



WE ARE A  
*Church*  
HERE TO SERVE

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 | 8:15 AM



FPC HOUSTON

HERE. TO SERVE

# GATHERING

## WORDS OF PREPARATION

*Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place. Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort. Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed. Here may the aged find consolation and the young be inspired; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## PRELUDE | *Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace*

John Rutter

## SONG OF GATHERING | *Psalm 95: Come Worship the Lord*

John. M. Talbot

*Refrain:*

Come wor-ship the Lord, for we are His peo-ple, the  
flock that He shep-herds. Al-le-lu-ia.

Come, let us sing to the Lord, and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.

Let us come with thanksgiving, and sing joyful songs to the Lord. *Refrain:*

The Lord is God, the mighty God, the great King over all other gods.

He holds in His hands the depths of the earth and the highest mountains as well.

He made the sea, it belongs now to Him. The dry land, too was formed by His hand. *Refrain:*

Come, let us bow down and worship, bending the knee before the Lord, our Maker.

For we are His people, we are the flock that He shepherds. *Refrain:*

## • WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Jon Crantz

Leader: O Lord, open my lips,

**People: And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Leader: God of glory, God of grace, before whose face our vision fails, help us to sing your praise gladly, and to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

• GATHERING HYMN | *All My Hope on God is Founded*

MICHAEL



1. All my hope on God is found - ed; he doth still my trust re - new, me through  
 2. Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be - tray our trust; though with  
 3. *God's great good - ness e'er en - dur - eth, deep his wis - dom, pass - ing thought: splen - dor,*  
 4. Dai - ly doth th'al - might - y Giv - er boun - teous gifts on us be - stow; his de -  
 5. Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of praise be done, high a -



change and chance he guid - eth, on - ly good and on - ly true. God un -  
 care and toil we build them, tow'r and tem - ple fall to dust. But God's  
*light and life at - tend him, beau - ty spring - eth out of naught. Ev - er -*  
 sire our soul de - light - eth, pleas - ure leads us where we go. Love doth  
 bove all prais - es prais - ing for the gift of Christ, his Son. Christ doth



known, he a - lone calls my heart to be his own.  
 pow'r, hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.  
*more from his store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.*  
 stand at his hand; joy doth wait on his com - mand.  
 call one and all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

• GATHERING PRAYER

God of all faithfulness, you have opened the gate of mercy for your people and are always ready to welcome those who turn to you. Look on us in your compassion, that we may gladly respond to your love and faithfully walk in your way through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE | *Trisagion*

Fernando Ortega



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and might - y,



Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jon Crantz

Leader: Seeing that we have a great High Priest who has entered the inmost heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us therefore approach the throne of grace with fullest confidence, that we may receive mercy for our failures and grace to help in the hour of need. In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.

—based on Hebrews 4:14, 16

### *Silent Confession*

Leader: Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you.

**All: You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.**

Leader: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are sorry for all we have done to displease you.

**All: Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

### *Assurance of Pardon*

Leader: “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” —John 3:16–17, NRSV

## • PASSING OF THE PEACE

Jim Birchfield

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

## INTRODUCTION OF STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Jon Crantz

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT | [Ministry Update: Project Flourish](#)

Lyndsey Knight & Scott Key

## THE WORD

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### ANTHEM | [An Offering](#)

Dan Forrest

O Christ, Who spared not any cost, nor any grace withheld, but poured forth Your redeeming blood in love unparalleled; What would You have me offer, Lord? What must I count as loss that I may taste the fellowship that brings me near the cross? Why should I cling to gifts You give? Why grasp in foolish pride what You who gave Yourself for me now bid me lay aside? To know you is my highest gain, worth any sacrifice, a treasure worthy to possess at any earthly price. Yet if behind my open hands, my heart shrinks from the cost, teach me that nothing offered You is ever truly lost. A hundred-fold reward awaits in one glimpse of Your face, my sacrifice forgotten in the riches of Your grace.

### MESSAGE | [Seek First the Kingdom \(Matthew 6:19–34\)](#)

Jim Birchfield

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## SONG OF RESPONSE | *Seek First*

Joel Rhodes-Karahadian

*Seek first, Seek first. Seek first the Kingdom of God*

Why do you worry about the things your life requires?  
All these things that you seek, Your Father knows that you need

*So, seek first, Seek first. Seek first the Kingdom of God*  
*Seek first, Seek first. Seek first the Kingdom of God*

So don't be afraid, Little flock, the Kingdom is yours  
His glory's displayed when we give what we have away

*And seek first, Seek first. Seek first the Kingdom of God*

Cause where your treasure is, is where your heart will reside

So don't put your confidence in that which will not survive

*But seek first, Seek first. Seek first the Kingdom of God*  
*Seek first, Seek first. Seek first the Kingdom of God*

## • AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

AUSTRIAN HYMN



1. I be - lieve in God the Fa - ther, Mak - er of the Heav'n and earth.  
2. Suf - fered un - der Pon - tius Pi - late, cru - ci - fied, for me he died.  
3. At God's right hand he is seat - ed till his com - ing, as he said.  
4. I be - lieve the Church of Je - sus, ho - ly ev - er shall re - main.



