

BEHIND THE CURTAIN

The Book of Revelation



ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 22, AD 2024
11 am



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Scott Graham

Prelude

Overture from Suite in D by G. F. Handel

Blake Hanna, trumpet

Rachel Reese-Kollmeyer, violin

Kristina Graham, violin

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

From Revelation 5

And the angelic sang a new song to the Lamb, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,

For you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

***Hymn of Praise**

No. 234 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

DIADEMATA

***Blessing God**

***Scriptural Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner. Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, grant me your grace. Lion of Judah, Worthy One, open again the future of my life through your atoning sacrifice. Clear the barriers my sin has created. Restore my joy that I might sing with angels and all creation, “You alone are worthy to receive blessing and honor and power and glory! 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.

Minute for Mission

Dr. Veronica Sanders, McKinley Elementary Principal

Offertory

"Is He Worthy?" by Andrew Peterson

Do you feel the world is broken? We do.
Do you feel the shadows deepen? We do.
But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? We do.
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? We do.

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? We do.
Is all creation groaning? It is.
Is a new creation coming? It is.
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? It is.
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? It is.

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave,
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.
Is he worthy? Is he worthy, of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is he worthy of this? He is.

Does the Father truly love us? He does.
Does the Spirit move among us? He does.
And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those he loves? He does.
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? He does.

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

*Hymn of Preparation

No. 88 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

CRUSADERS' HYMN

Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Revelation 5

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth."

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!"

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

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

"Worthy Is the Lamb!"



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

***Hymn of Response**

No. 231 “Jesus Shall Reign” (vv. 1 & 3, 4)

DUKE STREET

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

“O Worship the King” arranged by James Curnow

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 Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. McKowen II, Mr. and Mrs. Alex C. McKowen Sr, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Woodford, Jolie Thuneman Peel, and Jolie Berry by Jeanie McKowen Thuneman, Wayne McKowen, Ann McKowen Gerald and Allie McKowen.

Scripture for Next Week: Revelation 6

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.

One More Habitat Build Weekend! Building skills are welcome but not necessary to volunteer at our 8th(!) Habitat for Humanity build. Visit fpcbr.org to sign up. You can also help with food by contacting Emily Viguerie (emily@fpcbr.org). Our last build weekend is September 26–28.

DivorceCare® Starts Today. A 13-week support program for those who are separated or divorced begins today at 5 pm in the Library (EB 203). Please contact Laura Shaw to reserve a spot (laura@fpcbr.org).

Men's Brotherhood & BBQ: Real Stories, Real Community. Join us for fellowship and ribs hot off the grill on Thursday, September 26, 6 pm at Calvin Fabré's. Please RSVP to Blake (blake@fpcbr.org).

Communion Training, Next Sunday. Each year, Gerrit offers a Communion training class for children in kindergartners through 5th grade and their parents. Join him in Dunham Chapel at 10.10 am on Sunday, September 29.

Experiential Prayer Next Sunday. We will have several stations set up for active and experiential prayer covering topics such as the upcoming elections, mission opportunities and healing for our city and nation. You can arrive and stay for any length of time you have available. Join us Sunday, September 29 from 6 to 7 pm in Dunham Chapel.

Become a McKinley Elementary Volunteer. Stop by the Connection Center to sign up for ministry opportunities at our adopted school, McKinley Elementary.

"Reclaiming the Heart of Communion" Gerrit's latest article on DesiringGod.org is now live. Printed copies are available at the Connection Center.

For the Young at Heart. Join us for fun & fellowship at the first luncheon of the Prime Time Club, a social group of First Presbyterian Church for those young at heart (AKA 60 and older). We meet on Thursday, October 3 at 11.30 am in the Reception Room. RSVP to Laura (laura@fpcbr.org or 225.387.0617).

Baptism Today. Congratulations to the Vick family. Stephen Randolph Vick III was baptized today in the 7.45 am service.

Loving Our rEcess Families!! Once a month volunteers spend a few hours playing with the children of families affected by disability while parents enjoy a night out. We need prayer for this vulnerable group and hands on volunteers. Our next rEcess is Friday, October 4. Contact Jess Concienne if you would like to participate (jess.concienne@gmail.com or 225.892.3212).

Related Media in the FPC Church App. The FPC church app now automatically feeds related media to the ESV Bible feature. Interested in digging deeper into Revelation 5? After reading the passage in the Bible feature, click one of the sermons related to Revelation 5. Search FPCBR in your favorite app store to download the app.

