

Forgiven AND Free



FPC HOUSTON

ORDER OF WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 26, 2023 | 11 AM

GATHER TO WORSHIP

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP: CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

Lord God, the words "Jesus is King" come easily to our lips,
yet we often fail to grasp the significance of what they mean for us.
In this service, help us worship you in spirit and truth,
and give us a vision for how we may live in homage to you
every day of our lives, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE | *The Majesty and Power of His Name*

Lyndell Leatherman

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeanmarie Tade

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP | *Now Thank We All Our God*

arr. John Yarrington

Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices.
Now thank we all our God, who still is ours today.

Please stand

Our purpose for
being here is
made clear.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeanmarie Tade

O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

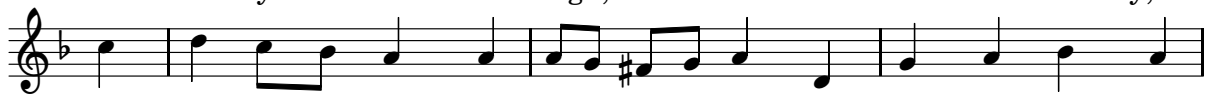
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Psalms 95:1-7, NRSV

HYMN OF PRAISE | *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*



1. Re-joice, ye pure in heart, re-joice, give thanks, and sing;
2. With all the an-gel choirs, with all the saints on earth,
3. Yes, on through life's long path, still chant-ing as ye go;
4. Still lift your stand-ard high, still march in firm ar-ray;



your fes-tal ban-ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap-ture, no-blest
from youth to age, by night and day, in glad-ness and in
as war-riors through the dark-ness toil till dawns the gold-en



King.
mirth! Re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, give thanks, and sing!
woe,
day.

We don't talk about
worship, we DO
it through words
of praise. Worship
isn't really a noun
reflecting this hour
when we gather.
It is a verb.

based on
Revelation 1:4–8; 7:12

Please be seated

This text is a hymn
by 19th cent. poet
Caroline Noel. Like
many of our finest
hymn writers, Noel
suffered from
physical affliction,
yet wrote hymns of
deep devotion. *At the
Name of Jesus* is said
to be the only existing
hymn from a 19th c.
female writer that
is entirely objective
theology. For the
Christian, objective
theology is never a
purely intellectual
exercise. The truth
speaks to the mind
and the heart. The
Name of King Jesus,
and all its meaning,
is at the heart of true
worship.

We confess together
in part because it is
a way of reminding
ourselves of the
essence of the Gospel.
Christ died for us even
while we were lost
in sin, and offered us
forgiveness by grace
through faith.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Mike Nichols, Shepherding Elder

Grace and peace to you from him who is and who was and who is to come.

**All praise to you, God of all, for your blessing upon us now,
for your blessing upon us in what has been
and for the gifts of grace and peace you wait to give us.**

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

**All praise to you, Jesus Christ, for your great love for us,
for giving yourself to us, and for bringing us back to the Father.**

“I am the Alpha and Omega,” says the Lord God,
“who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

**Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power
and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.**

ANTHEM | At the Name of Jesus

Richard Waters

At the Name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess Him King of glory now;
‘tis the Father's pleasure we should call Him Lord,
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name
From the lips of sinners unto whom He came,
Gladly He bore it spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious when from death He passed.

Name him, brothers, name him with love as strong as death,
but with awe and wonder and with bated breath;
He is God the Saviour, He is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshiped, trusted, and adored.

In your hearts enthrone Him; there let Him subdue
All that is not holy, all that is not true;
Crown as your Captain in temptation's hour;
Let His will enfold you in its light and power.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Mike Nichols

When we gather to praise God, we remember that we are people
who have preferred our wills to his.
Accepting his power to become new persons in Christ,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Silent reflection

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

**We confess that we have not bowed before him and are slow to acknowledge his rule.
We give allegiance to the powers of this world and fail to be governed by justice and love.
In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all, that we may be loyal
ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

based on Revelation
5:5, 9–10, NIV

Please stand

Affirmations of Faith
are distilled truths
tested by time. They
remind us that we
worship with the
communion of saints
of all times and
places. This moment
and this place do not
fully define us. We
are part of the long
march of the people
of God.

