



ORDER OF WORSHIP



December 29, AD 2024

10.30 am





GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting with Worship: Daniel Croskrey

Prelude

“I Saw Three Ships” arranged by Richard Proulx
Steve Gustafson, organ

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

From Isaiah 60, Luke 1 and John 1

Arise, shine, for your light has come.
And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Nations shall come to your light,
And kings to the brightness of your rising.

The Dayspring from on high has visited us.
The night is passed and the day of the LORD lies open before us.

Lift up your hearts to worship the Word made flesh.
He is full of grace and truth!

***Hymn of Praise**

No. 132 “Angles We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

***Blessing God**

***Scriptural Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Another Christmas has passed, dear Father. Did it pass us by? We were so busy with comings and goings. We were so laden with gift-giving and so full of indulgence. Our expectations were so high; our love and kindness so lacking. We heard the story and sang the songs, but our minds were often elsewhere. Forgive us! Grant that this day, before it is too late and Christmas is gone, we may see the Christ-child and know him as 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

"Gesu Bambino" by Pietro Yon
Dedrian Hogan, tenor
Joshua Staes, baritone

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced;
And at his blessed birth, the stars, their exultation voiced.

O come let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night,
That gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of love and light.

Let ev'ry voice acclaim his name, the grateful chorus swell.
From paradise to earth he came that we with him might dwell.

O come let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

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

*Response Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

2 Samuel 24:1-4, 10-25

Again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, "Go, number Israel and Judah." So the king said to Joab, the commander of the army, who was with him, "Go through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and number the people, that I may know the number of the people." But Joab said to the king, "May the LORD your God add to the people a hundred times as many as they are, while the eyes of my lord the king still see it, but why does my lord the king delight in this thing?" But the king's word prevailed against Joab and the commanders of the army. So Joab and the commanders of the army went out from the presence of the king to number the people of Israel.

But David's heart struck him after he had numbered the people. And David said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O LORD, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have done very foolishly." And when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, "Go and say to David, 'Thus says the LORD, Three things I offer you. Choose one of them, that I may do it to you.'" So Gad came to David and told him, and said to him, "Shall three years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land? Now consider, and decide what answer I shall return to him who sent me." Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man."

So the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel from the morning until the appointed time. And there died of the people from Dan to Beersheba 70,000 men. And when the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the calamity and said to the angel who was working destruction among the people, "It is enough; now stay your hand." And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, "Behold, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand be against me and against my father's house."

And Gad came that day to David and said to him, "Go up, raise an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." So David went up at Gad's word, as the LORD commanded. And when Araunah looked down, he saw the king and his servants coming on toward him. And Araunah went out and paid homage to the king with his face to the ground. And Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, in order to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be averted from the people." Then Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him. Here are the oxen for the burnt offering and the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you." But the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. And David built there an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD responded to the plea for the land, and the plague was averted from Israel.

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

Colton Underwood

"A Costly Responsibility"



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

***Carol Sing**

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

***Response**

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

Postlude

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” arranged by Fred Bock



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@fpabr.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) 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.

Three Services Next Sunday. Join us for one of our three services next Sunday, January 5: 7.45 am, 9 am or 11 am. Sunday school classes resume as well.

MDO Registration. Church member priority registration for the Mother's Day Out 2025–2026 school year is Monday, January 27. Contact Whitney Weiner at mdu@fpabr.org or 225.620.0245 for more information.

1 & 2 Timothy Women's Bible Study. Join Women's Ministry as we study Paul's two letters to his friend and protégé Timothy. Our three meeting options begin the week of January 6. For more information visit fpabr.org.

Polar Thang! Registration is available for the annual Confirmation class and middle school retreat to Twin Lakes, MS. Take the plunge and join us January 17–19. Register at fpabr.org.

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 in the classroom. Contact Annette (annette@fpabr.org) for more information.

Jeffrey Marx to Speak at Men's Event on February 4. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jeffrey Marx will be with us to talk about his classic *Season of Life: A Football Star, a Boy, a Journey to Manhood*. Marx is an in-demand speaker and we are fortunate to have him here in Baton Rouge! This is a great event to bring your son, your father, or your friend from work. Dinner and door prizes will be involved. \$20 per person until January 26. Price increases to \$25 on January 27. Register online at fpabr.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.

Give Online. Visit fpabr.org or go to the church app to make your gift online. You may also give through the U.S. mail.

Prayer Time Resumes Next Sunday, January 5. 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.

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers serve to honor a departed loved one or celebrate with thanksgiving cherished people or events. If you would like to donate flowers for a particular Sunday in 2025, please contact Kathy Mullins at 603.4735.

Scripture for Next Week: Matthew 3:3-17
Sanctuary services are video recorded
and livestreamed.
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DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD
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