

24/6



ORDER OF WORSHIP

MARCH 23, 2025 | 11 AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Quiet your heart. Prepare to meet God. Begin with a moment of silent prayer, offering your burdens and joys to Him.

A PRAYER

Holy and loving God,
as we worship you today,
we long for your Spirit to both comfort and challenge us,
to help us become more holy and more loving.
In a world that does not understand repentance,
we pray for new understanding, humility, patience, and discipline
that will help us die to sin and live for Jesus. Amen.

PRELUDE | O Mensch, bewein' dein' Sünde gross, BWV 622 | Johann Sebastian Bach
(O Man, bemoan thy grievous sin)

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO COMMUNITY

Jon Crantz, Pastor of Community Life

CALL TO WORSHIP

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to your name, O Most High.

To declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.

We gather this day, set apart for worship, to rejoice in the works of your hands.

For you, O Lord, have made us glad through your deeds; we sing for joy at all you have created.

Let us lift our voices and our hearts in praise, for the Lord is good.

Let us give glory to God for the work he completed for us on the Cross. Let us worship the Lord!—from Psalm 92

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | In the Cross of Christ I Glory | RATHBUN

1. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r-ing o'er the wrecks of time.
2. When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hopes de-ceive, and fears an- noy,
3. When the sun of bliss is beam-ing Light and love up - on my way,
4. Bane and bless-ing, pain and plea-sure By the cross are sanc - ti - fied.

All the light of sa - cred sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sublime.
Nev - er shall the cross for - sake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
From the cross, the ra - diance streaming Adds more lus - ter to the day.
Peace is there that knows no mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

We gather as Christ's
body, a community of
faith. Welcome! Find
your place among
us as we worship
together.

Please stand

The cross: our central
symbol of faith.
It's a reminder of
Christ's sacrifice and
our source of hope.
Entering worship, we
glory in it

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Keith Hickey, Elder

O Lord, we gather in the rhythm of your creation, mindful of your command to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. We thank you for setting apart this day, a sacred pause in the rhythm of our lives. We praise you for the gift of rest, a foretaste of the eternal rest to come. We acknowledge your creative power, your steadfast love, and your faithfulness in everything you have made.

We come before you seeking to enter into your rest. We thank you that we can lay down our burdens and find refreshment in your presence. We praise you for the reminder that our worth is not found in our own labor, but in your love. We acknowledge your provision, your grace, and your invitation to stop our striving and know that you are God. We offer our hearts as a living sacrifice, a joyful offering of praise, as we honor you on this day set aside for worship. Amen.

Please be seated

This modern hymn beautifully expresses our access to God through Christ's intercession. Prepare our hearts to come before God, knowing that through God's provision we are loved and accepted.

PREPARATION | *Before The Throne of God Above*



1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect

2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair And tells me of the guilt with -



plea. A great High Priest whose name is Love Who ev - er lives and pleads for
in, Up - ward I look and see Him there Who made an end to all my



me. My name is gra - ven on His hands My name is writ - ten on His
sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav-iour died My sin - ful soul is count-ed



heart I know that while in heav'n He stands No tongue can
free. For God the Just is sat - is - fied To look on



bid me thence de - part No tongue can bid me thence de - part.
Him and par - don me, To look on Him and par - don me.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Keith Hickey

We are called to find our peace in God, to seek the quietness of His presence.

Yet, we confess that our hearts are often restless, filled with the clamor of worldly distractions.

We are called to turn away from the feverish pursuits of life, to find our rest in Him.

Yet, we confess that we often chase after fleeting pleasures, neglecting the still, small voice within.

We are called to acknowledge our need for God's cleansing grace, to find healing for our troubled souls.

Let us now enter a moment of silent confession, laying bare our hearts before the Lord of peace.

Moment of Silence

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, we come before you, weary and burdened by the noise of our lives.

We confess that we have sought our peace in the wrong places, chasing after empty promises and fleeting comforts. We have allowed the world's clamor to drown out your gentle voice, leaving us restless and unfulfilled. Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of stillness, our inability to find rest in you. Cleanse us from the fever of our desires, and lead us into the quietness of your presence. Grant us the serenity to know your will, the courage to follow it, and the peace that surpasses all understanding.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the comforting words of our Savior: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Through Christ's sacrifice, we are offered a peace that the world cannot give. Therefore, in the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we are restored to the peace of God.

Thanks be to God.

—based on the hymn, "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

Please stand

PRAISE | *Before the Throne of God Above*

3. Be - hold Him there the ris - en Lamb, My per - fect spot - less right - eous -
4. I bow be - fore the cross of Christ And mar - vel at this love di -

ness. The great un - change - a - ble I Am. The King of glo - ry and of
vine. God's per - fect Son was sac - ri - ficed To make me right - eous in God's

grace. One with Him - self I can - not die, My soul is pur - chased with His
eyes. This ri - ver's depths I can - not know, But I can glo - ry in its

blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, With Christ my
flood! The Lord Most High has bowed down low And poured on

Sav - iour and my God, With Christ my Sav - iour and my God.
me His glo - rious love, And poured on me His glo - rious love.

