

BEHIND THE CURTAIN

The Book of Revelation



ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 1, AD 2024
First Sunday of Advent
11 am



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting with Worship: Daniel Croskrey

Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Sleepers Awake!) by J. S. Bach

Steve Gustafson, organ

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

From Luke 21

Jesus said, "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity . . .

People fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world.

For even the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Our redemption draws near, let us worship God with one heart and mind!

***Hymn of Praise**

No. 133 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

***Blessing God**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Candle of Hope will be lit by the Thompson family.

Scriptural Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, in the midst of the Christmas pressures, forgive us for being deceived about what matters. We have lost the way to Bethlehem. We have gone so far down wrong roads that it is hard to turn back. Our hearts have hardened. Our minds have shrunk. Save us before it is too late! Lighten our darkness. Guide our steps. Illuminate our minds to see the real Jesus. Soften our hearts and make them pliable in your loving, shaping hands, in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*Response

God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray,
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

*Greeting and Announcements

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

Offertory

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little child to bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

The King shall come when morning dawns and earth's dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn, the day that e'er shall last.

Then let the endless bliss begin, by weary saints foretold,
When right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.

The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: come quickly, King of kings.

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

*Response Doxology

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*Prayer of Dedication



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*Hymn of Preparation

No. 137 “What Child Is This?”

GREENSLEEVES

Time with God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Revelation 20:1-2, 4b-5, 12, 15

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years . . .

Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. . . . And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

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

“Warned to Flee from the Wrath”



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Hymn of Response

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE



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 come forward to receive communion.

Communion Meditation

"There Is a Happy Land" by Dale Wood



BENEDICTION

*Response

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

Postlude

"I Love Thee, My Lord" by George Shearing



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, through the church app or by filling out a card in the pew rack.

Live Nativity This Friday. Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angels, wise men and shepherds will re-enact Jesus' birth. Join us Friday, December 6 at 5.30 and 6.30 pm in the Terraced Garden.

"Dancing Day" Next Sunday! On Sunday, December 8, the choir, orchestra and dancers will perform "Dancing Day", a Christmas cantata. This celebration of the royal wedding between Jesus and his bride includes original music by Chris Phillips inspired by J. S. Bach and Chris Tomlin. Join us at either the 9 or 11 am service. The Chapel Communion service will not meet. Join us for a special gathering between services in the Reception Room when the children's choir will lead us in carols.

Downtown Pilgrimage Next Sunday. The annual Downtown Pilgrimage is the evening of Sunday, December 8. The Pilgrimage begins at Mt. Zion at 5.30 pm and arrives at FPC at approximately 6.30 pm.

Advent Mid-Week Worship Starts This Wednesday. Join us for mid-week Advent worship in Dunham Chapel on Wednesday, December 4, 11 & 18 at noon. Our Scriptural focus will be on Matthew 25 as Jesus gives three memorable teachings on his second coming, a fitting focus for Advent. Join us for a time of quiet joy with our family of faith!

Women's Advent Brunch. Please join us for the Women's Ministry Advent Brunch Saturday, December 14 at 11 am at the home of Tricia Davis. Join us for food, fellowship and a special devotion led by Lindsay Stratman. Registration is available at fpibr.org. \$10 per person.



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. Please donate by Sunday, December 15.

Christmas Poinsettia Orders Due Soon. Help decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. The cost is \$35 per plant. Order deadline is Wednesday, December 11. Order forms are at the Connection Center or online (fpibr.org).

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). Let's celebrate the peace and joy of Christmas time with our international friends. Let us know if you are coming by emailing Lee Ann Kozan (leeannkozan@gmail.com).

"The Mirror that Mends." Gerrit's latest article for desiringgod.org looks at three ways our encounter with Scripture becomes a transforming mirror. Copies are of the article available at the Connection Center or can be read online at desiringgod.org.

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.

*Scripture for Next Week: Revelation 19:6-16
Sanctuary services are video recorded
and livestreamed.
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