

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

EARLY STORIES

LATE PARABLES





GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Gerrit Dawson

Welcome

***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!”

***Songs of Praise**

“Behold Our God”

“Christus Victor”

***Blessing God**

***Song of Praise**

“Trinity Song”

***Greeting and Announcements**

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



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Time with God's Word

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

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

Time of Reflection

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



LORD'S SUPPER

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We Are Welcomed to the Table

We Give Thanks for Jesus' Mighty Acts

We Hear the Words Jesus Said at Supper

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We Commune with Jesus

Please bring your prayer requests and offerings forward during communion.

***Song of Response**

“Come Ye Sinners”

“Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death”



BENEDICTION

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***Response**

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



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.

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 or contact Jaime Carnaggio (jaime@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 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) 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!

Prayer Time Resumes Today. 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.

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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