

Fort Worth Presbyterian Church



December 31, 2023

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers a welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.



To learn more about us, use this QR code



If you are visiting, please register here.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5

Please turn off or silence all communication devices.

For Free Wi-Fi, go to Settings on your device and select network 'FWPCA'

Courtesy walker and wheelchair are available at the main entrance.

Hearing Assistive Devices (FM Receivers) are at the back sound booth.

† Congregation standing

Order of the Worship of God

— December 31, 2023 —

First Sunday after Christmas

Welcome

Prepare our Hearts for Worship

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

The Gospel Greeting

Rev. Keith Berger

Pastor: Christ is born!

People: Let us glorify Him!

† The Call to Worship

Pastor: Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Let all the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

Pastor: God is spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and Truth. Come, therefore, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker, who has shone His saving light to the nations.

From Psalm 67:3; John 4:24; and Psalm 95:6

† Hymn of Praise

TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord to Thee.

Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for Thee,
swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing,
always, only for my King.

Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from Thee,
filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect, and use
ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose,
ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;
it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be Thy royal throne,
it shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for Thee,
ever, only, all for Thee.

Henri A. César Malan, 1827; Frances R. Havergal, 1874

† Invocation

† Doxology

ALL CREATURES

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!

Confession of Sin

David Welch

Elder: Let us now confess our sins together:

All: Our God and Father, when we behold Your Son, Jesus, we see Your great love for us; for You sent Your one and only Son into the world to die for sinners like us; so that whoever believes in Him would have eternal life. Yet, our Father, our appetite for things of secondary or even of no importance fills our lives with longings that You never intended us to have. Our love and devotion to our possessions and our fleeting pleasures reveal again our true need of Jesus, our Lord. In this Christmas season, would You please give us Christ more and more. Fill our hearts with a desire to know Him, to love Him, to serve Him, and to follow Him. Give us His presence to guide us in wisdom, to give peace to our troubled souls, to guard and protect our ways. Grant us Your grace and favor in Christ that we might delight in Your forgiveness. Amen.

Silent Confession

Song of Confession

PSALM 51

God, be mer-ci - ful to me; On Your love I rest my plea.

By Your vast a-bound-ing grace, My trans-gres-sions all e - rase.

From the stain of ev-'ry sin, Wash, and make me clean with - in.

CCLI Song # 323401 Augustus Montague Toplady | James Ward
© Words: Public Domain Music: 1985 James Ward Music

† Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD; though your sins be like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

All: **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ: New Creation! The old has passed away, behold, the new has come!**

† The Greeting of Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you!

People: **And also with you!**

At this time, please greet those around you with the peace of Christ.

† Song of Renewal

SING WE THE SONG OF EMMANUEL



1. Sing we the song of Em - man - u - el;
2. Come we to wel - come Em - man - u - el;
3. Go spread the news of Em - man - u - el;



this the Christ who was long fore - told.
King who came with no crown or throne.
joy and peace for the wear - y heart.



Lo in the shad - ows of Beth - le - hem,
Help - less He lay, the in - vin - ci - ble,
Lift up your heads, for your King has come;



prom - ise of dawn now our eyes be - hold.
Ma - ker of Ma - ry, now Ma - ry's son.
sing, for the light ov - er - whelms the dark.



God most high in a man - ger laid;
O what wis - dom to save us all,
Glo - ry shi - ning for all to see,



lift your voic - es and now pro - claim:
shep - herds, sa - ges be - fore Him fall.
hope a - live, let the gos - pel ring.



Great and glo - ri - ous, love has come to us.
Grace and maj - es - ty, what hu - mil - i - ty.
God has made a way, He will have the praise;

Join now with the hosts of
Come tell on the bend world - ed knee, a -
Hea - ven.
dore Je -
Him. sus.
Glo - ri - a, Glo -
ri - a. Glo -
ri - a, Glo - ri - a.

Directly to "Gloria" last time

To 3rd Verse

By Matt Boswell, Matt Papa,
Stuart Townend, and Keith Getty

COMMITTING TO GOD'S KINGDOM

† Confession of Faith

Elder: Christian, who is the Lord Jesus Christ?

All: The Lord Jesus Christ is the Beloved Son of God, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the Image of the Invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the Head of the Body, the Church, the Firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

From Colossians 1:14-20

Prayer of Intercession

David Welch

(followed by a time of silent prayer)

Common Prayer

Elder: Let us now join our voices together praying:

All: Almighty God, who has poured out on us the new light of Your Incarnate Word: Grant that the same light enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives, for Jesus' sake, we pray.

Morning Offering & KIWI Release

QR Code for online giving



LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

The Reading of the Word

Matthew 2:13-23

[13] Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." [14] And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt [15] and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

[16] Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. [17] Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

[18] "A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

[19] But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, [20] saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." [21] And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. [22] But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. [23] And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Rev. Keith Berger
Chief Organizational Development Officer RUF

DIVINE PROTECTION

FEASTING AT GOD'S TABLE

The Celebration of Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is good, right, and our delight that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of Heaven we praise and magnify Your glorious name evermore praising You and singing:



Marty Haugen (1984) ©1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

The Confession

Pastor: Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us!

