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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

JANUARY 19, 2025 | 11:00 AM



FPC HOUSTON

The prelude allows the opportunity to transition, and to turn our attention to what God is saying. We can use this time to consider the time ahead of us—a few moments set aside to honor God. We ask for grateful and receptive hearts.

**Please stand**

We establish a unified purpose for this time set aside for God, declaring it out loud.

*Love Divine*

*All Loves Excelling:*  
This classic Charles Wesley hymn, so well liked by generations of Christians, is both personal and transcendent—a combination of opposites. It is one of the best devotional texts ever written. It is addressed to Jesus Christ, who is "love divine", God's love in human flesh who as the "joy of heaven" came down to earth to find a "humble dwelling" in human hearts. The prayer is for spiritual maturity, for sanctification by the Holy Spirit, and for completeness of salvation ("Alpha and Omega"). Then we pray for God's ongoing creative, restoring work in us, looking forward to the day when all things will be made new—"ever changing from glory to glory"; one day heaven and earth will acknowledge him as Lord.

**A PRAYER FOR PREPARATION**

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place. Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful find comfort. Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed. Here may the aged find consolation and the young be inspired; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**PRELUDE | *Pièce d'Orgue, BWV 572* | Johann Sebastian Bach**

**WELCOME AND INVITATION TO COMMUNITY**

Jon Crantz, Pastor of Community Life

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather this day in the presence of God's perfect love.  
**We come to experience the grace that transforms our hearts and lives.**  
In the midst of our joys and sorrows, God's love surrounds us.  
**We open our hearts to receive the love that knows no bounds.**  
Let us worship the One who brings peace and healing to our souls.  
**We lift our voices in praise, for God's love is our strength and our song.**  
Together, let us seek the light of holy love that guides our way.  
**May our worship be filled with joy, hope, and the promise of new beginnings.**  
Come, let us worship in spirit and in truth!  
**Amen!**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN | *Love Divine All Loves Excelling* | HYFRYDOL**

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;  
3 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;

fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.  
let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee:

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;  
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

## PRAYER OF PRAISE

Stephanie Fleck, Elder

O God, your constant love reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness extends to the skies.

**Your righteousness towers like the mountains, your justice is deeper than the sea.**

All find protection under the shadow of your wings. We feast on the abundance you provide.

**You are the source of all life, and in your light, we see light.**

—based on Psalm 36:5-9

We join our voices in the prayer of praise:

**We praise you for creating this world in all beauty, for redeeming the world through Christ, our Lord, and for sending us the gift of your Spirit to encourage, instruct, and sustain us. We long for your Spirit to work among us now, to inspire our praise, to challenge us with your truth, and to equip us for service in your world. Amen.**

### Please be seated

If we ever wonder what the Bible *actually* tells us to do in worship, singing the Psalms is one of the clearest instructions we can follow.

## PSALM 133 | *How Good it Is* | Lori True

Whitney Rorabaugh, Cantor

### Refrain:

How good it is, how wonderful when all live together in  
u - ni - ty! How good it is, how wonderful when all live to -  
geth - er in love!

Clothe yourselves with gentle patience, leave behind all former ways, bear with all God sets before you; seek the face of Christ. **(Refrain)**

Clothe yourselves with true compassion, leave all past complaints behind. Just as Christ himself forgives you, so must you forgive. **(Refrain)**

Clothe yourselves with humble service, leave all thoughts of greed or pride. Let God's word dwell deep within you; Boast in Jesus Christ. **(Refrain)**

Clothe yourselves with loving kindness, cast aside all selfish ways. As God's chosen, blessed, and holy, bind your hearts to Christ. **(Refrain)**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Stephanie Fleck

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion, let us confess our sin before God and one another, beginning with a moment for silent reflection.

—based on Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16, NRSV

*Silence is observed*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

**Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;**

according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

**Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

**Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.**

Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress.

**Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.**

—Psalm 25:6-8, 11, 16-18, NRSV

In public confession, we tell the truth about ourselves, human nature, and God's grace.

## 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.**

—based on Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Please stand**

## SONG OF PRAISE | *Gloria Patri* | GREATOREX

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.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | *Apostles' Creed*

Stephanie Fleck

**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

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

We are reminded  
that our faith  
transcends the  
current moment  
and our current  
location. We are  
united with the  
faithful everywhere,  
and ultimately  
united with Christ  
as these truths  
are appropriated  
to each of us.

