



# FLOURISHING FAITH



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

MAY 25, 2025 | 11:00 AM

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

## A PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Creator of the universe, who made us different from one another in myriad ways we can see and in more ways we shall never know, yet made us all in your image; fill our hearts with your love and our minds with your wisdom, that we may truly become brothers and sisters of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**PRELUDE** | *Benedictus* | Alec Rowley

## WELCOME AND INVITATION TO COMMUNITY

Curtis A. Bronzan, Senior Pastor

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The earth is the Lord's, for he made it:  
**Come, let us adore him.**  
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:  
**Come, let us adore him.**  
The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:  
**Come, let us adore him.**  
Lord, open our lips.  
**And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN | *Come, We That Love the Lord* | ST. THOMAS

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known; join  
2. Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God; but  
3. The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets be -  
4. Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - ery tear be dry; we're

in a song with sweet ac - cord, and thus sur - round the throne.  
chil - dren of the heaven - ly King may speak their joys a - broad.  
fore we reach the heaven - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets.  
march - ing through Em - man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high.

## PRAYER OF PRAISE

It is good to praise the LORD  
and make music to your name, O Most High,  
**to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night,**  
to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp.  
**For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD; I sing for joy at the works of your hands.**  
How great are your works, O LORD, how profound your thoughts!  
**You, O LORD, are exalted forever.**  
—from Psalm 92:1-5, 8, NIV

Joy Dowdle, Covenant Partner

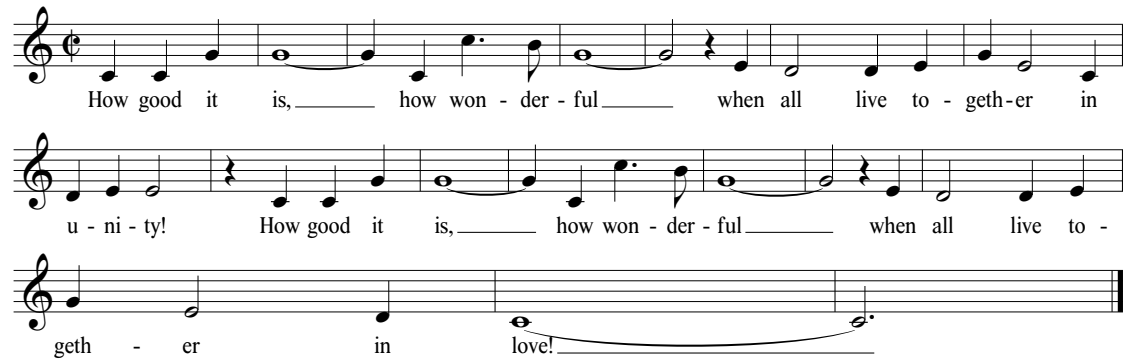
Preparing for worship,  
inviting reflection and  
preparation.

**Please stand**  
A communal  
declaration to focus  
hearts on God's  
presence.

A joyful act of unity,  
praising God together.

We acknowledge  
God's greatness and  
faithfulness.

Refrain:



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

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

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 - All)**

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

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Joy Dowdle

Friends, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love,  
any sharing in the Spirit, any tenderness and compassion,  
let us make our joy complete by having the same mind, by being one in spirit and purpose. Let  
us do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit,  
but in humility consider others more highly than ourselves,  
looking not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others.  
Let us begin our time of confession with a moment for silent preparation.

*A moment of silent preparation*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins to God.

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not always lived in unity,  
as brothers and sisters dwelling together in harmony.**

**We have allowed ambition and vanity to guide our thoughts and actions,  
instead of humility and love.**

**We admit our slowness to consider the interests of others as highly as our own.**

**We confess our failures to look to the good of our neighbors,  
especially those within the household of faith.**

**Forgive us for when we have sown discord, for the divisions we may have permitted,  
and for the times we might have prioritized our own desires  
above the peace and well-being of your church.**

**Heal fractured relationships, soften our hardened hearts,  
and renew within us a spirit of true community.**

**Through Christ, make us one in mind and purpose,  
that we may stand united in you, to your glory  
and the flourishing of your kingdom. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news! When we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our  
sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he  
removed our transgressions from us. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Please be seated**

Singing the Psalms  
connects us directly to  
the worship practices  
of the people of God  
over thousands of  
years.

We admit our  
shortcomings  
and receive God's  
forgiveness.



**Please stand**

A timeless expression  
of praise to the Trinity.

**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. Amen.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Apostles' Creed**

Joy Dowdle

Leader: Let us now affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.  
Christian, what do you believe?

**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**

A symbolic act of  
reconciliation and  
unity.

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.*

**Please be seated**

We bring our  
communal and  
personal needs  
before God.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Curtis A. Bronzan

**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 | Instruments Of Your Peace | Dearman/arr. Greer**

James Winslow, Soloist

Lord, make us instruments of Your peace;  
Where there is hatred, let Your love increase.  
Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.  
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease  
when we are Your instruments of peace.  
  
Where there is hatred, we will sow His love;  
Where there is injury, we will never judge.  
Where there is striving, we will speak His peace  
to the people crying for release.  
We will be His instruments of peace.  
  
Lord, make us instruments...  
  
Where there is blindness, we will pray for sight;  
Where there is darkness, we will shine His light.  
Where there is sadness, we will bear their grief  
for the millions crying for release.  
We will be His instruments of peace.  
  
Lord, make us instruments...

