

# TEACH US TO PRAY

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 1, 2026

**PRELUDE** | *Two Voluntaries for Organ* | Thomas Weelkes

**WELCOME AND INVITATION TO COMMUNITY** Justin Hall, Pastor of Youth Ministry

• **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Ben Crelin, Pastor of Equipping

The Lord is King! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

**Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;**

**Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.**

We do not come to persuade God to adopt our agenda.

**We come to surrender ourselves to his reign.**

His kingdom is not built on the pride of statues or the strength of kings.

**His kingdom is found in the lowliness of Nazareth and the surrender of Gethsemane.**

Come, let us worship the one whose purposes are wiser and more life-giving than our own.

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

• **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** | *Be Thou My Vision* | SLANE

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought by day or by night;  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Be thou my wisdom,  
and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my great Father and I thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys,  
O bright heav'n's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Be thou my breastplate,  
my sword for the fight;  
Be thou my armor, and be thou my might.  
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;  
Raise thou me heav'nward, O pow'r of my pow'r.

• **PRAYER OF PRAISE**

Wei Yang, Shepherding Elder

Holy and mighty God, we praise you for a kingdom that outlasts the gold and iron of every earthly empire. We praise you that you do not rule by force or fear, but by the power of grace. You are the God who hears the cries of the oppressed, and you offer mercy to us and to our enemies. Light of Life, in your light, we see light; in your reign, we find our peace.

*Please be seated.*

• *Signifies when all who are able may stand*

### TODAY IN WORSHIP

#### Prayer of Preparation

God of all kingdoms and Lord of our hearts, we come before you today with our own agendas, our own anxieties, and our own desires for control. Like Israel of old, we often look for earthly power to save us; like Jonah, we sometimes prefer our own justice to your mercy. In this hour of worship, silence the noise of our self-will. Reshape our desires through the power of your Spirit, that we might truly long for your reign in our lives, in our city, and in the world. Teach us not to seek to move your hand, but to surrender to your heart. Amen.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Wei Yang

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but yours be done." Too often, our prayers sound the opposite: we ask God to bless our plans and validate our efforts. Let us come before the Lord in honesty, confessing the ways we cling to our own self-determination and resist the coming of his kingdom. We do this as we take a moment of silent reflection, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to us.

*Please take a moment for silent reflection.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most Merciful God,

**We confess that we prefer our own kingdom to yours.**

We want the certainty of earthly kings and the comfort of our own prejudices.

Like Jonah, we are slow to show mercy; like the disciples, we are slow to stay awake to your purposes.

**We confess that we use prayer as a way to negotiate with you rather than a way to be changed by you.**

**Forgive our pride and our need for control.**

**Break down the statues of our own making and reorder our lives according to your Word.**

For these, and for any shortcomings you have revealed to us, we humbly ask for your mercy and forgiveness.

**If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins**

**and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. In Christ, the kingdom of God has come near to you. He does not treat us as our sins deserve, but invites us again and again into the life-giving flow of his grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

### • LENTEN RESPONSE | *"Wondrous Love"*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul.

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

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 millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing.

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

### • AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | *Martin Luther's Smaller Catechism: The Lord's Prayer*

Wei Yang

Our affirmation of faith is from Martin Luther's Smaller Catechism: The Lord's Prayer

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

What does this mean?

**The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer,  
but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.**

How is God's will done?

**God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil,  
the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come;  
and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and in the faith in this world and the next.**

**This is His good and gracious will.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

As one family, we are united in the faith we profess and the grace we have received.

Let us now extend that grace to one another through the passing of the peace.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Please greet one another with signs of peace.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Ben Crelin

## PREPARATION FOR THE OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM | *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee* | Arr. Jody Lindh**

Chancel Choir

If thou but suffer God to guide thee  
And hope in him through all thy ways,  
He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee  
And bear thee through the evil days.  
Who trusts in God's unchanging love  
Builds on the rock that naught can move.

Nor doubt our inmost wants are known  
To him who chose us for his own.

Sing, pray, and keep his ways unswerving;  
in all thy labor faithful be  
and trust his word; though undeserving,  
thou yet shalt find it true for thee;  
God never yet forsook in need  
the soul that trusts in him indeed.

—Georg Neumark, 17th Century

Only be still and wait his leisure  
In cheerful hope with heart content  
To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure  
And all discerning love hath sent;

*During the singing of the Doxology, children are invited to join the FPC Kids Gathering.*

• **DOXOLOGY | OLD 100TH**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**MESSAGE | *Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done (1 Samuel 8:4–22, Matthew 6:10)***

Justin Hall

**INVITATION AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Ben Crelin

**COMMUNION\***

Communion is served by intinction, that is, taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Worshipers come forward to receive. If anyone needs to be served in the pew, please let an elder know, and they will be pleased to bring communion to you.

