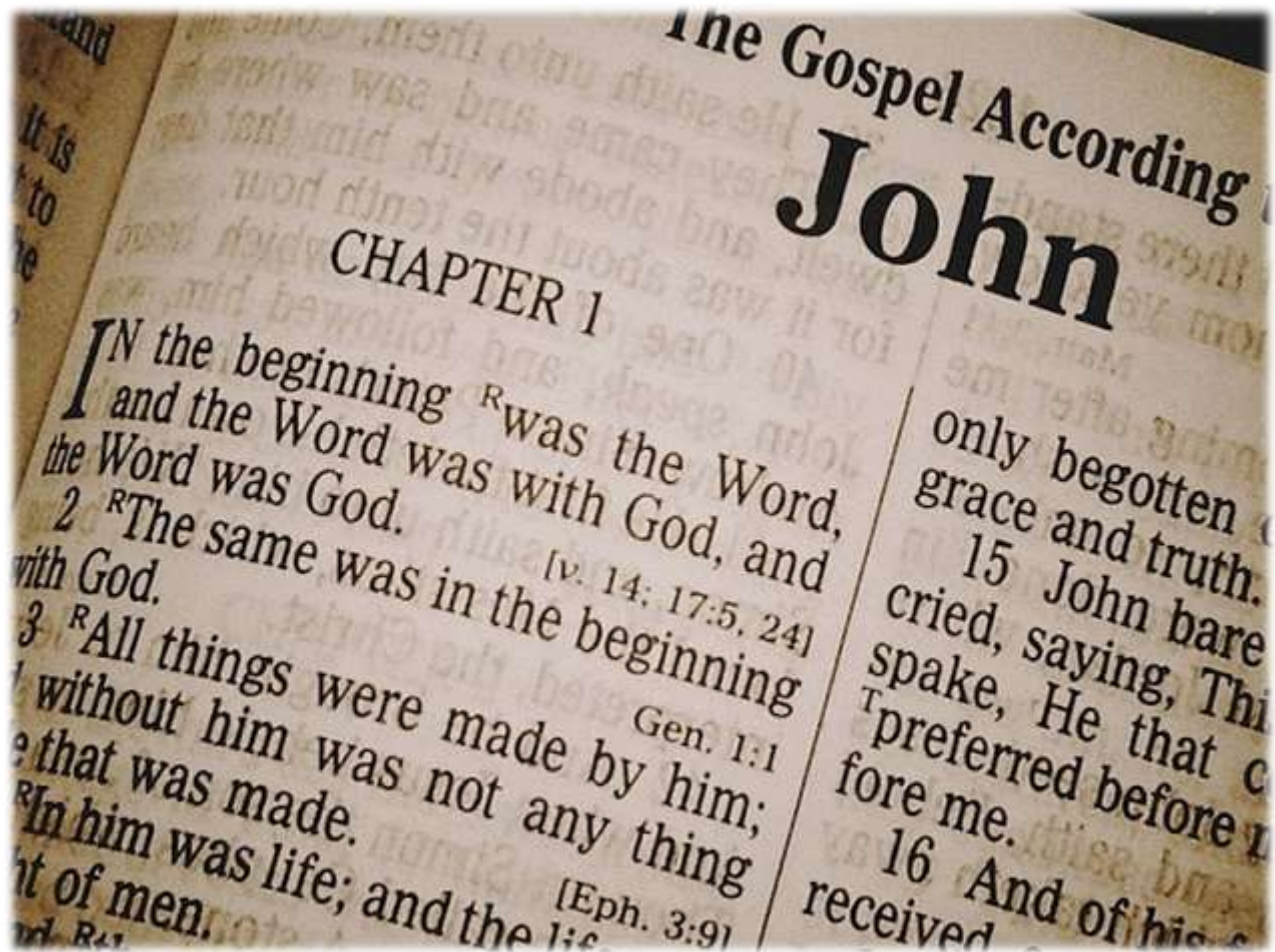


# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Second Sunday of Christmas



**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: "We Three Kings"



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing  
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,  
owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

#### *Refrain*



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P:** With humility and honesty, let us confess our sins to our God who is slow to anger and quick to forgive.

