.

**Pastoral Transition Informational Gathering Today.** Gerrit invites you to a Pastoral Transition Informational Gathering today at 11.30 am after worship. This is an opportunity for the congregation to ask questions regarding the process of his transition to retirement and the search for an Associate Pastor for Teaching and Leadership.

**Congregational Meeting Next Sunday.** The session has called for a congregational meeting for Sunday, September 8 at 10.15 am to elect the members of the Associate Pastor for Teaching and Leadership Search Committee. Nominated search committee members are Will Adams (c.), Gerry Arnold, Cheryl Brodnax, Jennifer Cagley, Jamy Comeaux, Robert Davis, Brett Furr, David Kozan and Laurie Lemoine. Gerrit will participate in the search process.

**Habitat for Humanity Build Begins This Thursday.** Building skills are welcome but not necessary to volunteer at our 8th(!) build. Visit [fpibr.org](http://fpibr.org) to sign up. You can also help with food by contacting Emily Viguerie ([emily@fpibr.org](mailto:emily@fpibr.org)). Build dates are September 5–7, September 12–14, September 26–28.

**Fall Community Groups Begin This Week.** Fall community groups begin meeting the week of September 3. Contact with Blake Fowler ([blake@fpibr.org](mailto:blake@fpibr.org)) to participate.

**Women's Circles Resuming.** Join a Women's Ministry Circle as we study what it means to have a good, godly fear of the Lord: one that is utterly safe, one that moves us to awestruck reverence, one full of wondrous and trembling delight in our Creator and Redeemer. Email Jaime ([jaimie@fpibr.org](mailto:jaimie@fpibr.org)) or visit [fpibr.org](http://fpibr.org) for a full list of Circle meetings.

**Register Today for Family Night @ First.** Children's Choir and the "Art of Marriage" community group kick off next Sunday. Be sure to visit [fpibr.org](http://fpibr.org) for details and registration.

**When Should a Child Get a Cell Phone?** This question, and many others, will be addressed at "Train Up! Parenting by God's Design" which is a new limited series parenting (and grandparents) class beginning Sunday, September 15 at 10.10 am in Dunham Chapel.

**Become a McKinley Elementary Volunteer.** Stop by the Connection Center each Sunday in September to sign up for ministry opportunities at our adopted school, McKinley Elementary.

**Ladies' Night of Testimony & Fellowship September 19.** Join Women's Ministry on Thursday, September 19 in the home of Chelsea Smith as some of our beloved sisters-in-Christ share the ways the Lord has worked personally and powerfully in their lives. Those sharing are Bonnie Adams, Kate Castle, Lisa Head, Kaci Treadaway, and more. The price increases from \$15 to \$20 at midnight Sunday, September 15. Please register by Wednesday, September 18 at [fpibr.org](http://fpibr.org).

**DivorceCare® Starts September 22.** A 13-week support program for those who are separated or divorced begins Sunday, September 22. Meetings are 5 to 7 pm at the church. Space is limited so please contact Laura Shaw soon to reserve a spot ([laura@fpibr.org](mailto:laura@fpibr.org)).

**Additional Parking.** The Old Governor's Mansion parking lot across North Blvd. is just a two-minute walk and is now available to First Presbyterian churchgoers on Sunday mornings.



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

763 North Boulevard | Baton Rouge, LA 70802 | 225.387.0617 | [fpibr.org](http://fpibr.org)