

ORDER of WORSHIP  
January 5, AD 2025  
Epiphany Sunday  
11 am

# EARLY STORIES

# LATE PARABLES





# GATHERING TO PRAISE

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*Assisting Pastor: Gerrit Dawson*

## **Prelude**

IV. *Giga* from Partita No. 2 by J. S. Bach

Rachel Resse-Kollmeyer, violin

Steve Gustafson, organ

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

*From Isaiah 40*

Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
**Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low.**

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,  
**For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”**

Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;  
**Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news;**

Lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah,  
**“Behold your God!”**

## **\*Hymn of Praise**

“We Three Kings”

KINGS OF ORIENT

## **\*Blessing God**

## **\*Scriptural Call to Confession**

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

Holy Father, we have often behaved like sons and daughters who give no thought to pleasing you. We have done what pleased *us*. We are blinded by presumptions. But we have gathered to hear your Word and listen to the voice of the one crying in the wilderness, that our eyes might be opened. Lord Jesus, who has fulfilled all righteousness for us, make your path straight in our hearts. Holy Spirit, who immerses us in Christ, make us to be trees that bear much good fruit. Amen.

## **\*Silent Confession**

## **\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Response**

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, amen.**

**\*Greeting and Announcements**

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

**Offertory**

“Behold the Lamb of God” by Andrew Peterson and Laura Story  
Lauren Honea, soprano

We who walk in darkness deep now see the light of morning.  
The Mighty God, the Prince of Peace, a child to us is born.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away our sin.  
Behold the Lamb of God the life and light of men.  
Behold the Lamb of God who died and rose again.  
Behold the Lamb of God who comes to take away our sin.

Wand'ers in the wilderness, O hear! a voice is crying,  
“Prepare the way! Make straight the path!  
Your King has come to die.”

*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**  
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**\*Hymn of Preparation**

No. 163 “As with Gladness Men of Old”

DIX

## Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

*Matthew 3:3-17*

For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

Darin Travis

“Baptism of Jesus”



## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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### Time of Reflection

### \*Hymn of Response

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

DUKE ST.



## LORD'S SUPPER

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### 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

#### 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

“Bifu (Breeze)” by Somei Satoh



## BENEDICTION

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#### \*Response

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

#### Postlude

Excerpts of *III. Rondo* from Violin Concerto No. 5 by Wolfgang Mozart



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

**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 [fpibr.org](http://fpibr.org) or contact Jaime Carnaggio ([jaimc@fpibr.org](mailto:jaimc@fpibr.org)).

**Youth Group Resumes Tonight!** Join our middle and high school youth groups tonight at the church from 5 to 7 pm.

**MDO Registration.** Church member priority registration for the Mother's Day Out 2025–2026 school year is Monday, January 27. Contact Whitney Weiner at [mdo@fpibr.org](mailto:mdo@fpibr.org) or 225.620.0245 for more information.

**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@fpibr.org](mailto:annette@fpibr.org)) for more information.

**Save the Date: Mission Conference January 24-26.** Over the course of the weekend, we'll have an International Friendship Partners Game Night, a brunch, a dinner, a single 10.30 am worship service then . . . a very special reception for Whitney Alexander's last Sunday before his retirement. Save the date!

**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 [fpibr.org](http://fpibr.org).

**Give Online.** Visit [fpibr.org](http://fpibr.org) or go to the church app to make your gift online. You may also give through the U.S. mail.

**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.

**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.

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*Today's Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Munson by Sarah Anne & Richard Creed and family.*

*Scripture for Next Week: Luke 4:1–15*

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DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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