Please be seated

Psalm 117

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. With his blood he has purchased people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. He has made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth. **Thanks be to God!**

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Heidelberg Catechism No. 1

Mike Nichols

What is your only comfort in life and death?

**That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil.
He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.
Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
People: And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jeanmarie Tade

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | "Laudate Dominum" from Solemn Vespers

W. A. Mozart

Andie White, soloist

Praise the Lord, all nations; Praise Him, all people.
For He has bestowed His mercy upon us,
And the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and forever,
and for generations of generations. Amen.

Please stand

DOXOLOGY

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.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please be seated

MESSAGE | Boasting in the Cross (Galatians 6:11-18)

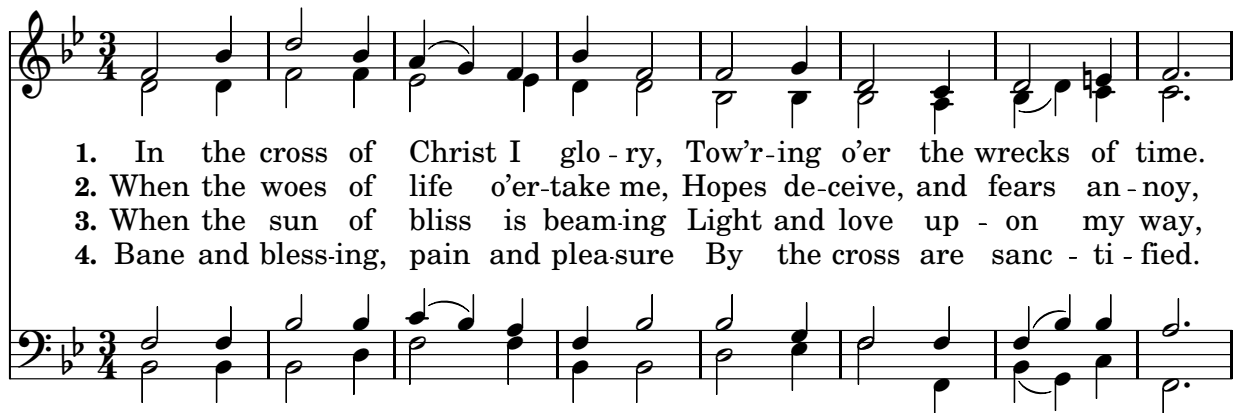
Curtis A. Bronzan

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

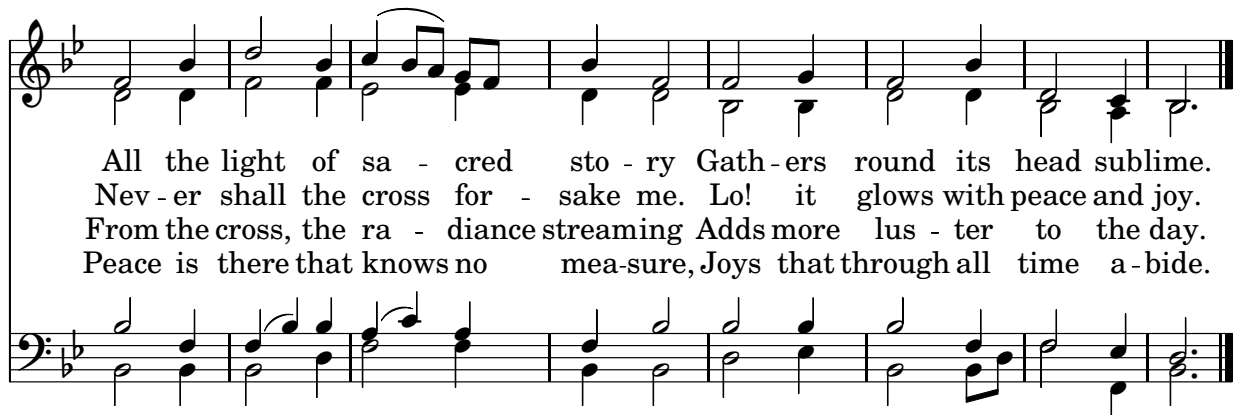
Please stand

CLOSING HYMN | *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

RATHBUN



1. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r-ing o'er the wrecks of time.
2. When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hopes de-ceive, and fears an - noy,
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love up - on my way,
4. Bane and bless-ing, pain and plea-sure By the cross are sanc - ti - fied.



