

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**  
**Sunday, August 17, 2025**



**First Evangelical & Holy Cross Churches**  
**2740 Parker Ave.**  
**West Palm Beach, FL 33405**  
**[www.felcwpb.com](http://www.felcwpb.com)**

*"We are a community of churches and a church to the community."*

Welcome to worship with First Evangelical and Holy Cross churches. We come together for worship each Sunday to share in the ministry and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ with our own unique traditions and history. Seven other Christian ministries are located onsite with us.

If you are a guest or visitor and would like to know more about First Evangelical or Holy Cross, please reach out to one of our ushers, pastors, or fill out a welcome card and drop it in the offering boxes. Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. May God bless you.

## WELCOME / INVOCATION

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *How Firm a Foundation*



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P:** Father of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination*

**P:** Everlasting Father,

**C: We confess how we have not lived as your people.**

**We serve many masters—work, wealth, power, addictions—  
yet find no hope in them.**

**We hear the cries of the poor,  
and shut the doors of our hearts to them.**

**We ridicule those who expose their hopes and dreams to us.**

**Forgive us, our compassionate God,  
and heal us of our brokenness.**

**Make us well, so that by our healing,  
we might be the hope and love others need in their lives,  
even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,  
brought these gifts to us,  
calling us to be faithful  
with the grace, peace, and joy entrusted to us.**

**P:** Now that we have let go of the pain,  
the bitterness, the anger of our lives,  
let us be kind, tender-hearted, and gentle towards each other,  
forgiving as God has forgiven us.

**C: We are God's beloved children,  
and will model God's grace and love in our hearts.  
Thanks be to God! We are forgiven! Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE: *We Are All One in Mission*



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.  
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:  
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. . .

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today is **New Member Sunday!** We will be welcoming these new members during worship today: **Dylan Bauer, Franklin Eddie, Ted Jones, Jose Oliveras, Kay Taylor, Christine Webb.** Take time to introduce yourself and welcome them during a special lunch following with a cake in their honor.
- Our condolences go out to the family and friends of **Dorothy M. Harrison** who passed away recently. Her remains will be interred in First Lutheran's Columbarium with a brief service **Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Conniston Middle School** is in need of the following items to be donated so they can hand them out to students in need. The need is ASAP but no exact deadline as they get dispersed throughout the school year.  
*Mesh Backpacks (not clear or fabric) - Glue Sticks*  
*Notebooks with lined paper - Pencil Pouches*
- Help feed a friend with our **Food Drive** this summer! Dry goods are being collected at the back of the church and given to the Palm Beach County Food Bank. Please, **NO GLASS** items. So far Jhadha delivered a total of **156 pounds** of food this summer, helping to provide over **130 nutritious meals** to families, children, seniors and individuals in need throughout Palm Beach County. This mission project will continue through August, keep the food coming! Thank you.
- First Evangelical's **Centennial Committee** will meet today after worship.
- Join us for a **delicious lunch** following worship today in the Fellowship Hall.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*The elementary-aged children are excused for **Sunday School class.***

## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

<sup>23</sup> “Am I only a God nearby,”

declares the Lord,

“and not a God far away?”

<sup>24</sup> Who can hide in secret places

so that I cannot see them?”

declares the Lord.

“Do not I fill heaven and earth?”

declares the Lord.

<sup>25</sup> “I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’” <sup>26</sup> How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? <sup>27</sup> They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name through Baal worship. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?” declares the Lord. <sup>29</sup> “Is not my word like fire,” declares the Lord, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”

R: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

*The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

<sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

<sup>31</sup> By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— <sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

12:<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

## **GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:49-56**

**P:** The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Luke.

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

### **Not Peace but Division**

<sup>49</sup> “I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup> But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. <sup>52</sup> From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. <sup>53</sup> They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

### **Interpreting the Times**

<sup>54</sup> He said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does. <sup>55</sup> And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and it is. <sup>56</sup> Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON**

