

ORDER of WORSHIP
February 2, AD 2025
9 am

EARLY STORIES

LATE PARABLES





GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Colton Underwood

Welcome

*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.**

*Songs of Praise

“His Mercy Is More”

“Your Love Awakens Me”

*Blessing God

*Song of Praise

“Goodness of God”

*Greeting and Announcements

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



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Time with God’s Word

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

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

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



LORD'S SUPPER

We Are Welcomed to the Table

We Give Thanks for Jesus' Mighty Acts

We Hear the Words Jesus Said at Supper

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We Commune with Jesus

Please bring your prayer requests and offerings forward during communion.

***Songs of Response**

"It Is Finished"

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"



BENEDICTION

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***Response**

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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 7 pm. If you are interested in learning more about our mission and ministry, contact Emily (emily@fpabr.org) to attend.

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 fpabr.org or scan the code.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Scripture for Next Week: Luke 15:25-32
Sanctuary services are video recorded
and livestreamed.
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DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD
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