

# **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

JANUARY 21, 2024 | 11 AM



# **GATHER TO WORSHIP**

The prelude is a transition from the our temporary interests and existence to the sacred offering of ourselves that we call worship. (God's "worth-ship"). How might our worship be different if more of us used this time for this purpose?

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

When we gather in the presence of God, we reflect on the words of Scripture and seek guidance for our lives. Let our hearts be open, our spirits be receptive, and our voices be lifted in praise. May this time of worship be a source of inspiration, comfort, and transformation for all who join us.

PRELUDE | Antiphon III. "I am black but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem"

Marcel Dupré

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Curtis A. Bronzan

#### Please stand

from Psalm 92:1–5, 8, NIV

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High,

to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night,

to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp.

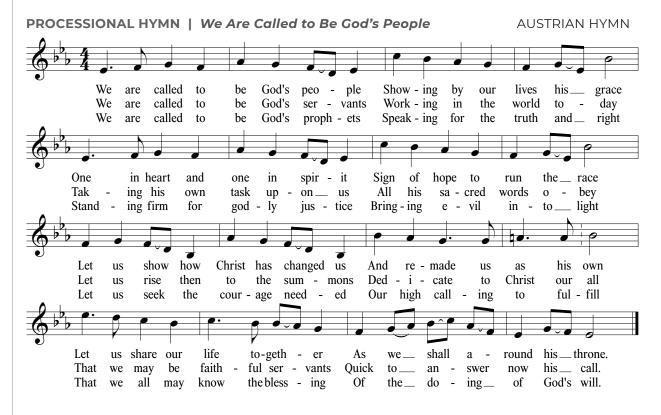
For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD; I sing for joy at the works of your hands.

How great are your works, O LORD, how profound your thoughts!

You, O LORD, are exalted forever.

Let us worship now as God's people, bound together in love and praise.

This is a newer hymn
(text) that declares
our calling as God's
people. The tune,
AUSTRIAN HYMN,
is from composer
Franz Joseph
Haydn, originally
from his String
Quartet in C major.



INVOCATION Wei Yang, Elder

O God, who created us in love,

create us anew in love as we worship you.

O Jesus Christ, who redeemed this world in love,

reclaim our hearts as we worship you.

O Holy Spirit, who moves this world toward its God-appointed end,

move within us as we worship you. Amen.

#### Please be seated

The Psalms were meant to be sung by God's people

in worship.

### PSALM 65 | Thanks Be to God

Hal Hopson

Leigh Shipman, cantor



The praises of Zion, O God, are your due;

Your mercies are countless, our merits are few;

The weight of transgressions your grace will remove,

And give life we cherish, redeemed by your love. Refrain:

Your strength has established the sea and the plain;

Each day all creation your praise sings again;

The God of salvation, our hopes for always,

A shelter in darkness, the light of our days. **Refrain:** 

The earth's endless bounty, Lord, let us preserve;

Its richness and splendor we less than deserve;

The cycle of seasons gives sense to the year,

An autumn for harvest, a springtime of cheer! Refrain:

CALL TO CONFESSION Wei Yang

Friends, let us come together in humble reflection. Just as Jesus knew that his time on earth was limited, he also knew the weakness of our hearts. Let us confess our shortcomings and seek forgiveness, for Jesus is merciful and loving. Let us begin our confession with a moment for silent reflection.

A moment for silent reflection

### story is written on the hearts of individuals and in the glory of the cosmos. His plans

Worship is a glorious re-telling of the

Good News. God's

cosmos. His plans for us are good. They come to fruition as we repent and believe the Gospel. In covenant with Him, we look to the day when all things are made new, when we will fully realize the new heaven and

the new earth.

# PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we come before you with humble hearts, acknowledging our failures and weaknesses. Like Peter, we have denied you in our words and actions. We have not always stood firm in our faith, but instead, we have faltered and turned away.

In your word and by your example you have called us to love. We confess that we have often failed to live and act in love.

Forgive us, Lord, and restore us to a place of steadfast devotion. Help us to to follow you faithfully. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(continued on next page)

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

Thanks be to God.

### Please stand

### **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.

# Declaring one of the great creeds unites us with Christians everywhere. It reminds us that we don't worship a God of our own limits and invention. True

faith is eternal.

# AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Apostles' Creed

Wei Yang

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Wei Yang

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.

### Please be seated

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Curtis A. Bronzan

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.

MINISTRY UPDATE | Project Flourish Lyndsey Knight, Dir. of Innovation & Engagement

CALL TO OFFERING Curtis A. Bronzan

God of Creation, Maker of all things. We gather in this place to pray. We do invite you come now among us; Come and build your church today.

Come build a church with soul and spirit, come build a church of flesh and bone. Not just a tower rising skyward; nor house of wood, or glass, or stone. Come build a church with human frailty. Come build a church of flesh and blood. Jesus shall be its sure foundation. It shall be built by the hand of God.

Let us see the tongues of fire. Let us hear the great wind roar.
Let us know the awe and wonder that we've only glimpsed before.
Let us feel the strength of passion, which can make us laugh and weep.
Let us know this great awakening. For so long we've been asleep.
Let us know the love unceasing, which alone can loose the bonds.

Reaching out across the chasms, bringing walls of hatred down. Let us taste the sweet communion, where the circle never ends. Hold us in the sweet connection, turning strangers into friends.

Come build a church with soul and spirit,...

