

A photograph of a wooden bench in a misty, sunlit landscape. The bench is made of dark wood and is positioned in the foreground. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with trees and a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

24/6

ORDER OF WORSHIP

MARCH 16, 2025 | 8:15 AM

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Dear God, silence all voices within our minds but your own.

Help us to seek and be able to follow your will.

May our prayers be joined

with those of our brothers and sisters in the faith,

that together we may glorify your name

and enjoy your fellowship forever.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRELUDE | *The Old Rugged Cross* | Arr. by Lloyd Larson

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO COMMUNITY

Jon Crantz, Pastor of Community Life

Please stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, we gather in this place, as your people... as members of a heavenly city with an unshakable foundation.

We stand upon the Rock of Ages, secure in His salvation.

We long for the streams of living water, flowing from eternal love, quenching every thirst.

His grace sustains us, a river that never fails.

The cloud and fire of His presence surround us, a light in darkness, a shade in the day.

We find our nourishment in His provision, our strength in His nearness.

Though the world may reject Him, we find our joy in His name.

We seek the lasting treasures of His kingdom, where true joy resides.

Let us worship the God of Zion, our refuge and our strength.

We glorify His name, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN | *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* | AUSTRIAN HYMN



1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.

2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,

3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hover - ing, see the cloud and fire ap - pear

4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a mem - ber am,



He, whose word can - not be bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode.

well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.

for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.

let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will glo - ry in your name.



On the Rock of A - ges founded, what can shake thy sure re - pose?

Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows their thirst to assuage?

Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,

Fad - ing are the world's best pleasures, all its boast - ed pomp and show;



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - rounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

Grace, which like the Lord, the giv - er, ne - ver fails from age to age.

safe they feed - up - on the man - na which God gives them on their way.

sol - id joys and last - ing trea - sures none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

Consider the journey from slave trader to author of "Amazing Grace," and then, "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken." John Newton's transformation shines through in both hymns, a testament to God's enduring power. Newton's hymn offers a vision of the church, or 'Zion,' as a place of divine security and abundant grace. It expresses the believer's confidence in God's protection and the enduring spiritual treasures found within His kingdom, contrasting those to the temporary nature of worldly things. The last verse talks about the singer wanting to be a member of Zion, and to be able to glory in the name of the Savior. This hymn is so rich in biblical allusions, it is well worth a few minutes of study.

To "invoke" is to call upon someone whom we know, but to mention them out loud. We do not cause God's presence in our Invocation, we acknowledge it.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Allison McMillan, Elder

All-knowing and all-caring God,
we gather this day — many of us drained or distracted by another week.
We are like a parched desert, empty and in need of replenishment.
Visit us with your presence, saturate us with your Spirit,
and bathe us in your streams of living water,
that our lives might acknowledge and worship you
to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ. **Amen!**
—based on John 4:13-14; 7:37-38

WORSHIP SONG | *Creator*

1. Praise Him, all you crea - tures, great and small; Praise Him, sum - mer,
2. Praise Him, gleam - ing moon and burn - ing sun; Praise Him, all you
3. Praise Him who stepped in - to what He made, Paid our debt, and

win - ter, spring, and fall. Howl - ing wind, rush - ing streams, Rol - ling
spin - ning spheres a - bove. Shin - ing stars, gold - en beams, Cho - ir
pulled us from the grave. Ev - 'ry heart He set free, Ev - 'ry

hills, and crash - ing seas, Lift your voice and wor - ship your Cre - a - tor.
made of gal - ax - ies, Lift your voice and wor - ship your Cre - a - tor.
soul that's been re - deemed, Lift your voice and wor - ship your Cre - a - tor.

Chorus

Ho - ly, You are ho - ly. Earth and heav - en Sing for - ev - er.
Ho - ly, You are ho - ly. All cre - a - tion Praise Cre - a - tor.

4. This, my great and ev - er - last - ing hope: I've been saved, and heav - en is my home. I can't
wait for that day, When I see You face - to - face, For I was made to mag - ni - fy my
Mak - er, Yes, I was saved to walk be - side my
Sav - ior, I'm cre - at - ed to wor - ship my Cre - a - tor.

Please be seated

CALL TO CONFESSION

Allison McMillan

Like the Israelites in the wilderness, we often find ourselves murmuring against God's provision, forgetting His past faithfulness. We grumble when our desires aren't met, forgetting the abundance He has already given. Let us examine our hearts, confessing our doubts and ingratitude, beginning with a moment for silent reflection.

Moment for Silent Reflection.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that, like your people of old, we have doubted your care.

We have forgotten the manna of your mercy, focusing instead on the perceived lack.

We have complained about our circumstances, failing to trust your provision.

