



*On  
Mission*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

September 29, 2024 | 8:15 AM



# GATHER TO WORSHIP

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Jesus was a worshiper. He was found in the synagogue on his own at age twelve. We know that he sang Psalms and Hymns. He called us to integrate the life of worship with the life of devotion and service, in community with others. To be people who walk in the way of Jesus is to be people of integrity - our worship and our lives are to be seamless and without pretense. As a Rabbi, worship would be essential to all Jesus was and did and is. In this moment he calls us to be worshipers in Spirit and in Truth. Let's walk in the way of Jesus—let's be worshipers.

A Prayer:

*Heavenly Father, this morning—and all of history—is about you. Please help me worship you with an undistracted heart. You know how my mind wanders to my upcoming week, present worries, and thoughts of others and other things. Help me put those thoughts away and focus on you and your glory. Would your Spirit cause my heart, soul, mind, and strength to exalt your Holy Name in my singing, listening to Your Word, and interacting with your people.*

## PRELUDE | *The Processional*

by Lloyd Larson

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Curtis A. Bronzan, Senior Pastor

### Please stand

In the call to worship, we summarize some of the reasons that we gather here, and make our purpose clear.

from Isaiah 55:1-3

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us call one another to worship, reading from Isaiah 55 together.

**Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;**

**and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!**

**Without money and without cost, come, buy wine and milk,**

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?

**Listen to the Lord; eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.**

**Give ear and come to him; follow in his ways, that you may live!**

Come now, people of God, let us draw near to the Lord our God;

**In thought, and in word, and in deed, let us worship him!**

## HYMN OF ADORATION | *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*

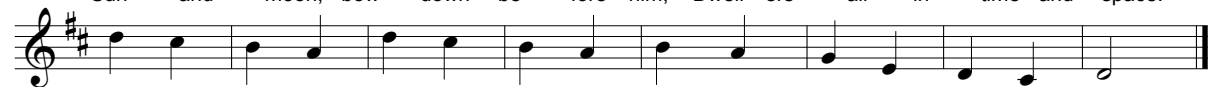
LAUDA ANIMA



1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet thy trib - ute bring;  
2. Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple in dis - tress;  
3. Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;  
4. An - gels, help us to a - dore him: Ye be - hold him face to face;



Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing:  
Praise him still the same as ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
In his hands He gen - tly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.  
Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, Dwell - ers all in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! praise with us the God of grace.

"Praise My Soul..." is a poetic (metrical) setting of Psalm 103. In this case the tune was written to be sung with this hymn (text). The tune bears the latin name, lauda anima, which means, "praise (my) soul."

from Psalm 25:1-10

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

Beverly Schorre, Covenant Partner

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. In you, my God, I place my trust.

**Show me your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

**for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.**

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in the way.

**He leads the humble in justice, and teaches them what is right.**

The paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

**Show me your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths;**

**for you are the God of my salvation!**

**Please be seated**

C.V. Stanford composed much sacred choral music in Victorian England. A man of his time, Stanford's compositions can be grand and dramatic. But for this treatment of Psalm 119:1, the music is serene and concise. In old music theory the triad (three-note chord) is the kernel from which all music grows. Stanford employs this foundational idea by separating the men and women into two choirs, each singing three-part harmonies. These dueling triads trade back and forth, and then occasionally come together in a staggered ascending pattern. Small pieces like this are miniature artworks that inspire devotion in the heart and mind of the listener. Rather than an overt appeal to emotion, they creating an ambiance, and bedding of color where the text resides and invites us to meditation.

**ANTHEM | *Beati Quorum Via***

by C. V. Stanford

*Beati quorum via integra est, qui ambulant in lege Domini.*

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.

— from Psalm 119

**PRAYER SONG | *I Have Decided***

I have decided to follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus

No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me

The world behind me, the cross before me

The world behind me, the cross before me

No turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow

Though none go with me, still I will follow

Though none go with me, still I will follow

No turning back, no turning back.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Beverly Schorre

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.

**Let us forsake our wicked ways and our unrighteous thoughts.**

Let us return to the Lord, for he offers pardon in abundance to those who ask.

