



ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 17, 2024 | 8:15 AM

GATHER TO WORSHIP

Worship is an intentional act. It is best done when we have prepared our thoughts and attitudes.

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

O God, we joyously come together to worship, realizing we need not summon You into our midst, for You are here. We need not call You into the secret places of our hearts, for You are there. We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see You; our ears to be unstopped, that we may hear You; our minds to be sensitive, that we may know You; our hearts to be tender, that we may receive You. Grant each one a blessing, O Lord, as each has need, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE | *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

John Rutter

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jon Crantz, Pastor of Community Life

Please stand

Based on Psalm 100,
NIV

CALL TO WORSHIP

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Jon Crantz

HYMN | *Now Thank We All Our God*

NUN DANKET ALL GOTT

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,

During the darkest days of the Thirty Years' War, Lutheran Pastor Rinkart could still write a table grace expressing thanks for God's gifts in the past, praying for guidance for the future, and ending with a majestic outburst of worship and praise to the Triune God.

(continues on next page)

who, from our moth - er's arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God whom earth and heaven a - dore;

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Allison McMillan, Elder

O God, You summon the day to dawn, You teach the morning to waken the earth.

For You the valleys shall sing for joy, the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

For You the kings of the earth shall bow, the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy.

Your love and mercy shall last forever, fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

Great is Your name.

Great is Your love. Amen.

Please be seated

ANTHEM | *Let All Things Now Living*

Katherine K. Davis

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving

To God the Creator triumphantly raise,

Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,

Who guideth us on to the end of our days.

His banners are o'er us,

His light goes before us,

A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,

'Til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,

as forward we travel from light into light.

His law He enforces: the stars in their courses,

The sun in His orbit, obediently shine;

The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,

The deeps of the ocean proclaim Him divine,

We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing,

With glad adoration a song let us raise,

'Til all things now living unite in thanksgiving

To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: In a world that often encourages us to make a name for ourselves, we gather today to reflect on our true identity in Christ.

People: We confess that our desire for recognition can lead us to usurp God's rightful place in our lives.

Leader: Our work can reveal our deepest idols, and we acknowledge that we sometimes use our gifts for selfish gain rather than for the good of others.

People: We recognize that our tools and technology can either build towers of pride or serve as instruments of love.

Leader: As we come together, let us remember the call to love our neighbors as ourselves, especially in the work we do each day .

People: We seek forgiveness for the times we have prioritized our own ambitions over the needs of our community.

Let us take a moment for silent reflection.

Silence is Observed.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Gracious God, we come before you with humble hearts, acknowledging our tendency to seek our own glory rather than yours. We confess that we have built our lives on the shifting sands of self-interest, forgetting that our true identity is found in you. Help us to recognize the ways we have allowed our work to become an idol, and grant us the wisdom to use our gifts to serve others. May we be reminded that we are not meant to build alone, but to work in community, reflecting your love and grace to those around us. Forgive us, Lord, and guide us to live out the second half of the great commandment in all that we do. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news: Though we may stumble in our efforts and fall short of God's glory, we are assured of His grace. Just as the wheat and tares grow together, so too does God's love surround us, inviting us to grow in faith and community.

We are forgiven and set free to love and serve others, empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill our calling. Thanks be to God for His unending mercy and the opportunity to live our faith in community. Amen.

Please stand

SONG OF PRAISE | *The Goodness of God*

**I love You, Lord; For Your mercy never failed me
All my days...I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up, until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God**

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

**I love Your voice; You have led me through the fire
And in darkest night...You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father; I've known You as a Friend
And I have lived in the goodness of God**

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

(continues on next page)

The confession part of the service is like a picture of our relationship with God. Participating in this alternating pattern of God's words and our response each week shapes our faith over time to highlight the tenacity and graciousness of God's covenantal love.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything
'Cause Your goodness is running after, it keeps running after me

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything
'Cause Your goodness is running after, it keeps running after me

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

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.

