

ORDER of WORSHIP
February 9, AD 2025
11 am

EARLY STORIES

LATE PARABLES





GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting with Worship: Jamy Comeaux

Prelude

Victor Drescher, clarinet

Steve Gustafson, piano

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

From Psalm 16

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from you."

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;

You hold my lot.

The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

Indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;

In the night also my heart instructs me.

I have set the LORD always before me;

Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

My flesh also dwells secure.

You make known to me the path of life;

In your presence there is fullness of joy;

At your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

***Hymn of Praise**

No. 560 "For the Beauty of the Earth" (vv. 1-3 & 5)

DIX

***Blessing God**

***Scriptural Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Welcoming and generous Father, I confess that I have taken your bountiful love for granted. Such ingratitude has hollowed out my joy. Envy has replaced it. I want what another has even as I do not give thanks for all you have given me. I have been overly concerned with being noticed for what I do. That has stolen my celebration of what others do. I have resented your grace in them. I have declined to enter the party where sinners dance over forgiveness. I'd rather be right than merciful. I'd rather stay outside in my own dark than laugh in the light of your mercy. Forgive me! It's lonely out here. Please invite me in again, and I will come!

***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.

Offertory

"Why So Troubled, O My Heart?" J. S. Bach
arranged by Katherine K. Davis

Why so troubled, O my heart?
Why with doubting care cast down?
Think'st thou unregarded art?
Fearing God doth on thee frown?

Be content with what he sends:
Loving him, thy troubled ends.

God hath nought but love for thee,
Ever planning for thy good.
What is meet he gives to thee,
What is ill he will withhold.

Should misfortune weave a spell,
God's in heav'n and all is well!

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. 61 “Lavish Love, Abundant Beauty”

HYFRYDOL

Time with God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Luke 15:25–32

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

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

“This Party Is for You”



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Hymn of Response

No. 292 “God of Grace and God of Glory” (vv. 1, 3 & 4)

CWM RHONDDA

***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



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.

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

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

Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler: Women's Social. Women's Ministry is hosting its next social for women in their 20s and 30s on Thursday, February 20 at Morgan Shirley's home (541 Woodgate Blvd.) from 6 to 8 pm. Please RSVP to Jaime Carnaggio (jaimc@fpcbr.org).

High School Bonfire. All high school students are invited to a bonfire on Friday, February 21 from 6 to 9 pm at Amelia and Jim Wood's home (15721 Philemon Thomas Drive).

GriefShare® Group Starting February 23. A new GriefShare® group will begin on Sunday, February 23 from 4 to 6 pm. Please let Scott Graham or Laura Shaw know if you are interested in participating (225.387.0617).

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.

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.

Need a Pastor After Hours? Would you like to reach a pastor after hours? Please call the church office (387.0617) and press 5 to be connected to the pastor on call.

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 James Howard and Emogene S. Elliott by their family, Dr. and Mrs. Louis Cenac (Elizabeth Elliott) and Dr. Clifton O. Bingham III.

Scripture for Next Week: Luke 16:1-13
Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.
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