Jesus shall be its sure foundation, it shall be built by the hand of God. Guide our feet in peaceful pathways. Teach us peace of heart and mind; Peace with God and all God's children; till we leave our pride behind. Surely joy will come and find us like a breeze that cools the night; Like the rain upon the desert; like a candle's gentle light.

Come build a church with soul and spirit,...

### SERMON HYMN | They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord; We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord; And we pray that our unity will one day be restored, And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand; We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand; And together we'll spread the news that God is our land. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father from whom all things come, And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son. And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one, And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

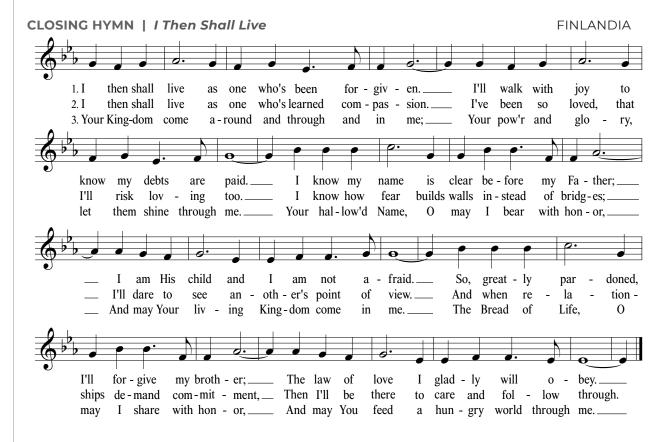
### PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

MESSAGE | A New Commandment (John 13:31–38)

# **SENDING**

### Please stand

This eloquent hymn speaks of our commitment to Christian living and faithful loving. The text is by Gloria Gaither. (Because He Lives) and the tune is by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. (Thus the tune name, FINLANDIA.)



**BENEDICTION** Jon Crantz

POSTLUDE | They'll Know We are Christians

arr. Wilbur Held

#### **FLOWERS**

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given with thanksgiving and praise to God by the Julia Circle.

### **CARING MINISTRY UPDATES**

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the following individuals:

Fred and Sara Robertson for the loss of his mother, **Pat Robertson**, on Friday, January 12, 2024. Condolences to their children, Faith and Scott.

Bruce and Theresa Scates for the loss of his mother, Norma Scates, on Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

### **MUSICIANS**

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

# Coming in Worship

# **Special Guest: The Houston Boychoir**

# Sun | Jan 28 | 8:15 & 11 AM Services

FPC Worship is pleased to welcome the Houston Boychoir as they join us in both Sanctuary services on Sunday, January 28. Houston Boychoir is committed to building men of character through music by developing exemplary performers and outstanding citizens of Houston and beyond. Please join us as we gather in worship and in support for this local choir.

# Hymn Festival With Dr. Rhonda Furr

# Sun | Feb 4 | 1 PM | Sanctuary

Led by Dr. Rhonda Furr and the FPC Chancel Choir, this special event is focused on congregational songs linked by readings, narrations, anecdotes, and prayers. Lunch will be provided following 11 AM worship before the Hymn Festival. Join us and invite a friend!

# Presbyterian School News

# **Presbyterian School Silent Auction**

Show your support for Presbyterian School during the PS Silent Auction. Open January 18–25, the Silent Auction features home and self-care items, jewelry, sporting tickets, kids camps, and much more. The Silent Auction benefits the School's Gala which supports the School's current operating budget and helps to make special projects possible. Don't miss this fun opportunity to support Presbyterian School (while also treating yourself)! To participate in the Silent Auction, visit **pshouston.org/gala**.

### **PASTORAL STAFF**



# **Project Flourish Celebration**

### Today | 12-1:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

It's time to celebrate another round of Project Flourish! Join us for lunch and meet this year's award recipients, who are now better equipped to advance transformative initiatives for the good of our city. Children and guests are welcome.

# **Special Congregational Meeting**

### Sun | Jan 28 | 12-2 PM | Fellowship Hall

Covenant Partners and those in the FPC community are asked to join us on Sunday, January 28, for a special Congregational Meeting and lunch. During the gathering, we will conduct a single-topic vote and receive key findings from our church survey last fall. Lunch will be served, and childcare is available (infant through 5th grade). Childcare registration required at **fpchouston.org/events**.

# **Baptism Orientation**

### Sun | Jan 28 | 9:15 AM | Nursery Cove

Planning to have your young child baptized at FPC? This orientation is the first step in the process. Parents will learn about baptism at FPC and the expectations for participating. Participants will also learn about our children's ministry program, fellowship with other parents in the same stage of life, and receive resources to help guide them as parents. Breakfast and childcare provided. Registration required at **fpchouston.org/events**.

# **Explore FPC Class**

### Sat | Feb 3 | 9 AM-3 PM | Living Room

Are you interested in learning more about FPC Houston? Do you want to know what it means to become a member, or Covenant Partner? Join our Senior Pastor, Curtis A. Bronzan, and other FPC staff at our next Explore FPC Class. Register at **fpchouston.org/explorefpc**.

### OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

# **Local Mission Partner Field Trip**

Thur | Jan 25 | 12 PM | Prestige Learning Institute

# **Parents' Night Out**

Sat | Jan 27 | 5-8 PM | Living Room

### **Evening of Prayer & Worship**

Sun | Jan 28 | 5:30 PM | Chapel

### Women's Prayer Retreat

Fri-Sat | Feb 2-3 | 6:30-9 PM & 9 AM-3 PM | LC 181

Visit fpchouston.org/events for details on these and other upcoming activities.

### 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.





