



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 27, 2024 | 8:15 AM

# GATHER TO WORSHIP

## THOUGHTS FOR PREPARATION

The Reformation brought a transformative understanding of vocation and work, challenging the prevailing notion that work is merely a means to survive. Instead, Scripture emphasizes that work is a divine calling meant to glorify God. The concept of vocation, derived from the Latin word for "calling," extends beyond mere employment to encompass all aspects of life dedicated to God's glory. The Reformers, particularly Martin Luther, advocated for the idea that every role, whether in the church or secular life, is a holy calling. This holistic view of labor encourages individuals to see their work—be it noble or menial—as an opportunity to fulfill their created purpose and reflect God's glory in all they do.

## PRELUDE | *O For a Thousand Tongues*

arr. Carl Gläzer

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Courtney McLaughlin, Pastor of Equipping

Please stand

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Courtney McLaughlin

Come, worship the Lord.

**For he is good and gracious to us, his people!**

We gather to declare this time to be set apart as a holy offering to the Lord.

**We also acknowledge the call to glorify God in all that we do, and the sacredness of our labor.**

May our hearts be open to the truth of our vocation, recognizing it as a divine calling.

**Let us dedicate this time to reflect on how our lives can honor God through our work.**

May our worship, our work, and all of our lives be a testament to his glory and grace.

**We worship God, who is the Lord over all of our lives. He is our Mighty Fortress, our Rock and our Deliverer! We worship our great God!**

## GATHERING HYMN | *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

EIN' FESTE BURG



1. A might-y for - tress is our God, A bul-wark nev - er fail - ing;

2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, Our striv-ing would be los - ing;

(choir)3. And tho' this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat-en to un - do us,

4. That word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



Our help-er He, a - mid the flood Of mor-tal ills pre - vail - ing: For

Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos-ing: Dost

We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri-umph thro' us: The

The Spir-it and the gifts are ours Thro' Him who with us sid - eth: Let



still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and pow'r are

ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is He; Lord Sab - a - oth, His

Prince of Dark-ness grim, We trem-ble not for him; His rage we can en-

goods and kin-dred go, This mor-tal life al - so; The bod - y they may



great, And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not His e - qual.

name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.

dure, For lo, his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.

kill: God's truth a - bid-eth still, His king-dom is for - ev - er.

Martin Luther's hymn is forever associated with the Protestant Reformation and Reformation Sunday. Perhaps more importantly, it is a paraphrase of the majestic Psalm 46, with the final verse being Luther's vow - and our own - to cling to God's Word and Truth in the face of life's stresses.

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

Peter & Ellie Brewton, Covenant Partner Family

O Lord, we praise You for the gift of work and the purpose You have given us.

**We adore You for calling us to serve and glorify You in every aspect of our lives.**

Thank You for the talents and opportunities You have bestowed upon us.

**We worship You for Your faithfulness in guiding our hands and hearts in all our endeavors.**

**AMEN.**

**Please be seated**

**ANTHEM | We Are the Lord's**

LONDONDERRY AIR  
arr. Roland Martin

We are the Lord's; His all sufficient merit,  
Sealed on the cross, to us this grace accords.  
We are the Lord's and all things shall inherit;  
Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

We are the Lord's; then let us gladly tender  
Our souls to Him in deeds, not empty words.  
Let heart and tongue and life combine to render  
No doubtful witness that we are the Lord's.

We are the Lord's; no darkness brooding o'er us  
Can make us tremble while this star affords  
A steady light along the path before us—  
Faith's full assurance that we are the Lord's.

We are the Lord's; no evil can befall us  
In the dread hour of life's fast loosening cords;  
No pangs of death shall even then appall us.  
Death we shall vanquish, for we are the Lord's.

**PREPARATION FOR CONFESSION**

Peter & Ellie Brewton

Join me as we enter into a time of confession. As we consider our calling,  
let us acknowledge the times we have viewed work as a burden rather  
than a blessing.

**We confess that we have often lost sight of our purpose  
and failed to glorify You in our daily tasks.**

Let us come before God with humble hearts, seeking His forgiveness  
and renewal, beginning with a moment for silent reflection.