Let us take a moment of silent confession before the Lord

— from Isaiah 55:6-7

*A time of silence is observed*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Savior Christ, who lived perfectly, loved sacrificially, and died on my account,

**though I long to walk in your way, I admit, I cannot do it.**

Truly, I desire to do good; I want nothing more than to keep your commands.

Like Peter, I hope to follow you out upon the waves; like Peter, my lips declare:

**"I am with you, Christ, even to prison and unto death."**

Then rises the wind; then sinks my resolve;

Lord, have mercy on me!  
 The love you taught me to share with others, I reserve it for myself;  
 and the cross you taught me to bear - how far, how fast, I flee from it!  
 I have not acted justly, or loved mercy, or walked humbly in your way.  
 Christ have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, walk with us ever-more closely this day.  
 We return to you and ask for mercy, though we have nothing to pay for it.  
 Form us, as a people, into the likeness of Christ,  
 that by your strength, we might live into the Way of life.  
 For our good, and the good of our neighbor, let it be so.  
 — from Matthew 14:30; Luke 22:33

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Take heart, brothers and sisters, in Christ you are forgiven -  
 "For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
 He died for us, that we should live together with him;  
 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, as indeed you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

**Please stand**

As the title suggests,  
 this song is a great  
 daily prayer. Many  
 choose to take  
 the worship folder  
 home to incorporate  
 our public worship  
 into our homes and  
 individual devotion  
 to God.

**PREPARATION SONG | A Christian's Daily Prayer**

1. As morn - ing dawns and day a - wakes To You I bring my need O  
 2. As day un - folds I seek Your will In all of life's de - mands And  
 3. As sun gives way to dark - est night Your Spir - it still is here And

Gra - cious God my source of strength In You I live and breathe Each  
 though the tempt - er tries me still I cling to Your com - mands Let  
 though my strength fades like the light New mer - cies will ap - pear I

hour is Yours by Wis - dom planned Each deed empower'd by sov - 'reign hands  
 ev' - ry ef - fort of my life Dis - play the match - less worth of Christ  
 rest in You a - bide with me Un - til our trials and suf - fer - ing

Re - new my spir - it help me stand Be glo - ri - fied to - day  
 Make me a liv - ing sac - ri - fice Be glo - ri - fied to - day  
 Give way to fi - nal vic - to - ry Be glo - ri - fied to - day

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Beverly Schorre

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.

## THE WORD

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Please be seated

**MESSAGE | In the Way of Jesus (Luke 6:12-19)**

Courtney McLaughlin, Pastor of Equipping

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD | *The Jesus Way***

If you curse me then I will bless you. If you hurt me I will forgive.  
And if you hate me then I will love you. I choose the Jesus way.

If you're helpless I will defend you, and if you're burdened I'll share the weight.  
And if you're hopeless then let me show you there's hope in the Jesus way.

*I follow Jesus, I follow Jesus. He wore my sin; I'll gladly wear His name.  
He is the treasure He is the answer. Oh I choose the Jesus way.*

If you strike me, I will embrace you, and if you chain me I'll sing His praise.  
And if you kill me, my home is heaven, for I choose the Jesus way.

*I follow Jesus...*

### **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.**

Please stand

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Apostles' Creed**

Curtis A. Bronzan

**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.**

# SENDING

## SENDING HYMN | *He Leadeth Me O Blessed Thought*

1. He lead - eth me, O bless - ed thought, O words with heav - en - ly  
2. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur  
3. And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the

com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, wher - e'er I be, still  
nor re - pine, con - tent, what - ev - er lot I see, since  
vic - tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since

*Refrain*  
'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.  
'tis my God that lead - eth me. He lead - eth me, he  
God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

lead - eth me, by his own hand he lead - eth me! His

faith - ful fol - lower I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

## BENEDICTION

Courtney McLaughlin

## POSTLUDE | *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

by Diane Bish

## FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today to the glory of God and in loving memory of George R. Jordan Jr. by Julie Jordan and her family.

