

ORDER of WORSHIP
March 2, AD 2025
11 am

EARLY STORIES

LATE PARABLES





GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Darin Travis

Prelude

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” arranged by Michael Burkhardt
Steve Gustafson, organ

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

From Psalm 145

Let us extol our God and King and bless his name forever and ever.
Every day we will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.
The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.
The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. You, O LORD,
are righteous in all your ways and kind in all your works.
Praise the Lord! Bless his holy name forever and ever!

***Hymn of Praise**

No. 10 “O Worship the King”

LYONS

***Blessing God**

***Scriptural Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord, you have shown yourself to be open-handed and benevolent towards us. The currency of your kingdom is undeserved generosity. But we have forgotten ourselves and presumed to scold you for being generous. We have sullenly grumbled because we thought we wanted fairness instead of grace. Forgive us for our ignorance. Pardon our rudeness. Cause us to celebrate your charity. Teach us to love the truth that the first shall be last and the last first. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response**

BUNESSAN

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.**

***Greeting and Announcements**

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

Offertory

"Love Bade Me Welcome" from *Five Mystical Songs* by Ralph Vaughn Williams
Jesse Kneisler, baritone

Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back, guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack from my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning, if I lack'd anything.

"A guest," I answered, "worthy to be here."

Love said, "You shall be he."

"I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear, I cannot look on thee."

Love took my hand, and smiling did reply, "Who made the eyes but I?"

"Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame go where it doth deserve."

"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?"

"My dear, then I will serve."

"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat;"

So I did sit and eat.

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

*Hymn of Preparation

No. 345 “Blessed Assurance”

ASSURANCE

Time with God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Matthew 19:30–20:16

But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

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

Scott Graham

“Jesus’ Eye Exam”



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Hymn of Response

No. 276 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” (vv. 1–3)

REGENT SQUARE



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

Chorale Improvisation No. 54 & 55, op. 65 by Sigfrid Karg-Elert



BENEDICTION

*Response

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

Postlude

Toccata on "And Can It Be?" arranged by John Innes

Chapel and Sanctuary Flowers: Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in the loving memory of Linda & Wayne Barker's parents, Wayne & Helen Barker, and Christine & Sam Orwin, as well as Wayne's sister, Kitty Barker.

*Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.
CCLI license #207235*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grab a Lent Guide! This year's Lent guide, *Golden Threads: Tracing the Tapestry of Scripture*, is now available. Be sure to grab a copy for you and for a friend.

Ash Wednesday Noon Service, March 5. The season of Lent begins with a traditional service at noon in the Sanctuary followed by lunch in the Reception Room. Lunch is free but we do need you to please RSVP online at fpcbr.org. Wednesday noon services will continue throughout Lent in Dunham Chapel without lunch.



Podcast *Golden Threads*! The daily podcast is a great way to get a fresh perspective on your reading and prayers this Lent. If you use Apple Music or Spotify, simply search for Golden Threads in podcasts and subscribe. Similarly, on YouTube, search First Presbyterian Baton Rouge and hit subscribe. Your podcasts will be there every morning starting March 9. The trailer is live right now.

Lent Community Groups Begin Next Week: Sign Up Today! Community Groups for *Golden Threads* are forming now. Contact Blake Fowler to be a member or leader of a group (blake@fpcbr.org).

Colombia Mission Trip Informational Meeting. The Colombia trip dates are July 19-24. All interested in learning more are invited to attend an informational meeting at 10.15 am in the Chapel on Sunday, March 9.

New Members, Strategic Plans and Pastoral Search News. The session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, March 16 at 10.10 in the Sanctuary. We'll receive new members, elect at-large members to the nominating committee, hear the 2025 budget, receive a report from the pastoral search team and more! There will be no adult Sunday school classes that day.

Created for Connection Marriage Seminar, March 21–23. Fight less and love more! Dee and Pete Adams are leading a Created for Connection marriage seminar Friday, March 21, 22 and 23 at Como Retreat Center in St. Francisville. Past participants describe the weekend as enlightening, encouraging, revealing, hopeful, powerful, safe, loving and renewing. Visit c4cbr.com for more information.

Women's Spring Picnic, March 22. Join us at our annual Women's Ministry Spring Picnic where we will enjoy a sweet time of fellowship, prayer, and picnic lunch. Come and be blessed by women of all ages and stages, as we seek to tighten the bonds of our union in Christ. Details and registration at fpcbr.org.

TrainUp Parenting Resources. Thanks to a generous benefactor, our fall parenting TrainUp series is now available on our "Sermons and Lectures" webpage. For those who prefer, flashdrives of the video series are also at the Connection Center. Please share them with those who may be interested.

Loving Our rEcess Families on March 7! Once a month volunteers spend a few hours playing with the 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).



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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