



# GENESIS

STORIES FROM THE START

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
JUNE 18, AD 2023  
11 AM



# GATHERING TO PRAISE

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*Assisting Pastor: Scott Graham*

## **Prelude**

Blake Hanna, trumpet  
Steve Gustafson, piano

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

*From Galatians 3*

This morning we rise in trust that God has called us here.  
**We remember that those who are of faith become the children of Abraham.**

For Abraham believed the God who called him, and it was counted to him as righteousness.

**In Abraham's faith, we see how God justifies us by faith.**

For God preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."

**So then, those who believe are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.**

**In such joyful belief, we rise and worship our Lord!**

## **\*Hymn of Praise**

No. 1 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

HYMN TO JOY

## **\*Blessing God**

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

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

You call. We run. You light a path. We scurry back to darkness. You reach to lift us up and out of ourselves. We pull away, back into the den of self. We are, so very often, faithless. So, we are lonely for you, gracious Father. We are empty, lost and exhausted. But still stubborn, fearful and defiant. Forgive us! Crack through our hard shell and lead us, in the heart, back to you, through Christ who went before us. 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.**

**“To the Fathers” Video Presentation**

**\*Greeting and Announcements**

*Children Kindergarten and younger may go to Children’s Church.*

**Offertory**

“Springs in the Desert” by Arthur B. Jennings Jr.

Say to them that are of a fearful heart:  
Be strong, fear not. Behold, your God will come and save you!

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad,  
And the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.  
For in the wilderness shall waters break out and streams flow in the desert,  
And the parched ground shall become a pool and the thirsty land springs of water.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the way of holiness.  
The redeemed shall walk there,  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return with songs and everlasting joy!

*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

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### \*Hymn of Preparation

No. 51 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

CWM RHONDDA

### Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

*Genesis 12: 1-5*

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan.

*Hebrews 11: 8-10*

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

*Romans 4: 3*

For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."

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

Barry Phillips

"By Faith"



## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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### Time of Reflection

### \*Hymn of Response

No. 279 "Faith of Our Fathers" (vs. 1, 3 & 4)

ST. CATHERINE



## LORD'S SUPPER

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### Sacrament of Communion

#### The Exchange of Love

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!  
**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

#### Communion 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.**

#### Words of Institution

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Communing in Christ  
Prayer of Thanks

*Please come forward to receive communion.*

#### Communion Meditation

“The God of Abraham Praise” arranged by David S. Abramsky



## BENEDICTION

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#### \*Response

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

#### Postlude



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Vacation Bible School Starts Tomorrow!** Please be in prayer for the children attending and the adult volunteers at Jerusalem Marketplace VBS. There's still time to register by visiting [fpcbr.org/vbs](http://fpcbr.org/vbs).

**International Friendship Partners Social.** The June IFP Social is this Friday, June 23 from 6 to 8 pm at the Kozans' home (3565 Cole Drive). Please join us in developing relationships with our international friends.

**Women's Summer Luncheon, June 29.** The Women's Ministry "So, I've Got a Question . . . Counseling Edition" summer luncheon is Thursday, June 29 at 11 am. Join us for a time of fellowship and thoughtful discussion led by Sherry Kadair, Director of the Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center, along with Kaci Treadaway, Dr. John Otzenberger, Joel Gilbert and Stacy House. Details and registration are online at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org).

**Combined Services 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. All three regular services resume Sunday, August 6. Gerrit's sermon for July 2 will be, "Message to American Christians: Live Like a Narnian!"

**Attention Music Lovers:** Have you ever wondered what it would be like to sing in the choir at First Presbyterian? How about the opportunity to try it without any obligation or long-term commitment? The month of July is your chance! Beginning Wednesday, June 28, join us in the choir room at 6.30 pm 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.

**Hallowed Be Thy Name: Women's July Bible Study.** Join Women's Ministry this summer as we explore God's lesser known, but powerful names found in Scripture and contemplate the ways in which each name draws us into a unique, personal relationship with him. We will 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.

**"Pack a Backpack" for McKinley Kindergartners.** We need your help to fill 110 kindergartners' backpacks for the newly forming McKinley Elementary! Before and after our 10.30 am services July, 9, 16 and 23, deacons will be in the Reception Room to help you "adopt" an empty backpack to take home and fill. More information is at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org).

**S.T.A.R.S. Sports Camp Needs Volunteers.** July 5-7 are the dates of the annual S.T.A.R.S. soccer camp with Abounding Love Ministries. Consider volunteering to coach the children and share the gospel with Baton Rouge inner city kids. Contact Whitney Alexander to volunteer (225.810.2607).

**Officer Nominations 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 [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org).

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*Chapel and Sanctuary Flowers: Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Lindley Spaht Dodson on the occasion of her 46th birthday, June 30, by Susan & Frederic Billings.*

*Scripture for Next Week: Genesis 16: 1-14  
Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.  
All songs used by permission:*

