

Brought Near

TO BE Built Up

ORDER OF WORSHIP | MAY 3, 2026

PRELUDE | *Prelude in E Major, BuxWV141* | Dieterich Buxtehude

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO COMMUNITY

Curtis A. Bronzan, Senior Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP

Justin Hall, Pastor of Youth Ministry

Come, let us worship the Lord.

He is rich in mercy and abounding in steadfast love.

We were dead in our trespasses, but God has made us alive together with Christ.

By grace, we have been saved through faith.

This is not our own doing; it is the gift of God.

Let us rejoice and give thanks to the One who has called us into new life.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | *To God Be The Glory*



1. To God be the glo - ry, great things he hath done! So loved he the

2. O per - fect re - demp-tion, the pur - chase of blood, to ev - ery be -

3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our re -



world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a -

liev - er the prom - ise of God; the vil - est of - fend - er who

joic - ing thru Je - sus the Son; but pur - er, and high - er, and



tone - ment for sin, and o - pened the life - gate that all may go

tru - ly be - lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re -

great - er will be our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we



in.

ceives. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the

see.



Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the Fa - ther thru



Je - sus the Son, and give him the glo - ry, great things he hath done!

• *Signifies when all who are able may stand*

TODAY IN WORSHIP

As we gather to worship, let us reflect on the grace that has brought us here, the mercy that sustains us, and the hope that calls us forward. May our hearts be open to the transforming power of God's love.

Prayer of Preparation

Gracious God, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude for your unending grace. Prepare us to worship you in spirit and truth, to hear your Word, and to respond with lives that reflect your love. Amen.

• **PRAYER OF PRAISE**

Jay Dowdle, Covenant Partner

Gracious and loving God,

We praise you for your mercy that is more than we can comprehend. You have called us out of darkness into your marvelous light, and you have made us alive together with Christ. We thank you for your faithfulness, your promises, and your unending grace. May our worship bring glory to your name and joy to your heart. Amen.

ANTHEM | His Mercy Is More | MERCY

Choir and Congregation

Chorus

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!

Stronger than darkness, new every morn,

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?

Omniscient all knowing, He counts not their sum.

Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more! **(Chorus)**

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?

What Father, so tender, is calling us home?

He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor,

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!

What riches of kindness He lavished on us?

His blood was the payment, His life was the cost,

We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more! **(Chorus)**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jay Dowdle

God's grace invites us to come as we are, to lay down our burdens, and to confess our sins. Let us approach the throne of grace with humility and trust, knowing that God is faithful to forgive. We begin our prayers of confession with a moment of silence to invite the Holy Spirit to search our hearts for those things we need to confess.

Moment for silent reflection.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have followed our own desires and neglected your will for our lives. We have failed to love you with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, Lord, and renew us by your grace. Lead us in the way of righteousness, that we may walk in the light of your love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: God, who is rich in mercy, has made us alive together with Christ.

By grace, we have been saved. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live as new creations.

Thanks be to God!

• **SONG OF PRAISE | Gloria Patri | Creatorex**

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**

Jay Dowdle

Let us now affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

Followers of Christ, 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**

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 AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Justin Hall

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 | *Now I'm Found* | Tim Osiek

Chancel Choir

I once was lost, but now I'm found.

Amazing grace, oh, how sweet the sound.

I once was blind, but now I see.

Amazing grace saved a wretch like me.

Grace taught my heart to fear, grace my fears relieved;

grace did that hour appear when I believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,

I have already come:

amazing grace has brought me safe thus far,

and grace will lead me home!

I once was lost, but now I'm found!

—John Newton

Children are invited to join the FPC Kids Gathering, during the singing of the Doxology.

• 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.

SCRIPTURE READING | Ephesians 2:1-10

Jay Dowdle

MESSAGE | *Made Alive Together*

Curtis A. Bronzan

INVITATION AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Justin Hall

COMMUNION*

Communion is served by intinction, that is, taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Worshipers come forward to receive communion. 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.*

• PRAYER OF THANKS

Eternal God,

We thank you that you have fed us in this celebration, uniting us with Christ and with each other. We praise you that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, turning our bondage into freedom and our sorrow into joy. By your Holy Spirit, empower us to go out into the world as forgiven people, carrying the grace we have received into our homes, workplaces, and communities. Make us living sacrifices, instruments of your peace and mercy, that our lives may reflect the saving love of Jesus. We ask this in the name of Jesus who saves us. Once we were lost, but now we've been found by God's amazing grace.

• HYMN OF RESPONSE | *Amazing Grace* | NEW BRITAIN

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,

Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

And grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear,

The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,

I have already come;

'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,

And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,

His word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be,

As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise,

Than when we'd first begun.

• BENEDICTION

Justin Hall

POSTLUDE | *How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings from A German Requiem, Op. 45* | Brahms/Elloway

Pastor Curtis 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 to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Louis B. Paine, Jr. Mrs. Charlotte A. Kuehn, Baker Luke Bucshon, and Rhodes Walter Bucshon.

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 May 2026

May Goal: **\$539,604**

Giving YTD: **\$6,764,185**

Needed to Meet FYE 6/30/26: **\$560,632**

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. 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 Victor and Julie Harris on the passing of their nephew, **Thomas Parker Mason**, on Friday, April 3.
- Susan and Barry Engel on the passing of her sister, **Claire Rollwage Haskins**, on Wednesday, April 8.
- Marcia Hovious on the passing of her husband, **Brad Weldon Hovious**, on Tuesday, April 7.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monthly Prayer Gathering

Wed | May 6 | 6:30 PM | Chapel

We believe corporate prayer is a powerful way to invite God to lead and guide us, become more unified, and be empowered for ministry. Join us for our monthly prayer time as we seek the Lord for the fulfillment of our church vision and the needs of our congregation and beyond.

Fellas & Fajitas

Fri | May 8 | 6 PM | Travis Field

Kinder–8th graders can bring their dads or favorite fellas to the turf for an evening of quality time, fellowship, and Fajita Pete's.

Stephen Minister Information Session

Sun | May 17 | 12 PM | CE 227

Join us for lunch to learn about Stephen Ministry's one-to-one care for those facing life's challenges. Whether you feel called to serve as a caregiver or need support yourself, come discover how to get involved or apply for fall training. Please register by May 14.

Elder & Committee Recommendations

Deadline to Submit is May 24

Our Nominating Committees are looking for candidates to serve as future Elders or as committee members on our next Elder Nominating Committee (ENC) or Standing Nominating Committee (SNC). If you know a Covenant Partner who loves Christ, has a strong faith, and demonstrates a willingness to serve, consider nominating them for one of these roles. For more information or to submit a recommendation, visit fpchouston.org/recommend.

Summer Choir

Sundays | June 7–Aug 23 | 9:15 AM | Sanctuary

Join the Chancel Choir this summer! No auditions or long-term commitments are required. You can simply participate whenever your schedule allows. We would love to welcome your voice to the group. Contact Nancy Turner at **832.870.1505** or turnernancy@sbcglobal.net to join us in song.



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