



## ORDER *of* WORSHIP

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November 30, AD 2025  
First Sunday of Advent  
11 am



# GATHERING TO PRAISE

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*Assisting with Worship: Jamy Comeaux*

## **Prelude**

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” arranged by Paul Manz

Steve Gustafson, organ

## **\*Welcome and Call to Worship**

*From the Psalms*

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

You have said, “Seek my face.”

**My heart says to you, “Your face, LORD, do I seek.”**

Hide not your face from me. Lest I be like those who go down to the pit.

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine that we may be saved.**

**Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!**

For those who look to you are radiant;

Their faces will never be ashamed.

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine that we may be saved.**

## **\*Hymn of Praise**

No. 123 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

## **\*Blessing God**

## **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

The Candle of Hope will be lit by Margaret and Ed Holton.

## **Scriptural Call to Confession**

## **Prayer of Confession**

Like our first parents, our eyes have been opened, our disobedience known, and we have hidden ourselves from your face, O God. We are too ashamed to lift up our faces to you because our sins are higher than our heads. But you say, “Seek my face!” You compel us to behold the face of the newborn baby. We see you gazing at us through his eyes. We are undone! We are remade! And we would hide our faces from you no more. Glory to you in the highest. Amen.

**Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Response**

God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;  
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.

**\*Greeting and Announcements**

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

**Offertory**

"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" harmonized by J. S. Bach

Breath forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning.  
O shepherds shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning:  
This Child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,  
The pow'r of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, to herald our salvation;  
He stoops to earth the God of might, our hope and expectation.  
He comes in human flesh to dwell, our God with us, Immanuel,  
The night of darkness ending, our fallen race befriending.

*Please place your prayer requests and offerings in the plate as it is passed.*

**\*Advent Doxology**

GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### \*Hymn of Preparation

No. 128 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

CAROL

### Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

*Genesis 4:9–16*

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

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

"I Miss Your Face!"



## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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### Time of Reflection

#### \*Hymn of Response

No. 141 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vv. 1, 3 & 4)

ST. LOUIS

### 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

“The King Shall Come” arranged by Michael Burkhardt



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Advent Mid-Week Worship This Wednesday.** Plan to join us for mid-week Advent worship in Dunham Chapel on Wednesday, December 3, 10 and 17 at noon.

**Live Nativity Is This Friday!** Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angels, wise men and shepherds will re-enact Jesus' birth. Show times are 5.30 and 6.30 pm in the Terraced Garden.

**Prime Time Club December Luncheon.** The Prime Time Club (over 60) Christmas luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 11 at Boudreaux's from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm. The cost of the luncheon is \$30 per person. Register online ([fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) or the Church Center app) or in the Reception Room. Registration ends Wednesday, December 3.

**Caroling to Our Homebound.** Our Deacons are putting together caroling teams to visit those in need of some Christmas cheer on Thursday, December 11 from 6.30 to 8 pm and Saturday, December 13 from 4 to 5.30 pm. Festive apparel encouraged! Contact Laura Shaw ([laura@fpcbr.org](mailto:laura@fpcbr.org)) if interested.

**Women's Advent Brunch.** Please join us for the Women's Ministry Advent Brunch Saturday, December 13 at 11 am at the home of Jill Garner. Sharon Gibson, Celia Harpe, Virginia Phillips, and Jean Rohloff will lead us in reflecting on the four titles of our king: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace \$10 per person. Register online ([fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) or the Church Center app).



**"Face to Face: An Advent Contemplation"** On December 14 at 9 and 11 am, the Worship Ministry will present a musical contemplation about our longing to see the face of God. There will be no 7.45 am service.

**Downtown Pilgrimage, December 14.** The annual Downtown Pilgrimage is the evening of Sunday, December 14. The Pilgrimage begins at Mt. Zion at 5.30 pm and arrives at FPC at approximately 6.30 pm.

**It's Not Too Late!** There's still time to rededicate your gifts and talents in reply to God's beautiful grace. Estimate of Giving cards are available in the pews, online ([fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) or Church Center app), or you may email Courtney Hilton ([courtney@fpcbr.org](mailto:courtney@fpcbr.org)).



**Advent Poinsettia Donations.** Help decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary by purchasing a white poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. The cost is \$35 per plant. Please place your order by Friday, December 12. Visit the Connection Center or online ([fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org)). Poinsettias may be taken home after the 6 pm Christmas Eve service.



**Christmas Bags for Malachi Dads.** Items are being collected for Christmas bags to be distributed to the Malachi Dads (prisoners) at Hunt Penitentiary. Please drop off donations at the Connection Center: Irish Spring soap, anti-perspirant, toothpaste/toothbrush, shampoo, lotion, body wash, white socks or baby powder. Cash donations also accepted.

*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.*

Scripture for Next Week:  
Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 27:7-9  
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Sanctuary services are recorded and  
livestreamed.

