

ORDER of WORSHIP

March 2, AD 2025

9 am

# EARLY STORIES

## LATE PARABLES





## GATHERING TO PRAISE

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*Assisting Pastor: Colton Underwood*

### Welcome

### \*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!**

### \*Songs of Praise

“Oh, the Mighty Hand”

“Behold Your God”

### \*Blessing God

### \*Song of Praise

“Bless the Lord, My Soul”

## \*Greeting and Announcements

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



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### Time with God's Word

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

*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

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### **Time of Reflection**

### **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**



## LORD'S SUPPER

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### **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.*



## BENEDICTION

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### \*Songs of Response

“All Must Be Well”

“I Set My Hope on Jesus”

### \*Response

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**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](http://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](mailto: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.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:jess.concienne@gmail.com) or 225.892.3212).

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*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 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.  
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DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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