People: Hallelujah!

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of the Faith:

People: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again. Hallelujah!

Pastor: And now our Holy Master, that with boldness and without condemnation, we dare to call upon You, the Heavenly God, as our Father, and say:

All: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Yours is the Kingdom and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

Pastor: The holy gifts of God for the holy people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving. Let us now partake of the feast!

*(Clear cups are wine and purple cups are grape juice,
Gluten/Dairy free wafers are individually wrapped)*

Statements for Communion:

“The body of Christ for you.”

“The blood of Christ for you.”

“You have new life in Christ.”

“You have full forgiveness in Christ.”

Understanding Holy Communion

“For Christ our Passover has also been sacrificed for us,
therefore, let us celebrate the feast.” – 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Because we believe the Table belongs to the Lord, it is vital that you come this morning on His terms:

1. You must be in communion with Jesus Christ by faith and repentance, trusting Him alone for your salvation.
– *1 Corinthians 11:27-29*
2. You must be in communion with your brothers and sisters in Christ. –
Matthew 5:23-24; Ephesians 4:1-6
3. You must be in communion with the church (any Bible-believing church) as a baptized member in good standing.
– *Matthew 18:15-18; Hebrews 13:17*
4. Because we seriously heed Scripture's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:28-29, we invite children who are ready to make a public profession of saving faith to complete the Communicants Class materials available at the book table, arrange a meeting with the elders, and thus become regular “communicants” at the Lord’s Table. Contact Rebecca York at rebecca@fortworthpca.org.

*"But let a man examine himself, and so let him
eat of the bread and drink of the cup."
– 1 Corinthians 11:28-29*

Prayers for Those Not Communing

For those searching for truth: Lord Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who You are. Give me the ability to follow You no matter what it might cost me. Give me an understanding for You that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that You promise. Amen.

For those who desire to profess faith in Christ: Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through You, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank You for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that You have been raised from the dead and are now representing me at the Father's right hand in heaven, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

A prayer for those struggling against sin: Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in You the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on You, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that You have set before me, looking only to You, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

A prayer for covenant children who have not yet made a profession of faith: Lord Jesus, thank You for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow You as one of Your disciples. Amen.

Communion Song

JESUS, I COME

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.

Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

CCLI Song # 7131576 / Greg Thompson | William True Sleeper / © 2000 Cardiphonia Music

Post-Communion Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray:

All: Heavenly Father, we thank You for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of Your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of His Body and heirs of His Kingdom. Amen

GOING OUT WITH GOD'S BLESSING

† Song of Sending

ALL GLORY BE TO CHRIST

Should nothing of our efforts stand,
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house,
In vain its builders strive.

To you who boast tomorrow's gain,
Tell me what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn.

All glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our King!

All glory be to Christ!

His rule and reign we'll ever sing

All glory be to Christ!

His will be done His kingdom come
On earth as is above

Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him the Lord of love.

Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ! *Chorus*

When on that day the great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new.

Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light
And we shall e'er His people be
All glory be to Christ! *Chorus*

CCLI Song # 7008232 | Words by Dustin Kensrue | ©2012 We Are Younger We Are Faster Music

† The Sending

Pastor: As we now go into the world:

All: May our eyes be fixed on our Immanuel.

Pastor: When we struggle, fear, or fail:

All: May we cast ourselves upon the cross of our Immanuel.

Pastor: When we encounter our neighbors and co-workers:

All: May we speak and show our Immanuel.

† The Blessing

Pastor: May the LORD bless you and keep you; may the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

All: Amen!

Deacon of the Day

Andy Warren – December 31

Herb Haertner –January 7

Chris Jordan – January 14

Save the Date

Sun, Dec 10 – Young Professionals Lunch at Kincaid's

Sun, Jan 7, 11:30 – Saltillo Mexico Mission Trip (July, 20-27 2024)

Info Meeting

Mon, Jan 8 – Ladies Game Night

Sun, Jan 14 – Young Professionals Lunch at Dickey's Barbecue

Sun, Jan 14 – Officer Ordination and Installation

Wed, Jan 17 – Women's Bible Study returns

Sun, Jan 21 – Prayer Albums presented

Wed, Jan 24 – Super Wednesdays begin

Sun, Feb 18 – Annual Silent Auction and Variety Show

Information & Events

Visitors: Pick up visitor information at the visitor kiosk in the Fellowship Hall immediately following morning worship.

Christian Formation Classes will return on Sunday, January 7, at 9:00 a.m. A new adult class will be offered in the Lecture Hall based on Paul Tripp's book *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*, helping us discover where change is needed in our own lives and how we can lovingly speak truth into the lives of others.

Exploring the Gospels with Bob Schwartzbeck will meet at 9 a.m. in Room 201 starting Sunday, January 7.

