



ORDER *of* WORSHIP

First Sunday of Advent
November 27, AD 2022
11 am



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Darin Travis

Prelude

Rachel Reese-Kollmeyer, violin

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

Inspired by Ruth

Arise! For the LORD has visited his people and has nourished them with the bread of heaven.

Be with us, LORD, and bless us.

Come and take refuge under the wings of the God of Israel.

Keep us as the apple of your eye. Hide us in the shadow of your wings.

Bless the LORD! For he has not left you without a redeemer.

May his name be renowned all over the world! He is our restorer, comforter, sustainer and redeemer.

***Hymn of Praise**

No. 124 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

***Blessing God**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Candle of Hope will be lit by Anne and Mike O'Quinn.

Scriptural Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Another Christmas season approaches, dear Father. Once again, we are not ready. We feel the pressure of high expectations. We feel the sadness of loved ones no longer near. We feel the busyness that keeps us from being still in your arms. We have promised that this year will be different, but already it seems the same. Oh forgive us, and help us. Lead us this Advent into the quiet of the holy night and the true, deep joy of Christmas, for Jesus' sake, amen.

Silent Confession

**Standing*

Assurance of Pardon

*Response

ANTIOCH

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

*Greeting and Announcements

Children Kindergarten and younger may go to Children's Church.

Offertory

"Naomi's Song" by Christopher Phillips

Doing what seemed right in our own eyes,
Brought us exile and heartache, regret, hard "good-byes."
Will this bitterness be our story?
Our face in the mirror, no longer recognized.

Then we heard good news from the homeland.
In the house of bread, gleaning from your hand.
Seeing grace and love in your eyes.
You said, "Drink if you're thirsty, never thirst again."

From Adam to us, you named a people for yourself;
And took upon yourself a name.
O blest be the LORD, Root of Jesse, our Redeemer
Lift high the name, make known his fame, forever!

Asking you to cover and claim us.
You said, "Yes" and then spread your wings over us,
Wasting not a moment, you claimed your bride.
Promise made, vow fulfilled. Our true love. All our trust.

Though we wandered we were never lost.

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

*Advent Doxology

GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*Prayer of Dedication



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*Hymn of Preparation

No. 141 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Ruth 1: 1-18

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me." Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

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

Gerrit Dawson

"Don't Ask Me to Leave You"



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Hymn of Response

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

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

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 Ray John Forrest by Rachel and John Forrest

Scripture for Next Week: Ruth 2: 5-13

Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer Requests. 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.

Live Nativity This Friday! Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angels, wise men and shepherds will re-enact Jesus' birth. Join us Friday, December 2 at 5.30 and 6.30 pm in the Terraced Garden.

Men's Skeet Shoot! All men are invited to a skeet shoot Saturday, December 3. The cost for those who plan to shoot is \$60 (includes clays); non-shooter cost is \$15. Scan the QR code or visit fpibr.org for details.

A Fond Farewell Next Sunday! All middle and high school students are invited to join us in the Gym from 5 to 7 pm December 4 to celebrate Paula Walker's time with us.

Women's Brunch Celebrating Mary's Magnificat. Please join us for the Women's Ministry Advent Brunch Saturday, December 10, 11 am to 1 pm. Scan the QR code or visit fpibr.org for details. Cost is \$10.

Estimates of Giving. Please remember to make your 2023 Estimate of Giving. Cards are in the pew racks or you may scan the QR code below.

Cantata and Pilgrimage, December 11. *From Lips Celestial: the First Christmas Carol* is an original cantata celebrating the special music heard the night Jesus was born. It will be presented December 11 at 9 and 11 am worship. There will be no 7.45 service and no Sunday school. Selections of the Cantata will also be performed at the Downtown Pilgrimage that night. The Pilgrimage begins at Mt. Zion at 5.30 pm and arrives at FPC at approximately 6.30 pm.

Christmas Offering for City Ministry. Our annual Christmas offering (December 11-25) goes directly to support The Downtown Christian Outreach Center and the daily operations of Gardere Community Christian School. Envelopes will be in the pew racks for check and cash donations, or you may make an offering online at fpibr.org.

Angels Are Here! Please stop by the Connection Center to receive the name of a child whose parent is incarcerated. You can bless them with Angel Tree gifts on behalf of their parent this Christmas. If you have questions, please contact Angel Tree Coordinator, Ryan Castle, at 225.773.4769.

Christmas Poinsettia Orders. All are invited to help decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. The cost is \$35 per plant. Please place your order by Sunday, December 11 by using the order form outside the Chapel or at the Connection Center.

Christmas Bags for Malachi Dads. Items are being collected for Christmas bags to be distributed to the Malachi Dads (prisoners) at Angola Penitentiary. Please consider making a donation and dropping it off at the Connection Center: soap, antiperspirant, toothpaste/toothbrush, shampoo, lotion, body wash, socks or baby powder. Cash donations also accepted.



Pledge QR Code



Skeet Shoot Code



Brunch Code



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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