

GOLDEN THREADS

TRACING THE TAPESTRY OF SCRIPTURE



ORDER *of* WORSHIP

March 9, AD 2025 | 11 am

First Sunday of Lent



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting with Worship: Daniel Croskrey

Prelude

“Trompette” by Richard Proulx
Steve Gustafson, organ

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

From Psalm 19 & Psalm 8

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
**Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.**

O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
**What is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?**

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.
So, on behalf of all creation, we voice your praise this day.

***Hymn of Praise**

No. 87 “May Jesus Christ Be Praised” (vv. 1, 4–6)

LAUDES DOMINI

***Blessing God**

***Scriptural Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, creator of all things, we thank you that you have formed us in your image, and filled us by your Spirit with the breath of life. We confess that too often we have failed to look outwards and upwards to you. We have pretended that we belong to no one but ourselves. We have thought our worth depends on our production. We have despaired of finding a path of redemption for our messes. Forgive us. This day, our eyes are on you. We lean wholly on Jesus who died and rose to give us forgiveness and life.

***Silent Confession**

*Assurance of Pardon

*Response

TERRA BEATA

**This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav'n be one.**

*Greeting and Announcements

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

Offertory

"Who Is the One We Love the Most" by Jaroslav J. Vajda and Carl Schalk

Who is the one we love the most, the one who has our total trust?
Something or someone is our god, whose will is willingly obeyed,
To whom we give the years we live: let that be you, our God, our Lord!

Count ev'ry heartbeat, ev'ry breath, trace ev'ry step from birth to death,
Track ev'ry second to its source, each drop of blood, each blade of grass,
The rising sun, and ev'ry one: let that be you, our God, our Lord!

Preserve us from all other gods, all damned, deceitful, loveless frauds;
Compare them ruthlessly to you, the only One,
Eternal true Creator of all life and love: you are that one, our God, our Lord!

A love no other god has shown, you Son upon a cross makes known.
How shall we worship such a God with more than words and passing nod,
If not with whole heart, mind, and soul, like yours for us, our God, our Lord!

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. 92 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

BEECHER

Time with God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Genesis 2:7

... then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Isaiah 43:1

But now thus says the LORD.
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.”

John 1:3, 14a

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us . . .

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Revelation 21:5a

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

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

“Golden Threads, Part 1: From the Beginning to the End, God Creates”



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Hymn of Response

No. 117 "We Come, O Christ, to You" (vv. 1, 3 & 4)

DARWALL

*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

*Response

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

Postlude

Allegro op. 6, no. 2 by Arcangelo Corelli



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@fpabr.org, through the church app or by filling out a card in the pew rack.

Congregational Meeting Next Sunday: New Members, Strategic Plans and Pastoral Search News. The session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, March 16 at 10.10 am 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.

Mirabelle, A One-Act Opera by Terry Byars Next Weekend! Join us on Saturday, March 15 at 7.30 pm or Sunday, March 16 at 3 pm in the Sanctuary for this free opera about redemption. Mirabelle and Martina are shipwrecked in a cave awaiting rescue. What is their fate? Cast members include Grayce Reynolds, Jennifer Ellis, Ray Gaspard, Lauren Honea and Dedrian Hogan.

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 fpabr.org.



Spring Picnic

Prime Time Club March Luncheon. If you're over the age of 60, you're invited to FPC Prime Time Club lunch at Café Americain and visit to the Botanic Gardens on Monday, March 24. Register online (fpabr.org), or in person today in the Reception Room. Deadline for registration is March 18.

Men's Skeet Shoot, March 29. This year's skeet shoot will be back in Saint Francisville on Saturday, March 29. Shooters and non-shooters are welcome. Visit fpabr.org for details and registration.



Skeet Shoot

Grab a Lent Guide! Printed copies of this year's Lent guide, *Golden Threads: Tracing the Tapestry of Scripture*, are available in the pews and entrances to both the Sanctuary and Chapel. Be sure to grab a copy for you and for a friend.

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.

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 21–23 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.

Chapel and Sanctuary Flowers: Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bart Bennett by Ruth Anne, Claire, Adriane, and Sarah.

Scripture for Next Week: Isaiah 53:7–12
Sanctuary services are video recorded
and livestreamed.
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