**C:** Abundant God, so much of our harmful behavior is rooted in our envy. You have given us our manna – our daily bread – but we want more. We have allowed ourselves to be seduced by commercialism, telling ourselves that we are not complete until we have the nicest things. Forgive us when our actions convey that you are not enough for us. Help us to live our lives simply and faithfully, trusting in your steadfast love to provide all that we need. Amen.

**P:** Friends, our salvation is not something that can be purchased with money or fame. Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone. I announce to you this day, your sins are forgiven.

**ALL:** Alleluia! Amen.

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** *Solo by Emely Rowan*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us pray. . .

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Welcome** to worship with First and Holy Cross churches! Remember to join us for a delicious lunch today following worship today in the Fellowship Hall.
- Are you looking for a **church home**, or do you know someone who might be? Please contact the office or talk to one of the pastors for more information.
- A special welcome to **Emely Rowan**, our guest soprano today.
- The **Church Choir** is rehearsing following worship today.
- **Anniversary Committee** meet after worship today in the Fellowship Hall.
- The **First Church Council** will meet after worship next Sunday.
- Do you like to help others in times of an emergency? Mary Bates from the **NALC Disaster Response** will be here to help train us in how to be of help in times of crisis like hurricanes, fires, and tornados. She will lead workshop for us on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 10-1 in the chapel. Sign up with the office if you can take part in this wonderful opportunity.
- **First Evangelical Congregational Meeting** will be February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Mark your calendars for our special **Centennial Community Celebration Worship** kickoff event outdoors on the basketball courts on January 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This event will include all the churches onsite and will be an exciting opportunity to celebrate all that God is doing through our churches. We will have various preachers, musicians, choirs, and picnic lunch.

## CHILDRENS MESSAGE

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

## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

<sup>7</sup> This is what the Lord says:

“Sing with joy for Jacob;  
shout for the foremost of the nations.

Make your praises heard, and say,

‘Lord, save your people,  
the remnant of Israel.’

<sup>8</sup> See, I will bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the ends of the earth.

Among them will be the blind and the lame,  
expectant mothers and women in labor;  
a great throng will return.

<sup>9</sup> They will come with weeping;  
they will pray as I bring them back.

I will lead them beside streams of water  
on a level path where they will not stumble,  
because I am Israel’s father,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

<sup>10</sup> “Hear the word of the Lord, you nations;  
proclaim it in distant coastlands:

‘He who scattered Israel will gather them  
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’

<sup>11</sup> For the Lord will deliver Jacob  
and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.

<sup>12</sup> They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion;  
they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord—

the grain, the new wine and the olive oil,  
the young of the flocks and herds.

They will be like a well-watered garden,  
and they will sorrow no more.

<sup>13</sup> Then young women will dance and be glad,  
young men and old as well.

I will turn their mourning into gladness;

I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

<sup>14</sup> I will satisfy the priests with abundance,  
and my people will be filled with my bounty,”  
declares the Lord.

**R:** Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

<sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

**R:** Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

## **GOSPEL READING: John 1:1-18**

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

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

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

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

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

**SERMON**

**Pastor Michael Breznen**

# 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.**

### **AARONIC BLESSING AND BENEDICTION IN HEBREW**

**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: "Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## DISMISSAL

P: Glory to God in the highest!

**C: And peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**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	CAC-WPB
<b>Lector</b>	Kathrine Summers	Andi Devine
<b>Ushers</b>	Katherine S., Judith M.	Katherine S., Judith M.
<b>Greeters</b>	Bob S. & Susan M.	Bob S. & Susan M.

### **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: **Sandy & Marcia, Saul & Martha, Carol & Darryl, Dennis, Bill, Cynthia, Dylan, John, Leona, Lisa & Don, Raj, Sandy, Carl, Trish, Lou, Allan, Carson, David, Gertrude, Holly, Katie, Linda, Marilynn, Patrick, Linda** (Lori Kinney’s friend),; **Cyndy S** (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.

Visit, like, and follow us on our social media platforms and website.



The musical and liturgical content is licensed through  
CCLI #2555583 Sunday & Seasons #SB164185

### **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.