

# BEHIND THE CURTAIN

The Book of Revelation



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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December 15, AD 2024  
First Sunday of Advent  
9 am



## GATHERING TO PRAISE

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*Assisting Pastor: Scott Graham*

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

*From Isaiah 25*

The prophet Isaiah saw down the rolling years and spoke his vision,  
“On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast  
of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of  
aged wine well refined.

**“And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast  
over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will  
swallow up death forever;**

“And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the  
reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth.”

**It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited  
for him, that he might save us.**

“This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in  
his salvation.”

**Truly, in this hope, we open our hearts to worship.**

### **\*Songs of Praise**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

“Hail the Blest Morn”

### **\*Blessing God**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

The Candle of Joy will be lit by Harrigill Family: Devon, Ryan, Sidney,  
Maggie and Jack.

### **\*Song of Praise**

“The King in All His Beauty”

## \*Greeting and Announcements

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



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

*Revelation 21:1-8*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

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

"No More Tears"



## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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### **Time of Reflection**

#### **\*Offertory and Song of Response**

“Away in a Manger”

*Please place your offering and prayer requests in the baskets.*

### **Scriptural Call to Confession**

#### **Prayer of Confession**

*From The Weight of Glory by C.S. Lewis*

**It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.**

### **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**



## INTERCESSION

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### **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

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### **\*Song of Response**

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

### **\*Response**

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

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*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.*

*Sanctuary Flowers serve to honor a departed loved one or celebrate with thanksgiving cherished people or events. Opportunities for providing flowers are available in 2025. Please contact Kathy Mullins (603-4735) or the church office.*

*Scripture for Next Week: Revelation 22:1-5, 12-17, 20*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Christmas Offering for City Ministry.** Our annual Christmas offering (December 15, 22, 24 & 29) goes directly to support The Christian Outreach Center and the daily operations of Gardere Community Christian School. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks or you may use the online donation form.

**Christmas Eve Worship.** Three festive Christmas Eve services of carols, candlelight and communion: 11 am, 4 and 6 pm. Childcare will be available at all services. There will be no worship December 25.

**Additional Parking.** The Old Governor's Mansion parking lot across North Blvd. is now available to First Presbyterian churchgoers on Sunday mornings and Christmas Eve.

**December 29 Worship.** Join us for our one 10.30 am service on December 29, 2024.

**Advent Mid-Week Worship This Wednesday.** Our last mid-week Advent worship service is Wednesday, December 18 at noon in Dunham Chapel. Join us for a time of quiet joy with our family of faith!

**Last Day for Malachi Dads Collections.** Items are being collected for Christmas bags to be distributed to the Malachi Dads 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. Today is the last day of collections. Cash donations also accepted.

**International Friendship Partners Ladies' Tea.** International Friendship Partners invites all ladies to a Christmas tea at 10.30 am on Saturday, December 21 at the Wilsons' (2007 Ramsey Drive). Please let us know if you are coming by emailing Lee Ann Kozan ([leeannkozan@gmail.com](mailto:leeannkozan@gmail.com)).

**The Pastoral Search Committee.** The Pastoral Search Committee sends thanks for all the helpful input from the congregation via email, conversations and visits to various groups. Our Church Information Form has been posted at [epc.org](http://epc.org) and also on our church website under Resources. The committee asks for your continued prayers, suggestions and ideas.



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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