We have allowed fear and discontent to cloud our hearts, instead of trusting in your daily bread.

Forgive us, Lord, for our grumbling spirits and our ungrateful hearts.

Restore in us a spirit of thankfulness, and help us to trust in your unfailing provision.

Help us to gather and receive your blessings with joy and obedience, trusting that your provision is always sufficient.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the true Bread of Life. Amen.

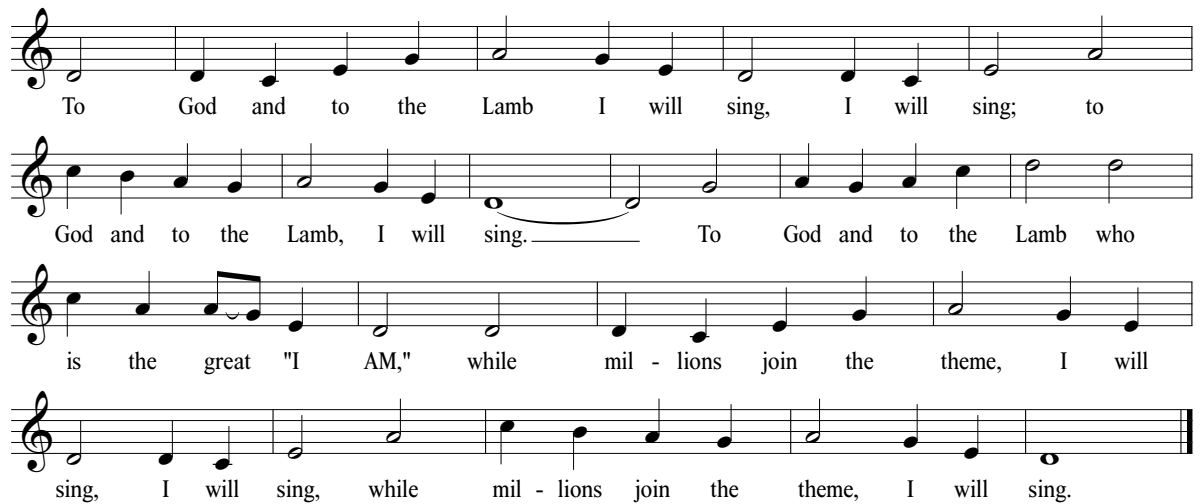
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: Though the Israelites grumbled, God continued to provide. Though we have doubted and complained, God's mercy is greater than our failings. Just as God provided manna in the wilderness, He offers us forgiveness and new life through Jesus Christ.

In His name, we are forgiven.

Please stand

LENTEN DOXOLOGY | *Wondrous Love*



To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
is the great "I AM," while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (SUNG) | *This I Believe*



1. Our Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing The all cre - at - ing One
2. Our judge and our de - fend - er Suf - fered and cru - ci - fied
— God Al - might - y Through Your Ho - ly Spir - it
— For - give - ness is in You De - scend - ed in - to dark - ness
— Con - ceiv - ing Christ the Son Je - sus our Sav - iour
— You rose in glo - rious life For - ev - er seat - ed high
1. I be - lieve in God our Fa - ther I be - lieve in Christ the Son
2. I be - lieve in life e - ter - nal I be - lieve in the vir - gin birth

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I be-lieve in the Ho - ly Spir - it ____ Our God is three in ____ One
 I be-lieve in the saints' com - mun - ion ____ And in Your ho - ly ____ Church

I be-lieve in the res - sur - rec - tion ____ That we will rise a - gain
 I be-lieve in the res - ur - rec - tion ____ When Je - sus comes a - gain

For I be - lieve in the Name of Je - sus

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Allison McMillan

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.

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

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Please be seated

MESSAGE | Rest (Exodus 16:1-30)

Courtney McLaughlin, Pastor of Equipping

RESPONDING TO THE WORD | *Come Find His Rest* | arr. Dan Forrest

Come weary one, leave thy labors; come lift thy head, see thy Savior and Friend.

His arms are opened wide; O soul, be satisfied Come find His rest.

Take His yoke upon thee, For He is gentle and lowly in heart.

So learn from Christ the Lord, thy Portion and Reward. Come find His rest.

Come weary one, leave thy labors; come, lift thy head, see thy Savior and Friend.

His arms are opened wide O soul, be satisfied Come find His rest.

Take His yoke upon thee, for He is gentle and lowly in heart.

So learn from Christ the Lord, thy Portion and Reward.

Come find His rest.

Please join when directed.

1. I ____ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me ____ and rest; lay ____
 down, O wear - y one, lay down your head up - on ____ my breast." I ____
 came to Je - sus as I was, so ____ wear - y and worn and sad; I ____
 found in him ____ a ____ rest - ing place, and ____ he has made me glad.

