Fort Worth Presbyterian Church



January 7, 2024

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 front of the bulletin and the color of the minister's stole is currently green, which signifies that this is the season of Epiphany — the season when the Church has historically remembered that the one Lord Jesus was revealed to all the nations that we may know that our life, growth and hope is in Him.

"I know we have won many a soul through pleasure. All the same, it is His invention, not ours. He made the pleasures: all our research so far has not enabled us to produce one. All we can do is to encourage the humans to take the pleasures which our Enemy has produced, at times, or in ways, or in degrees, which He has forbidden."

Screwtape, Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis

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

— January 7, 2024 —

First Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome & Announcements

Prepare our Hearts for Worship

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

The Gospel Greeting

Rev. Brandon Eggar

Pastor: The Lord will make you as a light for the nations,

People: That His salvation may reach the ends of the earth.

From Isaiah 49:6

† The Call to Worship

Pastor: The Lord is good to all;

People: And His mercy is over all that He has made.

Pastor: Oh, give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name, make known His

deeds among the peoples!

People: Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of His wondrous works!

Pastor: Glory in His holy name, let the hearts of those who seek the LORD

rejoice!

From Psalm 145:9 and Psalm 105:1

† Hymn of Praise

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near,

join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!

Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;

ponder anew what the Almighty will do,

if with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee, decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.

How oft in grief hath not He brought thee relief, spreading His wings to o'ershade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen sound from His people again;
gladly fore'er we adore Him.

† Invocation

† A Psalm Reading

Psalm 29:1-4, 10-11

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory

and strength.

People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the

LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Pastor: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory

thunders, the LORD over many waters.

People: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is

full of majesty.

Pastor: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits as king

forever.

All: May the LORD give strength to His people! May the Lord

bless His people with peace!

† 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!

Confession of Sin

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing that when we were slaves to sin, we let sin

reign in our mortal bodies, to make them obey their various passions.

All: But the fruit we were getting at that time was from things of

which we are now ashamed.

Pastor: The end of those things is death. But now we have been set free

from sin and become Your servants.

All: And the fruit we now get leads to sanctification and abundant

life.

Pastor: Do not present your members to sin as instruments for

unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as

instruments for righteousness.

All: Sin is no longer our master, since we are not under the law but

under grace.

From Romans 6:12-23

Silent Confession

† Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: God the Father has delivered us from the domain of darkness and

transferred us into the Kingdom of His Beloved Son, in whom we

have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

All: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ: New Creation! The old has

passed away, behold, the new has come!

Colossians 1:13-14

† 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.

Let us love and sing and wonder
Let us praise the Savior's name
He has hushed the law's loud thunder
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame
He has washed us with His blood (3x)
He has brought us nigh to God

Let us love the Lord who bought us
Pitied us when enemies
Called us by His grace and taught us
Gave us ears and gave us eyes
He has washed us with His blood (3x)
He presents our souls to God

Let us sing though fierce temptation
Threatens hard to bear us down
For the Lord our strong salvation
Holds in view the conqu'ror's crown
He who washed us with His blood (3x)
Soon will bring us home to God

Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is
Justice smiles and asks no more
He who washed us with His blood (3x)
Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted Him before us
Now their praises fill the sky
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood (3x)
Thou art worthy Lamb of God

CCLI SONG # 5834479 John Newton | Laura Taylor |© 2001 Laura Taylor Music

COMMITTING TO GOD'S KINGDOM

† Confession of Faith

Pastor: Christians, in whom do we believe:

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died, and was buried;

He descended into hell.*

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there He will come to judge the living

and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic** church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*While Jesus didn't literally descend to hell, he did endure the torment of hell on the cross and remained under the power of death until his resurrection.

**universal

Prayer of for Covenant Children

January/February

Common Prayer

Elder: Let us now join our voices praying:

All: Eternal Father, at the baptism of Jesus You revealed Him to be

Your Son, and Your Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove: Grant that we, who are born again by water and the Spirit, may be faithful as Your adopted children; through Jesus Christ

we pray. Amen.

Morning Offering & KIWI Release

Children Pre-K through 2nd grade can now be dismissed for KIWI (Kids In Worship Instruction).

Teachers will meet the children in the foyer to take them to class.

After the sermon, their teachers will return them to worship where they may come directly to you, or you may meet them at the back of the auditorium.

