



# GENESIS

STORIES FROM THE START

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
JULY 9, AD 2023  
10.30 AM



# GATHERING TO PRAISE

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*Assisting Pastor: Whitney Alexander*

## **Prelude**

“Grace Flows Down” arranged by Mary McDonald and Larry Shackley

Katherine Tomeny, piano

Steve Gustafson, organ

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

*From 2 Peter 3*

In the last days people will make fun of the truth. They will laugh at it. They will follow their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘return’ God promised? Everything goes on in the same way it has since he first created everything.”

**Dear friends, here is one thing we must not forget. With the Lord, a day is like a thousand years. And a thousand years are like a day.**

The Lord is not slow to keep his promise. Instead, he is patient with you.

**He doesn’t want anyone to be destroyed. Instead, he wants all people to turn away from their sins.**

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar. God will judge the earth and everything done in it. So, what kind of people should we be?

**We should lead holy and godly lives and all the while looking forward to the day of our God.**

We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth. Godliness will live there. All this is in keeping with God’s promise. So, let us grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Glory belongs to him both now and forever. Amen.**

## **\*Hymns and Songs of Praise**

No. 52 “O God Our Help in Ages Past” (vs. 1, 2, 4 & 6)

ST. ANNE

“Bless the Lord, My Soul”

## **\*Blessing God**

## **Infant Baptism**

Ellie Kate Guillory

Parents are AnnaBeth and Kevin Guillory

Sibling is Emmaline Guillory

Sponsoring Elder is Lynn Courtney

## \*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 Kindergarten and younger may go to Children's Church.*

## Offertory

"I Am Not My Own" by Skye Peterson

The One who made the heavens, made my heart and soul,  
Before I drew a breath, I was loved and known.  
I am his creation, the Maker's masterpiece, and all that he designs will be done in me.

My body is a temple of the living God.  
I'll worship in this house that his blood has bought.  
As I bear his image, oh, may I not profane the holiness I hold in this earthly frame.

I belong to the Lord, I am not my own.  
I will honor him for this I know: I belong to the Lord, I am not my own.

And if he has redeemed me, I am not my own.  
The measure of my worth is his love alone.  
He declares my standing, and he declares my state,  
So I will know myself by the name he gave.

I am not my own and now my heart is free.  
O Maker, come and make what you will of me.  
There is nothing broken that you cannot repair,  
So Lord, I leave my life in your loving care.

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

**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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### \*Song of Preparation

“Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone”

### Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

*Genesis 18: 16-33*

Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way. The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.” Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

All Scripture is breathed out by God, and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness.

**So the person of God might be equipped for every good work.**

## **Sermon**

Scott Graham

“Praying for Sodom and Gomorrah”



## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

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### **Time of Reflection**

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

“The Church’s One Foundation” with “Facing a Task Unfinished”

### **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**

“Immortal, Invisible” arranged by Mark Hayes and Marvin Gaspard



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Prayer Requests.** 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.

**Get Your Backpack Today!** We need your help filling 110 kindergarteners' backpacks for the newly forming McKinley Elementary! Deacons will be in the Reception Room to help you "adopt" an empty backpack before and after worship today, July 16 and July 23. Backpacks will be dedicated Sunday, July 30 in worship. Online donations can be made, and more information can be found at [fpibr.org](http://fpibr.org).

**Summer Picnic, July 30.** Please join us for a summer picnic on the Terraced Garden on Sunday, July 30 from 12 pm to 2 pm! Bring a picnic blanket and enjoy fellowship, fun and food catered by Hannah Q Smokehouse! Register online at [fpibr.org](http://fpibr.org). Individuals: \$10. Families with two to four members: \$20. Families with five or more members: \$30.



QR Code

**There's Still Time to Join the Choir!** The month of July is your chance to join the choir! Join us in the choir room at 6.30 pm each Wednesday for an hour of casual, joy-filled rehearsal. No audition. Young and old are welcome. Sing for just one Sunday or for the entire month of July.

**Officer Suggestions for the 2026 Class.** The Officer Nominating Committee nominates elders and deacons by receiving suggested names of members from the congregation, prayerfully preparing a slate and presenting the slate at the annual October congregational meeting for election. Please be in prayer about who you might suggest. Please make your suggestions by July 31. Cards are available in the pew racks as well as online at [fpibr.org](http://fpibr.org).

**Hallowed Be Thy Name Study Has Begun.** You can still join Women's Ministry as it explores God's lesser known, but powerful names found in Scripture and contemplates the ways each name draws us into a unique, personal relationship with him. We meet each Wednesday in July from 6.30 to 8 pm at Amber McConnell's home (4352 Woodside Drive). Fellowship starts at 6.15 pm.

**Combined Worship Continues Each Sunday in July.** Each Sunday in July we will gather and worship together for one 10.30 am service in the Sanctuary. There will be no Sunday school.

**Praying for RYM High School Campers.** Reformed Youth Ministries encourages and challenges students to know Scripture with the hope that they grow closer to God and to each other. Please be in prayer for our high school students headed to the camp July 10-15.

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*Sanctuary Flowers: Today's flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Ellie Kate Guillory's baptism and in memory of her great-grandparents, Florence and Mack Gregorie Sr., and her great-aunt, Nita K. Harris, by Ann K. Gregorie.*

*Scripture for Next Week: Genesis 15: 7-21*

*Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.*

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