

# BEHIND THE CURTAIN

The Book of Revelation



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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DECEMBER 22, AD 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
11 am



# GATHERING TO PRAISE

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*Assisting Pastor: Whitney Alexander*

## **Prelude**

“Pastoral Symphony” from *Messiah* by G. F. Handel

Steve Gustafson, organ

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

*From Isaiah 65*

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

**I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.**

No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days.

**They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD,**

The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, they shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,” says the LORD.

**Even so, come Lord Jesus! Come to us in worship today!**

## **\*Hymn of Praise**

No. 151 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”

IN DULCI JUBILO

## **\*Blessing God**

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

The Candle of Love will be lit by Sarah Hays, Adam Ducote and Henry Hays.

## **Infant Baptism**

Ellie Klein Pourciau

Parents are Alyssa Beth and Davis Pourciau

Brother is Willem

Sponsoring Elder is Jamy Comeaux

## **\*Affirmation of Faith**

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
And born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic Church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **\*Greeting and Announcements**

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

## **Offertory**

"Worthy Is the Lamb" from *Messiah*, G. F. Handel

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,  
And hath redeemed us to God by his blood,  
To receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength,  
And honor, and glory and blessing.

Blessing and honor, glory, and pow'r be unto him,  
That sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb forever and ever.

Amen!

*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

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### \*Hymn of Preparation

No. 155 "Once in Royal David's City"

IRBY

### Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

*Revelation 22:1-5*

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

*Revelation 22:17*

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

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

"Come Lord Jesus!"



## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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### **Time of Reflection**

#### **\*Hymn of Response**

No. 141 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vv. 1, 3 & 4)

ST. LOUIS

### **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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#### **\*Response**

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

### **Postlude**

“The Trumpet Shall Sound” by G. F. Handel

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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.*

*Scripture for Next Week: 2 Samuel 24:1–4, 10–25*

*Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.*

*CCLI license #207235*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**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 on Christmas Eve.** Both the Old Governor's Mansion and 7th Street parking lots will be available for free to First Presbyterian churchgoers on Christmas Eve.

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

**Ways to Give.** We are grateful you choose to be a part of God's economy with us. Gifts to First Presbyterian may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to 763 North Blvd., 70802, or made online ([fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) or the church app).

**Kids Hope USA Seeking Volunteers for Special Epiphany Lesson.** Kids Hope USA is hosting an after-Christmas Epiphany event at Gardere Community Christian School on Thursday, January 9. Ten volunteers are needed to reflect God's love to each Gardere classroom. Contact Annette ([annette@fpcbr.org](mailto:annette@fpcbr.org)) for more information.

**All They Want for Christmas!** We still have seven McKinley teachers without an encourager! Consider adopting a teacher and blessing them throughout the year. Contact Laura Shaw to sign up (225.387.0617 or [laura@fpcbr.org](mailto:laura@fpcbr.org)).

**More Baptisms Today!** Congratulations to the Croskrey family. Thomas Michael was baptized at the 9 am service this morning.

**Deacons Are Here to Help.** The Diaconate has a passion to help the home bound and needy within our congregation. If you have a need, know of a need or would like to participate, please contact Laura Shaw (225.387.0617 or [laura@fpcbr.org](mailto:laura@fpcbr.org)).

**Need a Pastor After Hours?** Would you like to reach a pastor after hours? Please call the church office (387.0617) and press 5 to be connected to the pastor on call.

**Calling All Greeters!** If you feel led to be a greeter at 9 or 11 worship, please contact Emily Viguerie ([emily@fpcbr.org](mailto:emily@fpcbr.org)).

**Crying Babies/Nursing Mother's Room.** Our Bride's Room doubles as a Crying Babies and Nursing Mother's room on Sunday mornings. This location, as well as the Parlor, are available with closed circuit TV simulcasting the 9 and 11 am services.

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