**Please be seated**

## 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.**

## PREPARATION FOR THE OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM | *You Do Not Walk Alone* | Elaine Hagenberg**

May you see God's light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark.

May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark.

When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone,

May you always remember when the shadows fall—You do not walk alone.

Please stand

**HYMN OF PREPARATION | *The Gift Of Love* | O WALY WALY**

1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire, and have the gift  
 2 Though I may give all I pos - sess, and striv - ing so  
 3 Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol; our spir - its long

to all in - spire, and have not love, my words are  
 my love pro - fess, but not be given by love with -  
 to be made whole. Let in - ward love guide ev - ery

vain, as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.  
 in, the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.  
 deed; by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Please be seated

**MESSAGE | Love One Another (John 13:34-35)** Courtney McLaughlin, Pastor of Equipping

**SENDING OUT**

Please stand

8th century  
Christian prayer.

**HYMN OF DEDICATION | *Where Charity and Love Prevail* | DUNDEE**

1. Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found; Brought  
 2. With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His char - i - ty we learn; Let  
 3. For - give we now each oth - er's faults as we our faults con - fess; And  
 4. Let strife a - mong us be un - known, let all con - ten - tion cease; Be  
 5. Let us re - call that in our midst dwells God's be - got - ten Son; As

here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.  
 us with heart and mind and soul now love him in re - turn.  
 let us love each oth - er well in Chris - tian ho - li - ness.  
 His the glo - ry that we seek, be ours His ho - ly peace.  
 mem - bers of His bod - y joined, we are in Him made one.

**BENEDICTION**

Jon Crantz

**POSTLUDE | *Celebration on Holy, Holy, Holy* | Arr. by Rhonda Furr**

**MUSICIANS**

Chancel Choir, Dan Wagner (Conductor & Director of Worship), and Dr. Jeong-Suk Bae (Organist & Accompanist)

**FLOWERS**

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by the Julia Circle in memory of our dear sister in Christ, Mary Lee Merrett.

## **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. Log your Intentional invite at [fpchouston.org/intentional5k](https://fpchouston.org/intentional5k).

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## Presbyterian School News

### **Join the Presbyterian School Staff**

Are you interested in working in a place that values your creativity and seeks to cultivate that same creativity in the next generation of leaders? Do you value working alongside colleagues who share your values as well as your workload? If so, you need to work at Presbyterian School. Presbyterian School is widely recognized in Houston as a leader in innovative and creative education for PK3-8th grade students. The school is currently accepting applications for teachers, coaches, extended day staff, and summer camp counselors. For more information on this opportunity and to apply, please go to [pshouston.org/careers](https://pshouston.org/careers).

To view career opportunities at FPC Houston, visit [fpchouston.org/employment](https://fpchouston.org/employment).

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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. Dr. Emmanuel Paulpeter, Pastor of Outreach

Rev. Jeanmarie Tade, Pastor of Caring



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).

### FPC Moms: Spring Groups

Groups Begin Jan 21 | Various Times & Locations

FPC Moms Ministry equips women to become more like Jesus as they grow in their love for Him, their children, and the community. Join us this spring for one of our three studies. For information on Moms' Groups or to register, visit [fpchouston.org/women](https://fpchouston.org/women).

### Singles Community Lunch

Sun | Jan 26 | 12:30 PM | Off-Campus

It's time for the next FPC Singles gathering. Join other single or single-again adults for lunch and fellowship. For the location, visit [fpchouston.org/events](https://fpchouston.org/events).

### City Serve Opportunity:

#### Kids' Meals Lunch Pack


Sun | Jan 26 | 9:30 AM | Fellowship Hall

FPC Houston exists to *Cultivate Community in the Way of Jesus for the Flourishing of the City* and what better way to demonstrate our commitment to this mission than a morning serving together. Skip your Sunday best, put on something comfortable, and make plans to be here as we pack 1,500 lunches for local children. All ages welcome!

### Explore FPC Class

Sat | Feb 1 | 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. Register at [fpchouston.org/explorefpc](https://fpchouston.org/explorefpc).

 Look for this symbol to find easy opportunities for an *intentional invitation*. Visit [fpchouston.org/intentional5k](https://fpchouston.org/intentional5k) to learn more.

### 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.

### Weekly Giving Report January 2025

January Goal: **\$459,749**  
Giving to Date: **\$152,847**  
Amount Needed: **\$306,902**