Pastor Dan Baker



## HYMN OF THE DAY: *Christ Be Our Light*



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

### *Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

**Amen**

## **THE OFFERING**

***Your OFFERING is received in the back of the church.  
Separate BOXES are available for both Holy Cross &  
First Evangelical churches.***

**For First Evangelical only, you can give online at  
[www.felcwpb.com](http://www.felcwpb.com) or TEXT2GIVE 844-504-1678 or  
Scan QR Code.**



## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P: The Lord be with you.**

**C: And also with you.**

**P: Lift up your hearts.**

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

**P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and Praise.**

**SONG:** “*Holy, Holy, Holy*”

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might,  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD’S PRAYER**

**C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE DISTRIBUTION – CONTINUOUS FORMAT** *(Silence is appreciated)*

We practice Open Communion at Holy Cross and First Evangelical. If you believe that the Holy Sacrament carries with it the promises of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life and are a **baptized Christian** – you are welcome to receive. We do ask, however, that younger children who have not yet been instructed in the meaning of the sacrament - please come to the chancel for a blessing but refrain from receiving. Grape juice is in the center of the communion trays.

### **BENEDICTION/ BLESSING**

**P:** “The LORD bless you and keep you,  
*Y’varech’cha Adonai v’yeesh’m’reicha.*

The LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you;  
*Yaer Adonai panav eleicha veechooneka.*

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.”  
*Yeesa Adonai panav eleicha v’yasem l’cha shalom.*

**C: Amen.**

## RECESSIONAL SONG: *Sent Forth By God's Blessing*



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

## DISMISSAL

**P:** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**WELCOME** to all and thank you for joining us in worship today as we give thanks and praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray that the service will be meaningful and uplifting for you. If you are a first-time visitor, please sign the Guest Register. You are invited to stay for coffee and refreshments following the service. We very much would like to greet you and hope to make you feel welcome.

### **Serving in Worship**

<b>Pastors</b>	- Rev. Daniel D. Baker & Rev. Dr. Michael Breznen
<b>Crucifers</b>	- Tom Kalorgis, Hilkka Schroderus-Rowe
<b>Liturgists</b>	- Dianne Breznen, Sera Butz
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	- Dianne Breznen, Sera Butz, Hilkka Schroderus-Rowe
<b>Sound/Live Stream</b>	- Ken Burton
<b>Video</b>	- Sera Butz, Scot Alexander

	<b>This Week</b>	<b>Next Week</b>
<b>Musicians</b>	Sandra Baran	Elihana Elia
<b>Lector</b>	Kathrine Summers	Dr. Hadassah Elia

### **Remember in Prayer**

We pray for peace between nations and peoples and for just resolutions to the conflicts throughout the world – especially the people of Israel and fellow believers facing life-threatening persecution; those in war-torn countries; for all members of our armed services and law enforcement personnel; for our country and our nation’s leaders; for the Church, Church leaders, for **Youth for Christ**, and all faithful witnesses to the Gospel; for our missionaries – **Anthony and Soyoung Sellari** and their work in Egypt.

We pray for God’s healing presence to be with: **Frank Eddie, Lesley Hogan** (friend of Katherine Summers); **Kirk, Leona, Lisa & Don, Sandy, Carl, Trish, Lou, Allan, Carson, David S., Gertrude, Holly, Katie, Linda, Marilynn, Patrick and Christopher, George & Susan Butz** (Sera’s parents); **Linda Zier** – lung cancer (Lori Kinney’s friend); **Cyndy Sellari** – for healing; **Joan Cannon** – health issues; and members of the **Holy Cross and First Evangelical Church** families who are at home and unable to attend.

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### **First Evangelical & Holy Cross Churches**

2740 Parker Avenue  
West Palm Beach, FL 33405  
Ph: 561-833-9653  
Website: [felcwpb.com](http://felcwpb.com)  
Email: [info@felcwpb.com](mailto:info@felcwpb.com)

Church Office Hours  
Monday – Wednesday – Friday  
9 a.m. until 1 p.m.