



## ORDER *of* WORSHIP

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December 25, AD 2022

5 pm



# GATHERING TO PRAISE

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## WELCOME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*From Psalm 134 and Psalm 98*

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,  
who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

**Lift up your hands and bless the LORD, he who made heaven and earth!**

For he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and holy arm have worked salvation for him.

**The LORD has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations and  
has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.**

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

### \*GREETING

#### \*A CAROL MEDLEY

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing. “Glory to the newborn king!”  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic hosts proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice!”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born today.  
Ox and lamb before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

“Away In a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and take us to heaven to live with you there.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,  
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

**\* PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING &  
RESPONSIVE READING**

*From Psalms and Isaiah*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.  
**It is you, O LORD my God, who light my lamp; you lighten my darkness.**

*The purple candle of hope is lit.*

Thus says the LORD: “I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.”

**These are the things he will do; he will not forsake us.**

*The purple candle of faith is lit.*

Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let the one who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on their God.

**The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?**

*The pink candle of joy is lit.*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.  
**See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon us and his glory appears over us.**

*The purple candle of peace is lit.*

For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling,  
that I may walk before God in the light of life.

**Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk,  
O LORD, in the light of your face.**

*The Christ candle is lit.*

## **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

“Heirlooms” by Bannister, Farrell & Grant

## **SCRIPTURE**

*John 1: 1-5; John 1: 9-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The secret things belong to the LORD our God.

**But what has been revealed belongs to us, and to our children forever.  
That we may do all the words of this law.**

## **SERMON & MEDITATION**

“God’s Wrapping Paper”

Scott Graham

“Spiegel im Spiegel” by Arvo Pärt  
Kristina Graham and Steve Gustafson

**\*CONGREGATIONAL SINGING**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

BENEDICTION

**\*RESPONSE**

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**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](https://fpcbr.org/connect).

**Prayer Requests.** 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.

**New Year's Combined Worship.** Join us for our one 10.30 am service on January 1, 2023. There will be no Sunday school.

**Need a Pastor During the Holiday Break?** The church office is closed December 26 to January 2 but we are still here if you need a pastor. Please call the church office (387.0617) and press 5 to be connected to the pastor on call.

**Disaster Relief Trip to Fort Myers, January 2-7.** Please call Whitney Alexander if you would like more information (225.810.2607).

**Discover First Dinner January 22.** This is an opportunity for you, in a smaller setting, to 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](mailto:emily@fpcbr.org)).

**H.S. Seniors Class with Gerrit.** Starting January 22, Gerrit will hold his world-famous high school senior Sunday school classes. These classes will take place in Gerrit's office each Sunday from January 22 to February 12. All seniors are invited.

**Polar Thang!** Take the plunge and join us January 13-15 for our annual middle school retreat. Register online ([fpcbr.org](https://fpcbr.org)) by January 7.

**MDO Registration.** FPC church member families may register for the 2023-2024 MDO year beginning Monday, January 23. Please contact Whitney Weiner via email ([mdu@fpcbr.org](mailto:mdu@fpcbr.org)) or call 225.620.0245 for more information.

**Faith Driven Entrepreneur Small Group Forming.** Starting Friday, January 13, Mike Norris will begin an 8-week foundational study exploring what it means to let faith lead your business. Those interested in learning more about the group may contact Mike ([mike@workcompdude.com](mailto:mike@workcompdude.com)).

**Lent Small Groups.** Lent small groups begin meeting the week of February 26. If you're not in a small group already, this is the perfect time to join or perhaps lead! Please contact Kelly Wood ([kelly@fpcbr.org](mailto:kelly@fpcbr.org)) or Darin Travis ([darin@fpcbr.org](mailto:darin@fpcbr.org)).

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**Scripture for Next Week:** Ecclesiastes 1: 1-18

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