

# BEHIND THE CURTAIN

The Book of Revelation



ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 8, AD 2024  
11 am



# GATHERING TO PRAISE

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*Assisting with Worship: Jamy Comeaux*

## **Prelude**

“Morning Has Broken” arranged by Mark Kellner  
Steve Gustafson, organ

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

*From Colossians 1*

Come now and let us give thanks to the Father who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

**The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.**

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

**He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.**

He is reconciling to himself all things and making peace by the blood of his cross.

**Let us continue in the faith. Let us be steadfast in the hope of this good news.**

**And let us give all praise to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen!**

## **\*Hymn of Praise**

No. 87 “May Jesus Christ Be Praised” (vv. 1, 3, 4 & 6)

LAUDES DOMINI

## **\*Blessing God**

## **\*Scriptural Call to Confession**

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

Gracious Lord Jesus, the fire of your love compelled you to come down to us. Your passion for your bride, your church, took you to the cross. The joy in your resurrection lightens all our darkness. Yet we confess that we have not replied with our whole hearts. The flame of our love has dimmed. We are tepid in our praise. We are lukewarm in our worship. We are bland in your mission. Forgive us. Stoke the fire in our souls until it burns bright again. Enflame us with such zeal that the lost can see their way home. Let there be no doubt that we are yours always and forever.

## **\*Silent Confession**

## **\*Assurance of Pardon**

*\*Standing*

**\*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.*

**Offertory**

“The Savior Is Waiting”

The Savior is waiting to enter your heart. Why don't you let him come in?  
There's nothing in this world to keep you apart. What is your answer to him?  
Time after time, he has waited before, and now he is waiting again,  
To see if you're willing to open the door. O, how he wants to come in!

If you'll take one step t'ward the Savior, my friend, you'll find his arms open wide.  
Receive him, and all of your darkness end; within your heart he'll abide.  
Time after time, he has waited before, and now he is waiting again,  
To see if you're willing to open the door. O, how he wants to come in!

*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

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### \*Hymn of Preparation

No. 92 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

BEECHER

### Time with God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

*Revelation 3:14–22*

“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: “The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.

“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

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

“What’s Your Temperature?”



## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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### Time of Reflection

### \*Hymn of Response

No. 204 “Rock of Ages” (vv. 1, 3 & 4)

TOPLADY

## **\*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.**

## **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**

*Tocatta on "And Can It Be" arranged by John Innes*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**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](mailto:prayer@fpcbr.org), through the church app or by filling out a card in the pew rack.

**Family Night @ First Begins Tonight!** Children's Choir and the "Art of Marriage" community group kick off next Sunday. Be sure to visit [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) for details and registration.

**How Do I Parent Confidently?** This question, and many others, will be addressed at "Train Up! Parenting by God's Design" which is a new limited series parenting (and grandparents) class beginning Sunday, September 15 at 10.10 am in Dunham Chapel.

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

**Ladies' Night of Testimony & Fellowship September 19.** Join Women's Ministry on Thursday, September 19 in the home of Chelsea Smith as some of our beloved sisters-in-Christ share the ways the Lord has worked personally and powerfully in their lives. Those sharing are Bonnie Adams, Kate Castle, Lisa Head, Nicolette Shafto and Kaci Treadaway. The price increases from \$15 to \$20 at midnight Sunday, September 15. Please register by Wednesday, September 18 at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org).

**DivorceCare® Starts September 22.** A 13-week support program for those who are separated or divorced begins Sunday, September 22. Meetings are 5 to 7 pm at the church. Space is limited so please contact Laura Shaw soon to reserve a spot ([laura@fpcbr.org](mailto:laura@fpcbr.org)).

**Men's Ministry BBQ, September 26.** Join us for fellowship and ribs hot off the grill on Thursday, September 26, 6 pm at Calvin Fabr s. Please RSVP to Blake Fowler ([blake@fpcbr.org](mailto:blake@fpcbr.org)).

**There's Still Time to Join a Fall Community Group.** Fall community groups began meeting the week of September 3. Contact with Blake Fowler ([blake@fpcbr.org](mailto:blake@fpcbr.org)) to participate.

**Grab Your Work Boots: Habitat for Humanity Build.** Building skills are welcome but not necessary to volunteer at our 8th(!) build. Visit [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) to sign up. You can also help with food by contacting Emily Viguerie ([emily@fpcbr.org](mailto:emily@fpcbr.org)). Build dates are September 12–14, September 26–28.

**Women's Circles Resuming.** Join a Women's Ministry Circle as we study what it means to have a good, godly fear of the Lord: one that is utterly safe, one that moves us to awestruck reverence, one full of wondrous and trembling delight in our Creator and Redeemer. Email Jaime ([jaim@fpcbr.org](mailto:jaim@fpcbr.org)) or visit [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) for a full list of Circle meetings.

**Communion Training, September 29.** Each year, Gerrit offers a Communion training class for elementary-age children. Kindergartners through 5th graders and their parents are invited Sunday, September 29 at 10.10 am in Dunham Chapel.

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*Chapel and Sanctuary Flowers: Today's flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Jerry Johnson by his wife, LaNelle Johnson, and their daughters Debra Matthews, Joy Pennington and Jeri J. Cochran.*

*Scripture for Next Week: Revelation 4  
Sanctuary services are video recorded  
and livestreamed.*



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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