All the light of sa - cred sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sublime.
Nev - er shall the cross for - sake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
From the cross, the ra - diance streaming Adds more lus - ter to the day.
Peace is there that knows no mea-sure, Joys that through all time a-bide.

BENEDICTION

Curtis A. Bronzan

POSTLUDE | *Orb and Sceptre*

Walton/Gower

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today to the glory of God by the Flower Guild.

MUSICIANS

Chancel Choir, Dan Wagner (conductor & Director of Worship), and Jeong-Suk Bae (organ & accompanist).

Ways to Serve This Holiday Season:

Christmas Elves for Nehemiah Center

Today | 9 AM–12:15 PM | Palm Court

Today is the last day to sign up to sponsor a Nehemiah Center family with gifts for Christmas. Sponsors are provided with a “wish list” containing family member names and special needs or requests. Stop by Palm Court to participate in this special FPC tradition.

Advent Missions Market

Sundays | Dec 3, 10 & 17 | Palm Court

Sign up to serve during our 22nd Annual Advent Missions Market, which provides funding and awareness for our global ministry partners. Visit fpchouston.org/serve.

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Curtis A. Bronzan, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Jon Crantz, Pastor of Community Life
Rev. Emmanuel Paulpeter, Pastor of Outreach

ADVENT EVENTS

We look forward to sharing the Advent season with you and your loved ones!

Advent Missions Market

Sundays | Dec 3, 10 & 17 | 8 AM–1 PM | Palm Court

The Advent Missions Market offers unique crafts from artisans around the world that make wonderful Christmas gifts. In addition, the sale of the items provides support for our global ministry partners while raising awareness of the vital work of these ministries.

Advent Celebration

Sun | Dec 3 | 11:45 AM–1 PM | Fellowship Hall

Join our Children and Family Ministry for lunch and Christmas activities for the whole church family following worship on December 3. You can make a personalized ornament, color a card to gift to a neighbor, visit our photo booth, or shop at the Advent Missions Market!

Messiah Sing-A-Long

Sun | Dec 3 | 7:30 PM | Sanctuary

Join us for the longest-running Handel's Messiah Sing-Along in the city. Hundreds of singers from all around Houston make up the choir, joining orchestra and soloists in this Christmas tradition. Get here early to get a good seat! Music scores will be provided. Free admission.

Surviving the Holidays

DivorceCare | Sun | Dec 10 | 12–2 PM | Library

GriefShare | Sun | Dec 17 | 12–2 PM | Library

After a divorce or loss, holidays don't look the same... *Surviving the Holidays* can help! This 2-hour seminar includes lunch, a video, sharing time, and a "Survival Guide" filled with tips and encouragement for managing the holidays. For more information or to register, visit fpchouston.org/events.

Christmas Music Sunday

Sun | Dec 10 | 8:15 & 11 AM | Sanctuary

Mark your calendars for Christmas Music Sunday, an annual worship tradition in our Sanctuary services. To celebrate the season, FPC Houston Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra present, *Glad Hearts Rejoice*, featuring Mark Hayes' colorful setting of Mary's song of praise, *Magnificat*, and Gustav Holst's *Christmas Day*, a delightful set of carols. This is a great day to bring a guest with you!

For a complete list of Advent activities, including Children and Youth events and our Christmas Eve worship schedule, visit fpchouston.org/advent.

Explore

Learn what it means to become a member of FPC. Register for the **FEB 3** Explore FPC class at fpchouston.org/explorefpc.

Connect

Let us know you're here! Scan the QR code or text CONNECT to (346) 362-3120.



Give

Your generosity helps impact the people, places, and ministries we serve.



firstpresbyterian



fpchouston