And in Je - sus Christ, our Sav - ior, God's own Son by time - less birth,  
Laid with - in a grave so si - lent, gates of hell he o - pened wide.  
Fi - nal judg - ment will be met - ed to the liv - ing and the dead.  
We are one through all the ag - es, with com - mun - ion of the saints.



by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ed Vir - gin Mar - y bore God's Son,  
And the stone-sealed tomb was emp - ty, on the third day he a - rose!  
I con - fess the Ho - ly Spir - it has been sent through God the Son  
I be - lieve sins are for - giv - en that our bod - ies will be raised;



God, in whom I have be - liev - ed. God al - might - y, Three in One.  
In - to heav - en made his en - try; might - y con - queror of his foes!  
to ap - ply sal - va - tion's mer - it, glo - ry to the Three in One!  
ev - er - last - ing life in heav - en, a - men, let God's name be praised!

CALL FOR OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

• SENDING HYMN | *Jesus Lover of My Soul*

ABERYSTWYTH

*Please remain seated until directed to stand*

1. Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to thy bos - om fly,  
 2. Oth - er ref - uge have I none; hangs my help - less soul on thee;  
 3. Plen - teous grace with thee is found, grace to cov - er all my sin;

while the near - er wa - ters roll, while the tem - pest still is high;  
 leave, ah! leave me not a - lone, still sup - port and com - fort me.  
 let the heal - ing streams a - bound; make and keep me pure with - in.

hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past;  
 All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;  
 Thou of life the foun - tain art; free - ly let me take of thee;

safe in - to the ha - ven guide, O re - ceive my soul at last!  
 cov - er my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of thy wing.

SENDING

• BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE | *Fugue in G Minor, BWV 578*

J. S. Bach

**The flowers** are placed in the sanctuary today in loving memory of Dr. William Jon Pokorny, his grandson Trey Christian Pokorny and his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Pokorny, by Tom and Susan Egolf.

**Caring Ministry Updates:**

**Sympathy to:** Dr. Brian and Mallory Rissmiller for the loss of her father, **Michael Breese Malone**, on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. Condolences to Mr. Malone's grandchildren Lilly, Clara and Scarlett Rissmiller.

Colby and Kiki Hamilton for the loss of his mother, **Nancy Hamilton**, on Saturday, September 17, 2022. Condolences to Nancy's daughter, Marti Hamilton, and Colby and Kiki's daughter, Elle.

**Musicians for service:** Joel Rhodes-Karahadian, piano & vocals; Vickie Wagner, piano & vocals; Dan Wagner, Director of Worship; Choral Ensemble

- *congregation please stand as able*



## **Here to Serve in Giving: 2022/23 Stewardship Campaign** **Ending Soon | Due October 2**

Please continue to pray for our stewardship campaign and 2022–2023 giving. As a result of your faithful generosity, we have been a church *Here to Serve* for more than 180 years. We seek to continue this legacy through our newly expressed priorities: Discipleship, Worship, Community, and Outreach. Your completed pledge card lets us know we have your support for this vision and FPC's financial obligations for the current fiscal year (July 2022 through June 2023). Because the fiscal year has started, any current giving applies to your pledge.

To pledge and give today, deposit your completed pledge card with your offering or visit [www.fpchouston.org/giving](http://www.fpchouston.org/giving). Thank you for being *A Church Here to Serve*!



## **Evening of Prayer & Worship Featuring Robbie Seay** **Today! | 5–7:30 PM | Grand Hall**

Join us this evening as our friend Robbie Seay joins Ryan Bell and the Contemporary Worship band in leading a special evening of prayer and worship. Afterward, enjoy a time of fellowship and grab a meal and something sweet from our dinner and dessert trucks, Foreign Policy and Frosted Betty. Childcare will be available.



## **Project Flourish Community Launch** **Sun | Oct 2 | 9:15–10:45 AM | Fellowship Hall**

Project Flourish is an initiative to support gospel-minded start-ups for the good of the city. Join us to learn how Project Flourish has helped social entrepreneurship impact Houston, listen to participant success stories, and hear how you can be a part of these start-up stories.



## **Alpha (Evening)** **Thur | Oct 6 | 7–8:30 PM | Fellowship Hall**

Are you curious about spirituality, or do you have a friend who is? Would you like a safe space to ask questions about faith? Alpha is a listening community designed to help participants explore their questions and other topics in a judgment-free environment. Everyone is welcome! To register or share with a friend, visit [fpchouston.org/alpha](http://fpchouston.org/alpha).

### **Announcements**

Scan QR code to view more upcoming events at FPC.



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