Please be seated

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT | For the Flourishing of the City

Jamie Hampton,
Covenant Partner

Please stand

PREPARING FOR GOD'S WORD | *Build My Life*

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You
We live for You

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You
We live for You

Holy there is no one like You
There is none besides You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

THE WORD

Please be seated

MESSAGE | A Tower to the Heavens (Genesis 11:1-9)

Curtis A. Bronzan, Senior Pastor

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jon Crantz

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

We are in unity with Christians of all times and places by our shared beliefs. This shared faith is not simply theoretical, it directs us to spiritual clarity that leads us to a place of confidence in God and His divine plan for us.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Apostles' Creed

Jon Crantz

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

HYMN OF THANKS | We Praise You O God

KREMSER



1 We praise you, O God, our Re-deem-er, Cre - a - tor; in grate-ful de -
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers; through tri - al and
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer and glad - ly our



vo - tion our trib - ute we bring. We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a -
tempest our guide you have been. When per - ils o'ertake us, you will not for -
songs of thankgiv - ing we raise. With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will



dore you; we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
sake us, and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
guide us. To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

BENEDICTION

Curtis A. Bronzan

POSTLUDE | Now Thank We All Our God

Bach/Burkhardt

MUSICIANS

Chancel Choir, Dan Wagner (conductor & Director of Worship), Jeong-Suk Bae (organist & accompanist), Owen Teixeira (Djembe), Zach Goodrick (Guitar), and Vickie Wagner (Worship Leader)

FLOWERS

The flowers placed in the Sanctuary today are in loving memory of Diane and Dr. John Yarrington's 58th wedding anniversary.

CARING MINISTRY UPDATES

Trooper Merrett and Martha Elizabeth Merrett for the loss of their mother, **Mary Lee Merrett**, on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. Condolences to Mary Lee's granddaughter, Faith Merrett.

Peter (Laura) Bruell and Steven Bruell for the loss of their sister, **Susan Bruell**, on Sunday, November 3, 2024.

Cultivating Community



Intentional 5K: Logging the Journey

Have you invited a colleague to coffee, encouraged a pew mate to join you in Sunday School, 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. Let us know at fpchouston.org/intentional5k.

Flourishing the City

Nehemiah Christmas Elves Program

Today | 9 AM-12:15 PM | Palm Court

Sponsor a Nehemiah Center family this Christmas by providing Christmas gifts! Visit the table in Palm Court today from 9 AM-12:15 PM. Sponsors will be provided a "wish list" with the family members' names and their special needs or requests.

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Curtis A. Bronzan, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jon Crantz, Pastor of Community Life

Rev. Dr. Courtney McLaughlin, Pastor of Equipping

Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Paulpeter, Pastor of Outreach

Rev. Jeanmarie Tade, Pastor of Caring

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU *here*

Reception for Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Paulpeter

Today | 12 PM | Palm Court

Our beloved Pastor of Outreach has completed all of the requirements needed to receive his Doctor of Ministry degree. Please join us after worship next today we recognize and celebrate Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Paulpeter. Congratulations!

Men's Breakfast

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

The FPC Men's Ministry aims to equip men of all ages to live the Christian life, devotedly following Jesus, and exhibiting servant leadership in their home, work, and community. Join our next gathering as we kick off the day with breakfast and a message from Pastor Jon Crantz on the concept of "Kingdom Ambition." Register at fpchouston.org/events.

Family Movie Night

Thur | Nov 21 | 5:30 PM | LC 181

Start this Advent season right with a family movie night featuring *The Star*! Wear your PJs, grab a blanket (or your best "picnic" setup), and get ready to laugh as we set our eyes on the humble birth of our Savior. Dinner and snacks will be served. To register, please visit fpchouston.org/events.

DivorceCare: Surviving the Holidays

Thur | Nov 21 | 6 PM | CE 225

Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays will look different and can be difficult after separation or divorce. This session will provide participants with tips and encouragement for managing the holidays. Dinner will be served. To register, please visit fpchouston.org/events.

 Look for this symbol to find easy opportunities for an *intentional invitation*.

Stewardship 2025

As we unite as one church on mission to *Cultivate Community in the Way of Jesus for the Flourishing of the City*, please take a moment to communicate your plan to partner with us through purposeful giving. When you estimate your contributions to the work of this church by completing a pledge card, it allows us to thoughtfully and responsibly plan our ministry and mission budget. Visit fpchouston.org/pledge or use the QR code to submit your pledge today.



Submit your
pledge today!

Connect

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.