



LORD, ENLARGE MY VISION.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 27, AD 2023 | 9 am
Mission Sunday



GLOBALMISSIONS



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastors: Gerrit Dawson & Whitney Alexander

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

From Psalm 67

Be gracious to us and bless us, O God, and make your face to shine upon us,
That your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
Let all the peoples praise you!

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
For you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
Let all the peoples praise you!

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us.
God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

***Songs of Praise**

“Your Love Awakens Me”

“Behold Your God”

***Blessing God**

***Song of Praise**

“Christ Is Risen”



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Minute for Mission

Peter Kiwanuka, Founder and Director of Bethany Centre School, Uganda

***Greeting and Announcements**

Children age 4 through Kindergarten are invited to Children's Church.

Time with God's Word

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Christ, our head.

He makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Sermon

Gabriel de Guia

“Called and Empowered to Be and Do the Impossible”

We welcome Gabriel de Guia, the Executive Director of EPC World Outreach, to the pulpit this morning.



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

***Offertory and Song of Response**

“O Church Arise (Arise, Shine)”

Please place your offering and prayer requests in the baskets.

Scriptural Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Father, you have given your chosen ones a glimpse of the bright and victorious future that awaits us. And you would have us invite others to take part in that future. You say, “Go and make disciples . . .” but we have stayed and consumed. We have settled for a small, near-sighted vision of the good life. Forgive us, O Lord of the nations, and give us eyes to see your glorious, transformative, life-saving mission for every nation, people, tribe and tongue. Holy Spirit, empower our going as witnesses that we may be found faithful when Jesus comes again. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon



INTERCESSION

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer



BENEDICTION

***Song of Response**

“This Is Our God”

***Response**

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School with Gabriel de Guia Today. Join us at 10.10 am in the Sanctuary for a special Adult Sunday school with Gabriel de Guia, Executive Director of EPC World Outreach. The children will have their own special class with Peter Kiwanuka, Founder and Director of Bethany Centre School, Uganda, in the Sanctuary basement.

Joyful Noise Ensembles Meet and Greet Today at 5 pm. Parents and children ages kindergarden to 5th grade are invited today from 5–6 pm in the Sanctuary basement. Rehearsals begin September 10.

Women's Bible Study Begins This Week. Join Women's Ministry for the richness of Ecclesiastes. Visit fpibr.org for various meeting days and times.

11 am Combined Worship with Abounding Love Next Sunday. Members of Abounding Love Ministries will join us for a special, combined worship service Sunday, September 3 at 11 am. Pastor Adraine White will deliver the message, their worship team will join ours and we'll have communion together. No Sunday School.

announcements continue on back panel . . .



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discover First Dinner September 10. Come 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@fpcbr.org).

Small Groups Beginning Soon. Fall small groups begin meeting the week of September 10. Connect with Kelly Wood (kelly@fpcbr.org) to participate.

Faith Driven Entrepreneurs Baton Rouge Conference September 13. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to align your business pursuits with your spiritual calling. Details and registration are online at fpcbr.org.

Ladies' Night of Testimony & Fellowship September 14. Come enjoy a night of great food, fellowship and testimony on Thursday, September 14 at the home of Kate Freeman from 6–8.30 pm. Register online at fpcbr.org.

Popsicles & Splashpad Meet and Greet! Join Children's Ministry Saturday, September 16 at the Highland Road Park. Our staff will be there and ready to play from 10–11.30 am with parents and children ages newborn through 8th grade.

Women's Ministry Circle Books at the Connection Center. Circles begin meeting in September. This year's book is available at the Connection Center and is free. Details on meeting days and times are online at fpcbr.org.

Volunteers Needed. Volunteers are needed for the So Loved nursery, Children's Church and Kingdom Kids Sunday school. Please contact Candace Walker for more information (candace@fpcbr.org).

Faith in an Unbelieving World is Gerrit's latest article written for desiringgod.org. Hard copies are available at the Connection Center and a link is on the church website (fpcbr.org).

Chapel and Sanctuary Flowers: Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Annslee Laura Phillips by Lauren Teague Phillips and N. LaRon Phillips.

Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.

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DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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