*The congregation is invited to sing the chorus when directed (continued on next page):*



Lord, make us in - stru - ments of Your peace; Where there is ha - tred let Your love in - crease. Lord, make us in - stru - ments of Your peace; Walls of pride and pre - ju - dice shall cease, \_\_\_\_\_ when we are Your in - stru - ments of peace. \_\_\_\_\_

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

**MESSAGE | Unified in a Culture of Division (Philippians 2:1-4 and 4:2-3)**

Jon Crantz,  
Pastor of Community Life

## SENDING OUT

### Please stand

A reminder of our shared mission as we leave worship.

**SENDING HYMN | *In Christ There Is No East or West* | MCKEE**

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no pride of birth,  
2 For God in Christ has made us one from ev - ery land and race;  
3 It is by grace we are as - sured that we be - long to him;  
4 So, bro - thers, sis - ters, praise his name who died to set us free  
5 In Christ there is no east or west; he breaks all bar - riers down;  
the cho - sen fam - ily God has blessed now spans the whole wide earth.  
he re - con - ciled us through his Son and met us with his grace.  
the love we share in Christ our Lord, the Spir - it works with - in.  
from sin, di - vi - sion, hate, and shame, from spite and en - mi - ty.  
by Christ re - deemed, by Christ pos - sessed, in Christ we live as one.

## BENEDICTION

Curtis A. Bronzan

*Jon Crantz will be outside the rear doors after the service and would love to greet you.*

**POSTLUDE | *Toccata in D Minor* | Johann Sebastian Bach**

Worshippers remain to be uplifted, or depart in joy, knowing that God goes before us.

A blessing to carry God's peace and purpose into the world.

## **MUSICIANS**

Chancel Choir, Dan Wagner (Conductor & Director of Worship), and Alan Sexton (Organist)

## **FLOWERS**

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today to the glory of God and in memory of all those who died to keep our country free by Col. (Ret) Norris Posehn and Colleen Jernigan.

## **NEW COVENANT PARTNERS**

Welcome our new Covenant Partners (Joining Day: May 18, 2025)

Lillian Dowe

David Foor

Rebecca Mathews

Sarah Metsa

Brandon Murgia

Natalie Murgia

Kate Pontikes

Alan Smith

Michelle Smith

## MINISTRY UPDATES

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### CARING MINISTRY

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the following individuals:

- The family of Brent Dorsey (Pluma) on the loss of his brother, **William B. Dorsey**, on Friday, April 25.
- The family of Chris Schwartz on the loss of his father, **James Edward Schwartz**, on Sunday, May 18.

### WORSHIP MINISTRY

#### Chancel Choir Bon Voyage Concert & Dessert

The Chancel Choir invites the FPC family and trip supporters to their Bon Voyage Concert, a special one-hour preview of the songs they'll sing on their upcoming musical mission tour of Central Europe! Afterward, gather at the dessert reception to offer your prayers and extend your well wishes.

Concert | 6:30–7:30 PM | Sanctuary

Dessert Reception | 7:30–8:00 PM | Oak Court

## NEW TO THE CAMPUS?

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### PARKING INFORMATION

If you parked in the MFAH garage, please note that this convenient option is complementary until 2 PM, no validation required. For additional options, visit [fpchouston.org/parking](https://fpchouston.org/parking).

### OUR GIFT TO YOU

We're so glad you're here! If you're new to our community, we invite you to pick up a welcome bag in the Sanctuary lobby or at the Connections Desk in Palm Court.

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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 Missional Alignment

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.  
View additional opportunities at [fpchouston.org/events](https://fpchouston.org/events).

### Collegiate Sunday School Class


Sundays | Begins Today | 9:30 AM | CE 225

Designed for those of college age (although you don't need to be in college to attend), this class offers a welcoming space to interactively explore faith, build lasting friendships, and grow together in God's Word. Come connect with others in your season of life and find encouragement as we dive into Scripture and ask real questions.

### VBS 2025: Adult Leaders Needed

Mon-Fri | June 9-13 | 9 AM-12 PM

Children (Pre-K 4 through 5th grade) are invited to trek the Alaskan wilderness as they discover their True North and experience trusting Jesus in a wild world! Volunteers are also needed! Register and sign up to serve at [fpchouston.org/vbs](https://fpchouston.org/vbs).

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

### Mo-Ranch

Thur-Sun | July 10-13 | Hunt, TX

Come explore the adventure of the Hill Country this summer with FPC! It's a wonderful time to gather as a community, enjoying fellowship, learning, and God's beautiful creation. Register at [fpchouston.org/mo-ranch](https://fpchouston.org/mo-ranch).

### The Micah Project 25th Anniversary Trip

July 31-August 3, 2025 | Honduras

Pastor Curtis invites you to join him and other FPC community members on The Micah Project 25th Anniversary Trip this summer. Connect or reconnect with former and current Micah boys, staff, and friends, engage with the facets of the ministry, and celebrate all that God has done over the past two-and-a-half decades of this vibrant ministry. For more information, visit [fpchouston.org/events](https://fpchouston.org/events).

### Memorial Day Schedule

Join us for hot dogs and cold drinks on the front lawn to celebrate the holiday (weather permitting).  
Vegan options and gluten free buns available.  
In observation of the Memorial Day holiday, the FPC Campus will be closed on Monday, May 26.

### Connect

Scan the QR code to let us know you're here!



### Give

Your generosity helps impact the people, places, and ministries we serve. To contribute, scan the QR code or place your gift in an offering box.



### Weekly Giving Report

May 2025

May Goal: \$474,596

Giving to Date: \$359,656

Amount Needed: \$114,940

Needed to meet FYE 6/30/25: \$648,290



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