QR Code for online giving



LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

The Reading of the Word

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁹What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do

good as long as they live; ¹³ also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

¹⁴I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. ¹⁵That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SEASON OF WISDOM

Season of Seasons (3:1-8)	

Eat, Drink and Be Merry (3:9-13)

Forever Ever (3:14-15)

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Why do you think God created seasons- that is, cycles in our lives?
- 2. What are some of the unpleasant aspects of our lives (perhaps some you're experiencing right now) that Ecclesiastes is asking us to wrestle with?
- 3. Why does the Bible take this idea of wisdom so seriously?
- 4. What is difficult about attaining wisdom? What's difficult about displaying it during difficult seasons?
- 5. What pleasures is God offering you, and how can you take advantage of them without falling into sinful indulgence?

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:



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)

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 Songs

PSALM 121(AMAZING GRACE)

I lift my eyes up to the hills— Where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord, who made the heav'ns and earth—it comes!

He won't allow your foot to slip;
His watch o'er you He keeps.
For He who watches Israel—
He slumbers not nor sleeps.

The Lord's your keeper; He keeps watch—
He's shade at your right hand.
The sun won't harm you in the day,
Nor moon at night—you'll stand!

The Lord will keep you from all harm; Your life He watches o'er. The Lord guards as you come and go

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless Righteousness
The great unchangeable I AM
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself, I cannot die
My soul is purchased with His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God
With Christ my Savior and my God

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YET NOT I BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken For by my side, the Savior He will stay I labor on in weakness and rejoicing For in my need, His power is displayed

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven The future sure, the price it has been paid For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon And He was raised to overthrow the grave

CCLI Song # 7121852

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† Post-Communion Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray:

All:

Our Father, we thank You for feeding us at Your Son's Table and by Your Spirit nourishing us with our true food and true drink, the Body and Blood of Your Son the Lord Jesus Christ. May we go forth from this place to serve and honor You, our

Good and Gracious God. Amen

GOING OUT WITH GOD'S BLESSING † Song of Sending

IT WAS FINISHED UPON THAT CROSS

How I love the voice of Jesus
On the Cross of Calvary
He declares his work is finished
He has spoken this hope to me
Though the sun had ceased its shining
Though the war appeared as lost
Christ had triumphed over evil
It was finished upon that Cross

Jesus paid the price for me
Full the pardon He has offered
Great the welcome that I receive
Boldly I approach my Father
Clothed in Jesus' righteousness
There is no more guilt to carry
It was finished upon that Cross

Death was once my great opponent
Fear once had a hold on me
But the Son who died to save us
Rose that we would be free indeed

Death was once my great opponent

Fear once had a hold on me

But the Son who died to save us

Rose that we would be free indeed

Yes He rose that we would be free indeed

Free from ev'ry plan of darkness
Free to live and free to love
Death is dead and Christ is risen
It was finished upon that Cross

Onward to eternal glory
To my Saviour and my God
I rejoice in Jesus' victory
It was finished upon that Cross
It was finished upon that Cross
It was finished upon that Cross

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† The Sending

Pastor: As we now go into the world:

All: May we entrust ourselves to Christ.

Pastor: When we struggle, fear, or fail:

All: May we cast ourselves on the cross of Christ.

Pastor: As we encounter neighbors and co-workers:

All: May we serve them in the name of Christ.

† 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

Herb Haertner – January 7

Chris Jordan – January 14

Randy Shannon – January 21

Save the Date

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 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 at 9 AM: Adult class based on Paul Tripp's book *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* meets in the Lecture Hall. This class helps 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 meets in Room 201.

Saltillo Mexico Mission Trip informational meeting today after worship in the Lecture Hall. Come join the team. Trip date July, 20-27

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.

Volunteer opportunity for Men and Women: Would you be willing be on a rotation to make or purchase a meal for someone in our church who is in need? Or do you have time in your schedule to provide an occasional ride for a church member? Contact Debby Jones (817) 917-2688 or Rita Black (214) 536-9745

The Giving Grove has donated 14 fruit and pecan trees that we will be *planting on Saturday*, *February 10*. Help will be needed with preparing the site, planting, maintaining, and harvesting the garden. Join us for *lunch at the*

Schwartzbecks on Sunday, January 21, to learn how you can be involved with the grove. Use the QR code to sign up/volunteer. Questions? See Anne Santana, Marilyn Schwartzbeck, or Andy Warren.



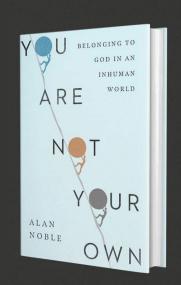
MEN'S SPRING STUDY

JANUARY 16-APRIL 3

TUES, 7:00 PM WED, 6:30 AM

FWPC LECTURE HALL

Register at fortworthpca.org/men







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.

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