*A moment of silence.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, we confess that we have given in to  
the world's view of work as merely a means to an end.

**We have neglected to see our vocations  
as opportunities to serve You and others.**

Forgive us for the times we have grumbled  
instead of giving thanks for our work.

**Help us to embrace our callings with joy and dedication,  
reflecting Your glory in all we do.**

If we confess our  
sins, God is faithful  
and just and will  
forgive us our sins  
and purify us from  
all unrighteousness.  
(1 John 1:9). We  
confess publicly,  
knowing that we are  
a forgiven people.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: God is merciful and gracious,  
ready to forgive those who turn to Him.

**In Christ, we are made new, and our work is redeemed for His glory.**

Be glad in the assurance that your labor is not in vain,  
for it is a calling from God.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

**We rejoice in our vocations and commit to honoring God in all we do.**

Please stand

## SONG OF PRAISE | *Christ Our Hope In Life And Death*

What is our hope in life and death? Christ a-lone, Christ a-lone.  
What truth can calm the trou-bled soul? God is good, God is good.  
Un-to the grave what will we sing? Christ He lives! Christ He lives!

What is our on-ly con-fi-dence? That our souls to Him be-long.  
Where is His grace and good-nessknown? In our great Re-deem-er'sblood.  
And what re-ward will heav-en bring? Ev-er-last-ing life withHim.

Who holds our days with-in His hand? What comes a-part from His com-mand?  
Who holds our faith when fears a-rise? Who stands a-bove the storm-y trial?  
There we will rise to meet the Lord, Then sin and death will be de-stroyed,

And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ in which we stand.\_\_\_\_  
Who sends the waves thatbring us nigh Un-to the shore, the rock of Christ?\_\_\_\_  
And we will feast in end-less joy WhenChrist is ours for-ev-er-more.\_\_\_\_

O sing hal-le-lu-jah! Our hopesprings e-ter-nal. O sing hal-le-lu-jah! Now and

ev-er we con-fess Christ our hope in life and death.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Heidelberg Confession, Day 1

Peter & Ellie Brewton

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul,  
in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,  
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the  
will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life  
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

Because we have been reconciled to God and one another,  
we use this moment to bless one another with God's peace.

A Creed is a  
synthesis of faith...  
a brief statement  
drawn from scripture  
or from significant  
moments in Christian  
history when the  
church refined and  
clarified the essentials.  
We can test our ideas  
and trends against the  
rigor and discipline of  
Christians, who came  
before us and drove to  
keep the gospel clear.

# THE WORD

Please be seated

SCRIPTURE READING | Genesis 1:26-2:3, 2:10-15

Courtney McLaughlin & Peter Brewton

MESSAGE | The Design and Dignity of Work (Gen. 1:26-2:3, 2:10-15)

Emmanuel Paulpeter,  
Pastor of Outreach

Please remain seated

SONG OF RESPONSE | *Before You I Kneel*

Getty



1. Be - fore You I kneel my Mas - ter and Mak - er To of - fer the work of my hands For  
2. Be - fore You I kneel and ask for Your good - ness To cov - er the work of my hands For  
3. Be - fore You we kneel our Mas - ter and Mak - er Es - tab - lish the work of our hands And



this is the day You've giv - en Your ser - vant I will re - joice and be glad  
pa - tience and peace to shape all my la - bor Your grace for thorns in my path  
or - der our steps to seek first Your king - dom In eve - ry small and great task



For the strength I have to live and breathe For each skill Your grace has giv - en me  
Flow with - in me like a liv - ing stream Wear a - way the stones of pride and greed  
May we live the gos - pel of Your grace Serve Your pur - pose in our fleet - ing days



For the needs and op - por - tu - ni - ties That will glo - ri - fy Your great name  
'Til Your ways are dwell - ing deep in me And a har - vest of life is grown  
Then our lives will bring e - ter - nal praise And all glo - ry to Your great name.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Courtney McLaughlin

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. AMEN.