*\*All bread is gluten free.*

**COMMUNION ANTHEM | *Jesus I Adore Thee* | 13th Cent. Hymn/Arr. Stephen Caracciolo**

Chancel Choir

Jesus I adore thee, Word of truth and grace,  
Who in glory shineth light upon our race.  
Christ, to thee surrendered, my whole heart is bowed.  
Alpha and Omega, thou true Son of God.

Word of God incarnate, Lord of life and light,  
Teach me how to love and worship thee aright.  
Holy Spirit, ever 'bide within my heart,  
Speaking thy commandments, telling all thou art.

Taste and touch and vision to discern thee fail;  
Faith that comes by hearing pierces through the veil.  
I believe whate'er the Son of God hath told.  
What the truth hath spoken that for truth I hold.

Wondrous revelation, verity and grace.  
Lo, in glory's heav'n I see thee face to face.  
Light of endless light whom heav'n and earth adore,  
Fill me with thy radiance, now and evermore.

• **PRAYER OF THANKS**

Justin Hall

Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us at this table with the bread of life.

**As we have received your grace, we pray: Thy kingdom come.**

By your Word and Spirit, rule our hearts so that we may submit to you more and more.

**We also pray: Thy will be done.**

As we return to our daily lives, help us to renounce our own wills and yield ourselves to yours.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

• **RESPONSE | *The Lord's Prayer* | MALOTTE**

**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.**

• **BENEDICTION**

Ben Crelin

**POSTLUDE | *Canzon detta "La Spiritata", C. 186* | Giovanni Gabrieli**

*Pastor Justin will be in the foyer after the worship gathering and would love to greet you.*

## MUSICIANS

Dan Wagner

*Conductor & Director of Worship*

Dr. Jeong-Suk Bae

*Organist & Accompanist*

Chancel Choir

## FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today in loving memory of John, Ione and Maxine Strange, and Raburn and Cre Mason by Mark and Kim Strange.

## WELCOME

Scan the QR code to let us know you're here! We'd love to welcome you.



## FUEL THE MISSION

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



## WEEKLY GIVING REPORT

**March 2026**

March Goal: **\$489,222**

Giving YTD: **\$5,735,691**

Needed to Meet FYE 6/30/26: **\$1,589,126**

## PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Curtis A. Bronzan

*Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Courtney McLaughlin

*Pastor of Missional Alignment*

Rev. Ben Crelin

*Pastor of Equipping*

Rev. Justin Hall

*Pastor of Youth Ministry*

Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Paulpeter

*Pastor of Evangelism*

Rev. Jeanmarie Tade

*Pastor of Caring*

## MINISTRY UPDATES

### CARING MINISTRY

#### In Loving Memory

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the following individuals:

- The family of Richard Franke, on the passing of his wife **Jeri Franke**, on Friday, February 6.

#### Support in Difficult Seasons

Are you dealing with a difficult time in life? FPC Stephen Ministers are here to help. Stephen Ministers offer care to those experiencing challenging times. To request support, please email [caring@fpchouston.org](mailto:caring@fpchouston.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Lenten Guides for Adults and Kids

This Lenten season, we are offering two resources to help deepen your faith. One for adults, titled *Teach Us to Pray*, offers a weekly study tied to our sermon series, featuring scriptures and songs for daily meditation. For the younger ones, our FPC Kids team has prepared a reflection Holy Week reflection centered around emotions. Both resources can be found outside our worship spaces and on our Easter page, [fpchouston.org/easter](http://fpchouston.org/easter).

### Sunday Evening Class:

#### *Praying in the Way of Jesus*

**Sundays | Begins Mar 1 | 6 PM | Living Room**

Do you desire a more intimate, living conversation with God? Pastors Curtis and Jeanmarie invite you to explore biblical prayer practices like lament and gratitude. Join us today to cultivate a rhythm of trust and grow as an apprentice of Jesus.

### Lenten Prayer Gathering: Awaken Houston

**Wed | Mar 4 | 7 PM | Grand Hall**

Join us for a city-wide evening of prayer as we unite with believers across Greater Houston. Together, we will seek personal renewal, revival for our churches, and a spiritual awakening for our city during this season of Lent.

### Celebration for Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Paulpeter

**Sun | Mar 8 | 12 PM | Fellowship Hall**

On Sunday, March 8, we will celebrate our dear friend, Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Paulpeter and his wife, Rachael Martin, as they prepare to start a new season of ministry. Please plan to join us as we express our gratitude for his many years of ministry here at FPC.

For more information on these and other opportunities to grow in community, visit [fpchouston.org/events](http://fpchouston.org/events).



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