



## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### Time of Reflection

#### \*Hymn of Response

No. 382 "Be Thou My Vision"

SLANE

### Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer



## BENEDICTION

#### \*Response

Blessed be the LORD I AM, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, amen!

#### Postlude

"The King Shall Come" (Consolation) arranged by Michael Burkhardt



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome.** We are glad you're here. If you are visiting with us, please use the Visitor Card in the pew racks, our church app (FPCBR in the App Store) or online at [fpcbr.org/connect](http://fpcbr.org/connect).

**Prayer Requests.** We'd love to pray for you. Prayer requests may be sent to [prayer@fpcbr.org](mailto:prayer@fpcbr.org), through the church app or by filling out a card in the pew rack.

**Giving Update.** We've had a wonderful response to both our Building Up and 2022 stewardship. We'll announce some figures soon. But we want everyone to have a chance to participate! Please prayerfully make your giving dedication soon.

**Live Nativity Friday Night!** Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angels, wise men and shepherds will reenact Jesus' birth. Join us Friday, December 3 at 5 and 6 pm in the Terraced Garden.

**Christmas with Michael O'Brien and the Foto Sisters.** We are thrilled to welcome back to First Presbyterian the Foto Sisters for a Christmas concert at 7 pm Friday, December 3 (same night as Live Nativity). They will be joined by 20-year music veteran and Christian singer Michael O'Brien (formerly the lead singer for the Christian band Newsong). Please invite your friends. A love offering will be taken.

*announcements continue on back panel . . .*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Joy to the World! Women's Ministry Advent Brunch in Two Weeks.** Join us for our annual Advent Brunch. Saturday, December 11 from 11 am-1 pm at the home of Amanda Vincent. Visit [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) for details and registration. There is no charge for this event, but we ask that you register online. A love offering will be collected that will be used to purchase winter coats for the students of Buchanan Elementary. Childcare is not provided.

**Men's Gathering December 11.** While the women enjoy the Advent brunch Saturday, December 11, the men will have a barbeque! Bring your favorite cut of meat to grill (grill provided) in the Terraced Garden from 11 am-1 pm. Men's ministry will provide fixins (onions, peppers, etc.) as well as sides and drinks. Free fly fishing lessons for anyone interested in an upcoming fly fishing trip. No charge but please RSVP online at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org). Childcare provided!

**Ero Cras Cantata.** The worship ministry will present a morning of visual and musical worship celebrating the ancient "O" prayers. Join us at one of two performances (9 or 11 am) that will make up our worship on December 19. The celebration will include the premiere of a newly commissioned work by Dr. Joshua Nichols for choir and orchestra, "Incarnate God! What Tongue Can Tell." Before and after the musical presentation, those gathered will be invited to browse works of visual art inspired by the "O" prayers.

**Loving Our rEcess Families!!** Once a month volunteers spend a few hours playing with the children of families affected by disability while parents enjoy a night out. We need prayer for this vulnerable group and hands on volunteers. Contact Jess Concienne if you would like to participate in monthly rEcess ([jess.concienne@gmail.com](mailto:jess.concienne@gmail.com) or 225.892.3212).

**Christmas Poinsettia Orders.** All are invited to contact Sherry in the church office (387.0617 or [sherry@fpcbr.org](mailto:sherry@fpcbr.org)) to purchase a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. Poinsettias are used to decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary. \$35 each. Tuesday, December 15 is the deadline to place an order.

**Christmas Bags for Malachi Dads.** Items are being collected for Christmas bags to be distributed to the Malachi Dads (prisoners) at Angola Penitentiary. Please consider making a donation and dropping it off at the Connection Center: soap, antiperspirant, toothpaste/toothbrush, shampoo, lotion, body wash, socks or baby powder. Cash donations also accepted.

#### ADVENT AT-A-GLANCE:

- December 3: Live Nativity at 5 and 6 pm
- December 3: Michael O'Brien and Foto Sisters Christmas Concert at 7 pm
- December 11: Women's Ministry Advent Brunch; 11 am at Amanda Vincent's Home
- December 11: Men's Advent Gathering; 11 am at First Presbyterian Church
- December 12: Downtown Pilgrimage, FPC stop at 6.30 pm
- December 19: ERO CRAS Cantata at 9 and 11 am Worship
- December 24: 11 am, 4 pm and 6 pm Worship in the Sanctuary

**Chapel and Sanctuary Flowers:** The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. William J. Miller and Blake Miller by the Robert Miller family.

**Scripture for Next Week:** Isaiah 11: 1, 11; Revelation 5: 5; Isaiah 22: 22; Revelation 3: 7  
Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD  
763 North Boulevard | Baton Rouge, LA 70802 | 225.387.0617 | [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org)



Advent Sermon Series

## ORDER of WORSHIP

November 28, AD 2021

11 am

First Sunday of Advent



## GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Whitney Alexander

### Prelude

“Nun Komm’ der Heiden Heiland” (“Savior of the Nations, Come”) by J. S. Bach  
Steve Gustafson, organ

### \*Welcome and Call to Worship

*From Hebrews 1 and Colossians 1*

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,  
**But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.**

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.  
**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.**

O Wisdom which came out of the mouth of the Most High, and reaches from one end to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things:  
**Come and teach us the way of knowledge.**

### \*Hymn of Praise

No. 59 “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

ELLACOMBE

### \*Blessing God

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Candle of Hope will be lit by Sharon and Dan Gibson.

### Scriptural Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**In the garden, when death became our destiny, you promised the woman that her child would crush the head of the serpent. In the psalms and the prophets, you proclaimed that the anointed One, the Messiah, was coming. At the right time, he arrived in Bethlehem. Christ accomplished the great victory over sin and death for us. Now we are free, but we struggle still. The alluring voice of the serpent continues to tempt us. We fail. Once more, to our hearts and to our world, O Come, O Come Emmanuel! Silence the confusing voice of the Evil One with the Wisdom that comes from the mouth of the Most High. Remind us today that “It is finished.” Amen.**

### Silent Confession

### Assurance of Pardon

### \*Response

SUSSEX CAROL

**On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring.**

**On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring:**

**News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful king’s birth.**

### \*Greeting and Announcements

*Children Kindergarten and younger may go to Children’s Church.*

### Offertory

“Comfort Ye” with “Ev’ry Valley” from *Messiah* by G. F. Handel  
Dedrian Hogan, tenor

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.  
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,  
That her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.  
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord;  
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Ev’ry valley shall be exalted,  
And ev’ry moutain and hill made low;  
The crooked straight and the rough places plain.

*Please place your prayer requests and offerings in the plate as it is passed.*

### \*Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise him all creatures here below,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia!**

### \*Prayer of Dedication



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### \*Hymn of Preparation

No. 124 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

### Time with God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

*Proverbs 8: 27-31*

When he established the heavens, I was there;  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,  
when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
then I was beside him, like a master workman,  
and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always,  
rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the children of man.

*Isaiah 11: 2*

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

*1 Corinthians 1: 21-25*

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

No one has ever seen God,  
**But the one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father’s side, has made him known (John 1: 18).**

### Sermon

Gerrit Dawson  
The “O Prayers,” Part 1: O Wisdom