## CARING MINISTRY UPDATES

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the following individuals:

Chris Athon for the loss of her husband, **Merrell**, on Thursday, September 19, 2024. Condolences to their sons John (Margot) and Bryan (Lauren), grandchildren Grayson, Greer, Weston, and Clarke, and other family members.

Paige Meek for the loss of her husband, **Richard**, on Friday, September 13, 2024.

## MUSICIANS

Chancel Choir, Dan Wagner (conductor & Director of Worship), and Jeong-Suk Bae (organist & accompanist), Zach Goodrick (guitar & vocals), Owen Teixeira (djembe), and Vickie Wagner (piano & vocals)

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## Cultivating Community: On the Path to 5K

Last week, Pastor Curtis shared our vision goal of extending 5000 intentional invitations by August 2025. If you've already extended an invitation and want to let us know or missed the message last week and want to learn more about this goal, visit [fpchouston.org/intentional5k](https://fpchouston.org/intentional5k).

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## A Grand Fanfare

**Fri | Oct 18 | 6–9 PM | Fellowship Hall**

A night of musical entertainment awaits you! Enjoy sacred and secular selections performed by six grand pianists on four grand pianos hosted by Reverend Dr. Dave McKechnie. Proceeds will benefit the 2025 Chancel Choir Mission Tour. Tickets available in Palm Court and online at [fpchouston.org/events](https://fpchouston.org/events).

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## PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Curtis A. Bronzan, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jon Crantz, Pastor of Community Life

Rev. Dr. Courtney McLaughlin, Pastor of Equipping

Rev. Emmanuel Paulpeter, Pastor of Outreach

Rev. Jeanmarie Tade, Pastor of Caring

# THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU *here*

There are many places for you to gather and grow in community here at FPC. Please mark your calendar for these upcoming events and view more at [fpchouston.org/events](https://fpchouston.org/events).

## Neighborhood Connect: Fall 2024 Gatherings

### Begins in October | Various Times & Locations

Designed to provide opportunities for more meaningful community amidst lives of commotion, these events allow you to meet and fellowship with others in the FPC Community who live in your neighborhood. Be on the lookout for an email invitation from your Care Team Leader or visit [fpchouston.org/neighbors](https://fpchouston.org/neighbors) for more information.

## Marriage Beginnings Class

### Sundays | Begins Oct 6 | 12:15–1:45 PM | CE 218

Whether you are considering marriage, are engaged, or have been married for a few months or many years, this seven-week class benefits all as we work towards glorifying our Lord in the way we love our future or current spouse. To register, visit [fpchouston.org/events](https://fpchouston.org/events).

## Guest Experience Masterclass

### Sat | Oct 12 | 9 AM–3 PM | LC 181

Did you know that first-time guests to our church subconsciously decide whether to return within their first 11 minutes?! The “guest experience” of those joining for the first time is crucial to every other ministry we offer—and represents the first step in accomplishing the Great Commission! Join vision consultant Shawn Reilly, Senior Pastor Curtis Bronzan, and Director of Connections Cheryl Christie as we embrace the mission of welcoming warmly and well! Register at [fpchouston.org/events](https://fpchouston.org/events).

## Annual Congregational Meeting

### Sun | Oct 13 | 12:15 PM | Fellowship Hall

Please mark your calendar to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting and Celebration Lunch on Sunday, October 13, immediately following worship. During this gathering, we will recap and celebrate the year behind us and look to the year ahead with updates from our Session. This meeting will include congregational votes on Elder and committee nominations needed to serve in 2025, so your participation is greatly appreciated.

### Explore

Learn what it means to become a member of FPC. Register for the **NOV 2** Explore FPC class at [fpchouston.org/explorefpc](https://fpchouston.org/explorefpc).

### Connect

Are you new to our community? Text **CONNECT** to **90859** for more info about FPC Houston, ways to get involved, and upcoming events.

### Give

Your generosity helps impact the people, places, and ministries we serve. To contribute today, text **GIVE** to **90859** or place your gift in an offering box. Thank you for your faithfulness.

✉ Sign up today to receive emails about news and upcoming events at [fpchouston.org/email](https://fpchouston.org/email).