



ORDER OF WORSHIP



December 31, AD 2023

10.30 am





GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Gerrit Dawson

Prelude

“Gesu Bambino” arranged by Stephen DeCesare

Rachel Reese-Kollmeyer, violin

Steve Gustafson, piano

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

A blessing for the new year from Psalm 144.

Blessed be the LORD, our rock, he is our steadfast love and our fortress,

He is our stronghold and deliverer, our shield and our refuge,

May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown,

May our daughters be like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace;

May our granaries be full, providing all kinds of produce;

May our sheep bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our fields;

May our cattle be heavy with young, suffering no mishap or failure in bearing;

May there be no cry of distress in our streets!

Blessed are the people to whom such blessings fall!

Blessed are the people whose God is the LORD!

***Hymn of Praise**

No. 43 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

***Blessing God**

***Scriptural Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

From the Book of Common Prayer

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

**Standing*

*Assurance of Pardon

*Response

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all-knowing he counts not their sum,
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new every morn,
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

*Greeting and Announcements

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

Offertory

"The Blessing" by Brown, Carnes, Jobe and Furtick

The Lord bless you and keep you, make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you,
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen.
May his favor be upon you and a thousand generations,
And your family and your children and their children.
May his presence go before you and behind you and beside you,
All around you and within you, he is with you.
He is with you in the morning, in the evening, in your coming and your going,
In your weeping and rejoicing, he is for you. Amen.

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

*Hymn of Preparation

No. 347 “Be Still, My Soul”

FINLANDIA

Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Luke 2:21–39

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
In your light alone do we see light.

Sermon

Colton Underwood
“Waiting”



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

***Hymn of Response**

“O Church Arise”

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

Rondeau from *Suite Antique* by John Rutter



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Prayer Requests. We'd love to pray for you. Prayer requests may be sent to prayer@fpcbr.org, through the church app or by filling out a card in the pew rack.

Stay and Pray, Thursday, January 18. Parents, grandparents, volunteers and friends of educators are all invited to a casual time of prayer in Dunham Chapel Thursday, January 18 from 9.05 to 9.30 am. It's a wonderful way to start the new year with confidence in God's plan for our children, families and educators.

Discover First Dinner, January 21. 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).

MDO Registration. Church member priority registration for the Mother's Day Out 2024–2025 school year is Monday, January 29. Contact Whitney Weiner at mdo@fpcbr.org or 225.620.0245 for more information.

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 12–14. Register at 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.

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

FPC App. Sermon video, sermon audio, sermon transcripts, lectures, ESV Bible, news, announcements . . . if it's on the website, it's on the app. Download from your favorite app store by searching FPCBR.

Related Media in the FPC Church App. The FPC church app now automatically feeds related media to the ESV Bible feature. Do you want to dig deeper into Psalm 107? After reading the passage in the Bible feature, click one of the sermons related to Psalm 107. Search FPCBR in your favorite app store to download the app.

Staying in Touch with You. If you've moved, changed your email address or have a new phone number, we'd like to know about it. Help us keep our membership database updated. Please call us with your changes, 225.387.0617.

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, please contact Kathy Mullins at 603.4735.

*Scripture for Next Week: Ephesians 5:1–10
Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.
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