



ORDER *of* WORSHIP

April 26, AD 2026
10.30 am



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude

Suite in D major by G. F. Handel

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

From Psalm 33

Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

***Songs of Praise**

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

“Goodness of God”

***Blessing God**

Offertory

“Knowing You” by Graham Kendrick

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
All this world reveres, and wars to own.
All I once thought gain, I have counted loss,
Spent and worthless now, compared to this:

Knowing you, Jesus,
Knowing you. There is no greater thing.
You're my all, you're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love you, Lord.

Now my heart's desire is to know you more,
To be found in you, and known as yours,
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All-surpassing gift of righteousness.

Oh, to know the power of your risen life,
And to know you in your sufferings.
To become like you in your death, my Lord,
So with you to live and never die.

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

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



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*Hymn of Preparation

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

Time with God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

“You Love Him”



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

Congregational Meeting

Whereas, Pastor Gerrit Dawson has provided skilled and Scriptural preaching, compassionate counseling, visitation and mentoring, and wise administrative guidance tirelessly for the past twenty-two years;

Whereas, his courageous leadership, along with the First Presbyterian Church Baton Rouge Session, guided the church into our Evangelical Presbyterian Church denominational home;

Whereas, Pastor Gerrit has provided rich and meaningful Lenten devotional guides, leadership at the national level for the EPC on timely and challenging matters, and writings on spiritual formation that have guided and blessed the Church across denominational lines;

Whereas, First Presbyterian Church has experienced significant spiritual and numerical growth of all generations, and has become increasingly generous and creative in our mission endeavors both locally and globally, fulfilling our mission to grow deeper in Christ and go further into the world;

Resolved, that the congregation of First Presbyterian Church Baton Rouge gratefully bestows upon the Reverend Doctor Gerrit Scott Dawson the title of *Pastor Emeritus*.

A Celebration of the Ministry of Gerrit Dawson

***Song of Response**

“The Blessing”



BENEDICTION

*Response

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

Postlude

THE MUSICIANS:

Borislava Ilcheva, violin
Aaron Farrell, violin
Grant Bedillion, viola
Joy Bedillion, cello
Blake Hanna, trumpet
Steve Gustafson, organ and piano
Bobby Struppeck, keys
Bill McDonald, acoustic guitar
Charles Myer, electric guitar
Joey Carnaggio, electric bass
Elijah Williams, percussion



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 or by filling out a card in the pew rack.

Reception after Worship. Come celebrate Gerrit's 22 year ministry with First Presbyterian at a special reception after worship today. We'll share memories, and express our gratitude for his leadership, preaching, and care for our church family. We'll gather in the Terraced Garden, the Courtyard and the Gym. There is no Sunday school today.

Senior Blessing Tonight! Youth Ministry is having a dinner this evening at 5 pm to celebrate, encourage, and pray over our high school seniors. All seniors and their parents are invited to attend. Contact Jessica for more details (jessica@fpcbr.org).

Confirmation Celebration Next Sunday, May 3. Our 6th grade students prepare all year to make their public profession of faith at a special worship service. On Sunday, May 3 at 4 pm in the Sanctuary, they will profess Christ and be confirmed as active members of our church. Come support them at this celebratory service! A reception follows.

Volunteer for the Returning Hearts Celebration, May 16. Returning Hearts is a fun and Spirit-filled annual event where children and their Angola inmate fathers can begin to allow God's healing and reconciliation in their lives. Volunteers are needed. Visit fpcbr.org.

Ways to Give. We are grateful you choose to be a part of God's economy with us. Gifts to First Presbyterian may be made online (fpcbr.org or Church Center) or via US Mail (763 North Blvd., 70802).

Vacation Bible School Camper and Volunteer Registration. Jerusalem Marketplace VBS is back! Dates are Monday, June 8 through Thursday, June 11. Visit fpcbr.org for volunteer and camper details.

Get to Know the New Church Center App. Have you discovered the new FPC Church Center app? Scan the code to get started. You'll find better ways to get connected to your church community: chat with your group, check in your children, sign up for events all in one spot. You can even update your photo, your address, and opt-in to text messaging. Check it out and get connected.



Smiles Foundation Mission Trip. On June 17–27 a team is headed to The Smiles Foundation in Romania. Try a new adventure. Learn about a new culture. Show God's love in action! Join us for a week of service. Contact Carol Lazar (clazar@cox.net) for information.

Chapel and Sanctuary Flowers: Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Cherry & Gene Owen by Eleanor Owen Kerr and Patrick Kerr.

Scripture for Next Week: Exodus 3:1–15

Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.

CCLI license #207235



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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