FWPC 101: Learn about FWPC's vision, purpose, ministries, service and fellowship opportunities, membership, and more. This class is required for membership but does not commit you to be ready to join. It will be led by Pastor Brandon in the Lecture Hall on Friday, January 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (dinner provided) and Saturday, January 27, 8:30 a.m.-noon (continental breakfast served). Nursery is available upon request. Sign up at fortworthpca.org/adult.

Women's Bible Study returns Wednesday, January 17 studying Courtney Doctor's *From Garden to Glory: A Bible Study on the Bible's Story*. Fall participants do not need to re-register, but new women are welcome to jump in! Morning groups meet at FWPC, 9:30-11:00, and the evening group meets at Elizabeth Steed's, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Find complete details and register at fortworthpca.org/biblestudy.

Prayer Albums: On Sunday, January 21, we will pray for the following babies and present their parents with Prayer Albums and a Jesus Storybook Bible: Samuel Reynolds Ogden, Alexander Jackson Sarmiento, Virginia Ruth (Jenny) Davis, Nora Renee Lynn, Juliet Elaine Schultz, and Linda Kathryn Giron. Pick up cards on the fellowship hall table, and help us fill their albums with prayers and scriptures.

Julie Markham now resides in Memory Care. Send cards or visit: Davis House, 185 Chinn Chapel Road, Lewisville, Tx 75077.

Containers left in the kitchen: There are a number of containers that were used for recent activities in the kitchen. If you left containers here, please pick them up from the kitchen today.



MEN'S BREAKFAST SERIES



SATURDAYS

JAN 13 FEB 10 MAR 2

Be challenged by thoughtful
teaching, connect and build
friendships, break bread
together at FWPC.

MEN'S SPRING STUDY

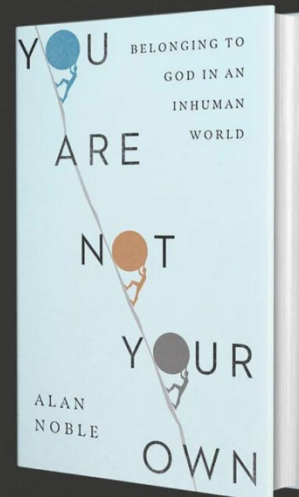
JANUARY 16-APRIL 3

TUES, 7:00 PM

WED, 6:30 AM

FWPC LECTURE HALL

Register at
fortworthpca.org/men



Financial Report

Fiscal year June 2023-May 2024		
June – November	This Year	Last Year
General Fund Giving YTD	619,997	642,115
General Fund Expenses YTD	718,075	650,045
How we're doing YTD	-98,077	-7,930

Our Fiscal Year began June 1. Through the first two months of our fiscal year, we spent \$98,077 more than our income. This is \$90,147 increase over last year. As of November 30, we have \$162,561 cash on hand after liabilities.

Part of your faithful giving supports Bradford Green, TCU Campus Minister, with Reformed University Fellowship.

- ❖ NEW! Mobile Giving: Text the amount you want to give to 817-934-6447. The first time will take you through the setup. After that, text the amount you would like to give.
- ❖ If you would like to give online, you can sign up for ACH/Credit/Debit giving from our home page fortworthpca.org.
- ❖ If you would like to contribute stocks or securities from a brokerage account, you can contact Steve Fults 817-731-3300 and he can give you the instructions for these types of gifts.

IMPORTANT 2023 YEAR-END DEADLINES

- ❖ Your check must be dated no later than December 31st.
- ❖ The envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31st.
- ❖ Online donations for 2023 will be accepted until midnight Central time on December 31st.

Mailing Address: Fort Worth Presbyterian Church
PO Box 16307 Fort Worth, TX 76162

Fort Worth Presbyterian Church

By God's grace and all for his glory, Fort Worth Presbyterian Church exists to gather for biblically saturated worship, grow together in the life of the gospel, and go out to bear witness to the reign of Christ in all things.

SESSION (ELDERS)

Brandon Eggar 615-605-5182	David Welch 817-938-0833
Steve Fults 817-773-8772	Scott Zink 817-395-8376
Scott Hames 817-313-1869	Ben Dyess Elder Emeritus
Jack Norris 817-821-0918	John Weiser Elder Emeritus
Scott Wade 817-368-667	

For Pastoral Care Appointment: 817-731-3300

Prayer Requests: prayer@fortworthpca.org

DEACONS

Pete Cansick 610-451-9965	Daniel Sneed 817-343-1589
Herb Haertner 817-919-1045	Dowell Stackpole 817-223-1042
Chris Jordan 817-271-0150	David Steed on sabbatical
Don Judd 817-874-4205	Johnny Tassin 281-684-0053
Randy Shannon 817-807-5660	Andy Warren 817-614-3243

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YOUTH INTERN

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Monday-Friday | 8:00 AM-12:00 PM, 1:00-5:00 PM

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