

BEHIND THE CURTAIN

The Book of Revelation



ORDER OF WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 24, AD 2024
11 am



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Darin Travis

Prelude

Meditation on “Take My Life and Let It Be” arranged by Evelyn Larter

Rachel Reese-Kollmeyer, violin

Steve Gustafson, piano

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

From Romans 1

God is. God creates. God loves. What can be known about God is plain, because God has shown it to us.

God’s invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.

Yet, although we knew God, we did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, and so we became futile in their thinking, and our foolish hearts were darkened.

Without thanksgiving, without choosing to acknowledge God, we exchange the truth of God for a lie. And we sink into foolishness.

But here we have come to a truth-telling place. Here we look up from the rushing urgency of a self-focused world.

We lift our hearts to worship the Triune God. We give him thanks, and find that everything gets re-ordered with grace and truth.

***Hymn of Praise**

No. 561 “We Gather Together”

KREMSER

***Blessing God**

***Scriptural Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Eternal Triune God, we confess how seldom we look back to understand why we do what we do, or want what we want. We seldom look forward to see how so much of what we prize will be of no importance. We are slaves to the urgent *now* of desire, pride and pressure to conform. We follow shiny trinkets of glamour and miss what matters. We pretend there will be no reckoning. No more! This hour we look to you in repentance and hope, in confession and cries for mercy. Tune us to the eternal truth through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

**Standing*

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response**

CWM RHONDDA

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy pow'rful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.**

***Greeting and Announcements**

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

Minute for Mission

Whitney Alexander, Associate Pastor of Missions

Offertory

“For the Beauty of the Earth” arranged by John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine, to our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n:
Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

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

***Doxology**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

***Prayer of Dedication**



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

***Hymn of Preparation**

No. 58 “This Is My Father’s World”

TERRA BEATA

Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Revelation 18:1-10

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. And he called out with a mighty voice,

“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!
She has become a dwelling place for demons,
a haunt for every unclean spirit,
a haunt for every unclean bird,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.
For all nations have drunk
the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality,
and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her,
and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her
luxurious living.”

Then I heard another voice from heaven saying,

“Come out of her, my people,
lest you take part in her sins,
lest you share in her plagues;
for her sins are heaped high as heaven,
and God has remembered her iniquities.
Pay her back as she herself has paid back others,
and repay her double for her deeds;
mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.
As she glorified herself and lived in luxury,
so give her a like measure of torment and mourning,
since in her heart she says,
‘I sit as a queen,
I am no widow,
and mourning I shall never see.’
For this reason her plagues will come in a single day,
death and mourning and famine,
and she will be burned up with fire;
for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.”

And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say,

“Alas! Alas! You great city,
you mighty city, Babylon!
For in a single hour your judgment has come.”

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy,
And blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it for the time is near.

Sermon

Gerrit Dawson

“In a Single Hour, You Fell”



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

***Hymn of Response**

No. 17 “Ye Servants of God”

HANOVER

Prayers of Thanksgiving



BENEDICTION

***Response**

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

Postlude

“Thanksgiving Medley” arranged by Rich Heffler

Prayer Time: 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.

Chapel and Sanctuary Flowers: Today’s flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of beloved parents Florence & Mack Gregorie, and in honor of dear aunt Nita K. Harris, by Ann K. Gregorie and Nancy Sue Burton.

Scripture for Next Week: Revelation 20:1–15

Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.

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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@fpcbr.org, through the church app or by filling out a card in the pew rack.

Live Nativity, Friday, December 6. Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angels, wise men and shepherds will re-enact Jesus' birth. Join us Friday, December 6 at 5.30 and 6.30 pm in the Terraced Garden.

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day! On Sunday, December 8, the choir, orchestra and dancers will perform "Dancing Day", a Christmas cantata. This celebration of the royal wedding between Jesus and his bride includes original music by Chris Phillips inspired by J. S. Bach and Chris Tomlin. Join us at either the 9 or 11 am service. The Chapel Communion service will not meet. Join us for a special gathering between services in the Reception Room when the children's choir will lead us in carols.

Downtown Pilgrimage December 8. The annual Downtown Pilgrimage is the evening of Sunday, December 8. The Pilgrimage begins at Mt. Zion at 5.30 pm and arrives at FPC at approximately 6.30 pm.

Women's Advent Brunch. Please join us for the Women's Ministry Advent Brunch Saturday, December 14 at 11 am at the home of Tricia Davis. Join us for food, fellowship and a special devotion led by Lindsay Stratman. Registration is available at fpcbr.org. \$10 per person.

Daily Advent Readings Start Next Sunday, December 1. Advent daily readings flyers will be available on Sunday, December 1, the first Sunday of Advent. An email will be sent each Sunday with the week's readings and will also be posted to the website.

Advent Mid-Week Worship. Join us for mid-week Advent worship in Dunham Chapel on Wednesday, December 4, 11 & 18 at noon. Our Scriptural focus will be on Matthew 25 as Jesus gives three memorable teachings on his second coming, a fitting focus for Advent. Join us for a time of quiet joy with our family of faith!

Register by Tuesday for the Prime Time Club Christmas Luncheon. The Prime Time Club invites all 60+ year olds to its Christmas lunch at Mike Anderson's Side Porch on Tuesday, December 10 at 11.30 am. Please visit fpcbr.org to register by this Tuesday. The cost is \$25 per person.

It's Never Too Late! There's still time to rededicate your gifts and talents in reply to God's beautiful grace. Estimate of Giving cards are available in the pews, online at fpcbr.org, or you may email Courtney Hilton (courtney@fpcbr.org).

Christmas Poinsettia Orders. Help decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. The cost is \$35 per plant. Order deadline is Wednesday, December 11. Order forms are at the Connection Center or online (fpcbr.org).

Need a Pastor Over the Holidays? The church offices will be closed Thanksgiving Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29. Please call the church office (387.0617) and press 5 to be connected to the pastor on call.



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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