

ORDER of WORSHIP
February 2, AD 2025
11 am

EARLY STORIES

LATE PARABLES





GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Darin Travis

Prelude

“Immortal, Invisible” arranged by Don Wyrzten
Steve Gustafson, organ

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

Adapted from Hosea 11 and Jeremiah 31

Hear our gracious Father speak of his wandering children:

When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.

**But the more we were called,
the more we went away;
We are bent on turning from God!**

We deserved to be judged and rejected.
God would be just to cut us off. Yet he spoke again,

**“How can I give you up, O my people?
How can I hand you over to your own devices?
My heart moves within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.
for I am God and not a man,
and I will not come in wrath.”**

There is hope for your future,
declares the LORD,
and your children shall come back to their own country.

**His love will lead us home!
His love has led us here!
To give praise and thanks to our God of mercy.**

***Hymn of Praise**

No. 25 “Immortal, Invisible”

ST. DENIO

***Blessing God**

***Scriptural Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Attributed to Aquinas

Almighty and ever-loving Father, I approach the sacrament of your only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I come sick to the doctor of life, unclean to the fountain of mercy, blind to the radiance of eternal light, poor and needy to the God of heaven and earth. Father, in your great generosity, heal my sickness, wash away my defilement, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty and clothe my nakedness. Feed me from your open hand today. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response**

GREATOREX

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all-knowing he counts not their sum,
Thrown into the sea without bottom or shore,
Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more.

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn,
Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more.

***Greeting and Announcements**

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

Offertory

"O Love" by Elaine Hagenberg

O love, that will not let me go,
O love, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O joy, that seeks me through the pain,
O I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

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. 202 "Amazing Grace" (vv. 1-3 & 5)

AMAZING GRACE

Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Luke 15:1-2, 11-24

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate."

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

"What Does Your God Look Like?"



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Hymn of Response

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" (vv. 1, 3, 4 & 5)

ST. COLUMBA



LORD'S SUPPER

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

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 Prodigal Son" by James Biery



BENEDICTION

*Response

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

Postlude

"God of Grace" arranged by Paul Manz

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.

Scripture for Next Week: Luke 15:25–32
Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.
CCLI license #207235



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blood Drive Today. Stop by the LifeShare blood mobile in the Convention St. parking lot today to give the gift of life. Hours are 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Discover First Dinner Today from 4 to 7pm. This is an opportunity for you, in a smaller setting, to learn more about how you can be part of our mission and ministry. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, contact Emily Viguerie (emily@fpcbr.org).

Jeffrey Marx to Speak at Men's Event on Tuesday at 6 pm. Pulitzer Prize winning author Jeffrey Marx will be at First Presbyterian to talk about his classic *Season of Life: A Football Star, a Boy, a Journey to Manhood*. Dinner and door prizes will be involved. \$25 per person. Register online at fpcbr.org or scan the code.



Seniors Sunday School with Gerrit. Gerrit is holding his world-famous high school seniors class in his office each Sunday in February. Join him at 10.10 am.

Youth Super Bowl Party Next Sunday. Youth Ministry invites all middle and high students to a Super Bowl party Sunday, February 9 at 5 pm until halftime at Ryn and John Jones' (2065 Ferndale Avenue). We hope to see you there!

Prime Time February Luncheon. If you're over the age of 60, you're invited to FPC Prime Times Club luncheon on Thursday, February 20 from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm in the Reception Room. Register online (fpcbr.org), in person February 2 and 9, or call Maureen Rucci at 225.933.5813. Deadline for registration is February 16.

Subscribe to Daily Lent Emails and Podcast. This year's Lent guide, *Golden Threads: Tracing the Tapestry of Scripture*, includes a published book, daily emails and a daily podcast. Visit the Resources tab at fpcbr.org to subscribe to the emails. Lent guides will be distributed in worship on Sunday, February 23 and March 2.

Lent Community Groups Forming Now. Community Groups for *Golden Threads: Tracing the Tapestry of Scripture* are forming now. Contact Blake Fowler to be a member or leader of a group (blake@fpcbr.org). Groups begin meeting the week of March 5.

Loving Our rEcess Families! On Friday, February 7, volunteers will spend a few hours playing with children of families affected by disability while parents enjoy a night out. Contact Jess Concienne if you would like to participate in monthly rEcess (jess.concienne@gmail.com or 225.892.3212).

Accessing the Church Portals. FPC has two safe and secure sites to help you manage and view church membership data (Member Portal) as well as make changes to your bank or credit card information or your recurring gift schedule (Online Giving Portal). Click the link at the top right corner of the church homepage to set up your portal credentials. Contact Laura Shaw (laura@fpcbr.org) if you have questions about setting up your account.

Gerrit's Latest Article on Desiring God. "Is It Good That You Exist?" is Gerrit's recent article for desiringgod.org based on his Christmas Eve sermon. Copies available at the Connection Center.

Lost and Found Clean Out. All unclaimed items at Lost and Found in the Sanctuary Building will be "shared" with the Purple Cow at the end of February.



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

763 North Boulevard | Baton Rouge, LA 70802 | 225.387.0617 | fpcbr.org