An ancient summary
of Christian belief,
uniting us with
believers across time.
We declare our faith in
the Triune God.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Apostles' Creed

Keith Hickey

**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

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.

Please greet one another with signs of peace.

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 | *Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind*

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
Beside the Syrian sea
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow Thee.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

Words: John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

Please be seated
We lift our needs and
the world's needs to
God, joining Jesus'
own prayer. "Our
Father" reminds us of
God's intimate care.

Poet John Greenleaf
Whittier's words seek
a "still, small voice"
of calm. A prayer for
inner peace amidst
life's noise. A fitting
and needed prayer for
all of us.

Please be seated

HYMN AT THE MESSAGE | *Near To The Heart Of God (A Place Of Quiet Rest)*



1 There is a place of qui-et rest, Near to the heart of God, A place where sin can-
2 There is a place of com-fort sweet, Near to the heart of God, A place where we our
3 There is a place of full re-lease, Near to the heart of God, A place where all is

Refrain



not mo-lest, Near to the heart of God.
Sav-ior meet, Near to the heart of God. O Je-sus, blest Re-deem-er,
joy and peace, Near to the heart of God.



Sent from the heart of God, Hold us, who wait be-fore Thee, Near to the heart of God.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

MESSAGE | Remember (Exodus 20:8-11)

Curtis A. Bronzan, Senior Pastor

SENDING

SENDING HYMN | *Lift High the Cross* | CRUCIFER

Unison



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim, Till all the world a-dore

Fine

Parts



His sa-cred name. 1. Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our Sav-ior
2. O Lord, once lift-ed on this glo-rious
3. For Thy blest cross which doth for all a-
4. So shall our song of tri-umph ev-er

D.C. al Fine



trod, Our King vic-to-rious, Christ, the Son of God.
tree, As Thou hast prom-ised, draw men un-to Thee.
tone, Cre-a-tion's prais-es raise be-fore Thy throne.
be: Praise to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-to-ry!

BENEDICTION

Jon Crantz

We invite you to join Pastor Curtis for coffee today at noon in the Living Room.

POSTLUDE | *A Tune From Tallis* | Tallis/McKinney

Please stand
This energetic hymn is a call to our mission to witness to Christ in our world. At the same time, it emphasizes who we are as believers who are called to share the Gospel. (CRUCIFER is the name of the tune. A hymn is a text which may be sung to various tunes, and most tunes have their own names.)

Benediction means literally "a good word", or a blessing.

MUSICIANS

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

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Nelda and Bob Moffatt and Marge and Louie Davis, by Ann and Ron Davis and family.

CARING MINISTRY UPDATES

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the following individuals:

- Chris Hill (Katie) on the loss of his father, **Philip Dean Hill**, on Friday, February 21. Condolences also to grandsons Bradley, Brenham, and Barrett.
- The family of **Emily Lavinia Rice McLeod** for their loss on Friday, March 7.
- Ann Petty on the loss of her mother, **Josephine "Jo" Petty**, on Thursday, March 20. Condolences to Jo's son David Petty (Lisa) and grandsons Clayton and Andrew Petty.

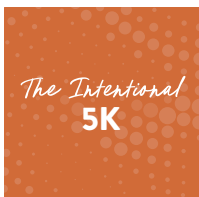
IN PRAYER THIS LENT

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!

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



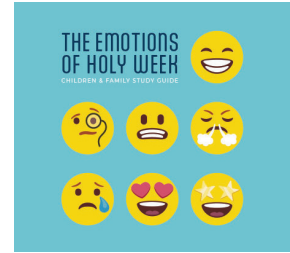
Lenten Devotional

Print & Online*



Awaken Houston Prayer Gathering

Apr 2 | 7 PM | Sanctuary



Kids' Lent Guide

Print & Online*

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday | Apr 17 | 7 PM | Sanctuary

Good Friday | Apr 18 | 7 PM | Sanctuary

Easter Sunday | 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.*

Coffee with Curtis

Today | 12 PM | Living Room

We are grateful to be part of a thriving community, and as such, a lot can happen between official communications and annual meetings. If you'd like an informal catch-up on the life of our church, we invite you to join Pastor Curtis today at noon in the Living Room.

Intro to Faith+Work Course

Sundays | April 27–June 1 | 9:30 AM | Fellowship Hall

This spring, we are excited to offer a six-week course on unifying faith and work. Using our Main Street Fellowship program as the foundation, the *Intro to Faith+Work Course* will help participants explore what it means to develop a theologically-informed worldview and for it to permeate every area of their lives.

Summer Registrations Now Open

VBS | June 9–13 Youth Summer Trips | June & July Mo-Ranch | July 10–13

Visit fpchouston.org/events to register.

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: **\$247,276**

Amount Needed: **\$339,755**

Needed to meet FYE 6/30/25: **\$1,684,944**