Take his yoke upon Thee

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.

SENDING

Please stand

HYMN OF ASSURANCE | *Be Still, My Soul* | FINLANDIA



1. Be still, my soul! the Lord is on thy side; Bear pa-tient-ly the
2. Be still, my soul! thy God doth un - der - take To guide the fu - ture
3. Be still, my soul! the hour is has-tening on When we shall be for-
cross of grief or pain. Leave to thy God to or - der and pro-vide;
as He has the past. Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth-ing shake;
ev - er with the Lord, When dis - ap-point-ment, grief, and fear are gone,
In ev - ery change He faith-ful will re - main. Be still, my soul! thy
All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul! the
Sor-row for - got, love's pur-est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul! when
best, thy heav'n-ly Friend Thro' thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.
change and tears are past, All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

BENEDICTION

Jon Crantz

Courtney McLaughlin will be outside the rear doors after the service and would love to greet you.

POSTLUDE | *My Song Is Love Unknown* | Arr. by Michael Burkhardt

MUSICIANS

Dan Wagner (Conductor & Director of Worship), Jeong-Suk Bae (Organist & Accompanist), Vickie Wagner (Worship Leader), Whitney Rorabaugh (Worship Leader), Zach Goodrick (Guitar), Owen Teixeira (Djembe) and Ben Rorabaugh (Keyboard & Vocals)

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bell (Beau and Mickey) by Peggy and Dean Graves and their family.

CARING MINISTRY UPDATES

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the following individuals:

- Catherine Henning for the loss of her brother, **Mickey Henning**, on Monday, February 17, 2025.
- The family of **Emily Lavinia Rice McLeod** for their loss on Friday, March 7, 2025.

Upcoming Memorial Services:

- Janis Page Haines | Mar 21 | 11 AM | Sanctuary

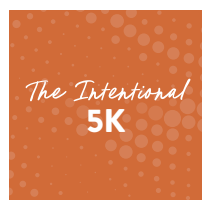
IN PRAYER THIS LENT

Awaken Houston

This Lent, FPC Houston is participating in Awaken Houston, a city-wide movement aiming to have 100,000 Houstonians praying daily for 1,000 baptisms in the month of April. In addition to a daily prayer and devotion guide, a fasting plan, and daily encouragement on socials, Awaken Houston is coordinating prayer gatherings at locations across the city. **We invite everyone in the FPC Community to join this movement by participating in a prayer gathering at FPC Houston on Wednesday, April 2, at 7 PM.**

To learn more about Awaken Houston and to join this movement via their devotional and fasting resources, visit awakenhouston.org.

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY



Intentional 5K

We strive to be a community that welcomes others into our lives as well as our faith community. Join us as we collaborate to extend 5,000 intentional invitations this year. 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! Log your invite at a poster stand in the Narthex or Palm Court or online at fpchouston.org/intentional5k.

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

Lent AT FPC

We invite you to join us as we experience the journey to the cross with the following activities, resources, and services.



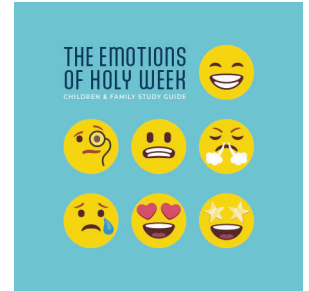
Lenten Devotional

Print & Online*



Awaken Houston Prayer Gathering

Apr 2 | 7 PM | Sanctuary



Kids' Lent Guide

Print & Online*

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday

Apr 17 | 7 PM | Sanctuary

Good Friday

Apr 18 | 7 PM | Sanctuary

Easter Services

Apr 20 | 8, 9:30*, & 11:15 AM

*FPC Kids Easter Fellowship on the Lawn after service.

For more details and access to digital devotionals, visit fpchouston.org/easter.

*Print devotionals are available outside our worship spaces and in the FPC Kids area.

Save the Date

VBS | June 9–13 | 9 AM–12 PM

Registration opens March 18.

Youth Summer Trips | June & July

MS Adventure Trip | June 20–24 | Florida

HS Mission Trip | June 16–21 | Honduras

MS Mission Trip | July 20–26 | St. Louis

HS Adventure Trip | July 19–25 | Colorado

Registrations open the week of March 17.

Mo-Ranch | July 10–13 | Hunt, TX

Registration opens March 23.

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

March 2025

March Goal: **\$587,031**

Giving to Date: **\$106,271**

Amount Needed: **\$480,760**

Needed to meet FYE 6/30/25: **\$1,900,020**