## SENDING

### Please stand

Some of the best hymn tunes are from Welsh tradition of hymn singing. AR HYD Y NOS is the tune name meaning "All Through the Night", the Welsh folk song associated with this tune. The tune is lovely, and probably familiar, but the reason for singing it this morning will be quite clear!

### SENDING HYMN | *For The Fruit of All Creation*

AR HYD Y NOS

1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God. For His gifts to  
2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done. In the help we  
3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God. For the good we

ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the plow - ing,  
give our neigh - bor, God's will is done. In our world - wide  
all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the won - ders

sow - ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
that a - stound us, For the truths that still con - found us,

Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, Thanks be to God.  
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

### BENEDICTION

Emmanuel Paulpeter

### POSTLUDE | *Now Thank We All Our God*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

## **FLOWERS**

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today by Ben and Nancy Wells in loving memory of her parents, Margaret and Wayne Harpster.

## **CARING MINISTRY UPDATES**

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the following individuals:

Kay McKechnie for the loss of her husband, **Dr. John McKechnie**, on Sunday, October 20, 2024. Condolences to their four children, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Diane Yarrington for the loss of her husband, **Dr. John Yarrington**, on Monday, October 21, 2024. Condolences to their children Patrick Yarrington, Julie (Kelly) Howard, Christopher (Laura) Yarrington, Ryan (Alyssa) Yarrington, Megan (Rueben) Guillen, and Barbara (Matthew) Atobe, their 14 grandchildren, and John's sister, Pat (Bob) Torvestad.

## **MUSICIANS**

Chancel Choir, Dan Wagner (conductor & Director of Worship), Jeong-Suk Bae (organist & accompanist), Zach Goodrick (guitarist), and Vickie Wagner (worship leader)

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## **Intentional 5K: Logging the Journey**

Have you invited a colleague to coffee, encouraged a pew mate to join you in Sunday School, shared details with a neighbor about a Neighborhood Connect gathering, trunk-or-treat, or Alpha, or simply invited another parent to join your family at the park? We want to know! Becoming a community that is intentional about inviting others in takes practice. Let's encourage one another as we work to develop the muscle memory for cultivating community through an intentional invitation. Share your Intentional 5K story at [fpchouston.org/intentional5k](https://fpchouston.org/intentional5k).

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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 ways for you to gather, grow in community, and serve here at FPC. We invite you to join us for these upcoming events. View additional opportunities at [fpchouston.org/events](https://fpchouston.org/events).

## Alpha Mornings

Thursdays | Begins Oct 31 | 8 AM | Solarium

Alpha is a series of conversations designed to help process questions about faith in a judgment-free space. Each gathering includes breakfast, a 20-minute video exploring different aspects of Christianity, and discussions in small groups. This is a six-week series—try one or join them all. Diverse perspectives are welcome, so invite a friend. To register, visit [fpchouston.org/alpha](https://fpchouston.org/alpha).

## Stephen Ministry Info Session & Lunch

Sun | Nov 3 | 12:30 PM | Living Room

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing challenging life transitions. Come enjoy lunch and hear more about Stephen Ministry and how you can get involved. You'll also learn how to apply for the spring training class. To register, please email [caring@fpchouston.org](mailto:caring@fpchouston.org).

## Explore FPC Class

Sat | Nov 2 | 9 AM–3 PM | LC 181

We invite you to learn what it means to become a member, or Covenant Partner, of FPC. This class explores the tenets of our reformed faith and ways to engage in discipleship and community with the goal of spiritual maturity. To register, please visit [fpchouston.org/explorefpc](https://fpchouston.org/explorefpc).

## Men's Breakfast

Wed | Nov 20 | 7:30 AM | Fellowship Hall

The FPC Men's Ministry aims to equip men to live the Christian life, devotedly following Jesus, and exhibiting servant leadership in their home, work, and community. Connect with men of all ages over breakfast, scheduled before the workday and Presbyterian School drop off. Register at [fpchouston.org/events](https://fpchouston.org/events).

## Connect

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

## On Mission in Giving

FPC Houston exists to *Cultivate Community in the Way of Jesus for the Flourishing of the City*. 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.

**Pledge your financial support** to the work of our church in the 2025 calendar year using the QR code to the right.

