

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Sunday, September 27, 2026



First Evangelical & Holy Cross Churches

2740 Parker Ave.

West Palm Beach, FL 33405

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

OPENING SONG: *Bless Him Some More by Free Worship*

Verse 1:

As I follow You
I know everything will be alright
As I come to You
I know You'll make everything alright

Repeat Verse 1:

Repeat Hook:

Repeat Chorus:

Verse 2:

The weapon may be formed
I know that it will not prosper
Surrounded on all sides
But my God has already won the fight

Bridge:

I've been redeemed
I've been set free
In the name of Jesus
I have victory
I've been redeemed
I've been set free
In the name of Jesus
I have victory
I've been redeemed
I've been set free
In the name of Jesus
I have victory

Hook:

You traded joy
Joy for my pain
You pulled my life
Out of the grave
I will lay down
All sorrow and shame
Raise up my voice
And lift up a praise

Chorus:

I will bless the Lord
I will bless the Lord
With everything that is within me
I will bless the Lord
I will bless the Lord
and when I think I'm done
I'm gonna bless Him some more

Chorus:

I will bless the Lord
I will bless the Lord
With everything that is within me
I will bless the Lord
I will bless the Lord
and when I think I'm done
I'm gonna bless Him some more

SONG: *Firm Foundation* by Cody Carnes

Chorus:

Christ is my firm foundation
The Rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaking
I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus
'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now?
He won't

Verse:

I've still got joy in chaos
I've got peace that makes no sense
So I won't be going under
I'm not held by my own strength
'Cause I build my life on Jesus
He's never let me down
He's faithful in every season
So why would He fail now?

Refrain:

He won't
He won't
He won't fail
He won't fail
He won't
He won't
He won't fail
He won't fail

Chorus:

Christ is my firm foundation
The Rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaking
I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus
'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now?
He won't
He won't
He won't fail
He won't fail

Bridge:

Rain came and wind blew
But my house was built on You
I'm safe with You
I'm gonna make it through
Rain came and wind blew
But my house was built on You
I'm safe with You
I'm gonna make it through
Oh, rain came and wind blew
But my house was built on You
And I'm safe with You
I'm gonna make it through
Yeah, I'm gonna make it through
'Cause I'm standing strong on You
Yeah, I'm gonna make it through
'Cause my house is built on You

Repeat Chorus:

SONG: *Do it Again by Elevation Worship*

Verse 1:

Walking around these walls
I thought by now they'd fall
But You have never failed me yet
Waiting for change to come
Knowing the battle's won
For You have never failed me yet

Chorus:

Your promise still stands
Great is Your faithfulness, faithfulness
I'm still in Your hands
This is my confidence
You've never failed me yet

Verse 2:

I know the night won't last
Your word will come to pass
My heart will sing Your praise again
Jesus, You're still enough
Keep me within Your love, oh
My heart will sing Your praise again

Chorus:

Your promise still stands
Great is Your faithfulness, faithfulness
I'm still in Your hands
This is my confidence
You've never failed
Your promise still stands
Great is Your faithfulness, faithfulness
I'm still in Your hands
This is my confidence
You've never failed me yet
Never failed me yet

Bridge

I've seen You move, You move the
mountains
And I believe I'll see You do it again
You made a way, where there was no
way
And I believe I'll see You do it again
(x3)

Chorus:

Your promise still stands
Great is Your faithfulness, faithfulness
I'm still in Your hands
This is my confidence
You've never failed

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. . .

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Welcome to worship** with First Evangelical and Holy Cross churches. We pray you experience God's love and grace in worship today. Join us for a delicious lunch following worship in the Fellowship Hall.
- Join us on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel for our new **Bible Study**, *"See Through the Scriptures"*. We will go step-by-step through the biblical narrative from Genesis to Revelation, putting everything in clear context.
- There will be a celebration worship service honoring **Pastor Alva and First Lady Elaine Donaldson** on Saturday, October 11th at 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. They have served the Church of God 7th Day for over 50 years. You are also invited to a banquet in their honor their legacy of ministry on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. at the Green Acres Community Center (RSVP).
- A limited first printing of **Pastor Paul F. Arnold's** book *Martin Luther Exhibition at New Ebenezer* is now available. This 278-page coffee table book documents his 4000 item collection housed at the New Ebenezer Retreat Center in Rincon, Georgia. The book shares the story of the Lutheran Salzburger, exiled from Austria, who came to Georgia seeking a place of religious freedom and a chance for a new beginning. They built the historic Jerusalem Lutheran Church, now the oldest actively worshipping Lutheran church in America. To order the book, visit **www.newebenezer.org/shop**.
- **The Light WPB** is hosting a **Job Fair** with Better Together on Saturday, October 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Chapel. If you, or you know of someone looking for a job, please share this information with them. Text JOBS to (844) 987-3949 to start. <https://bettertogetherus.org/events/west-palm-beach-fl-job-fair-hosted-by-the-light-wpb-10-17-26/>

- Help us build a safety and security fence for the new playground! We will have a **“Noisy Offering”** on Sundays, October 4th and 25th during worship. Drop your loose change in the buckets as they pass and make a lot of noise! Your loose change and paper donations will go to protect the equipment and keep the kids safe from the cars in the parking lot for years to come.

CHILDREN’S SINGING & MESSAGE

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹⁸ The word of the Lord came to me: ² “What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel:

“‘The parents eat sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge’?”

³ “As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴ For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.

²⁵ “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? ²⁶ If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. ²⁷ But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life.

²⁸ Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. ²⁹ Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

³⁰ “Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. ³¹ Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? ³² For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

² Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:23-32

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵ John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

²⁹ “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

³¹ “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Daniel Baker

VIDEO

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: Most Merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: There is rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent. Put your trust in these promises: God will never leave you or forsake you. You, who were lost, are found. Hear the good news of the Gospel: in accordance to the command of our Lord Jesus, and by his authority alone, I forgive you the entirety of all your sins

C: Amen!



THE OFFERING

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

THE PRAYERS

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 Hosts

Heaven and Earth Are full of Your Glory!

Hosanna! (Hosanna!) In the Highest

Blessed is he who comes In the name of the Lord!

Hosanna! (Hosanna!) In the Highest

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER - *(Sung acapella by all)*

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 debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

And the power,

And the glory, forever.

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.

AARONIC BLESSING IN HEBREW & ENGLISH

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.

DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

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.

Serving in Worship

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

	This Week	Next Week
Musicians / Singers	CAC	Sandra Baran
Lector	Vince Burkhardt	Susan Moncher
Ushers	Katherine S., Judith M.	Katherine S., Judith M.
Greeters	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: **Kay Taylor's grandson Matthew, Ken, Addie, Silas, Nick, Jamie, Elihana, Debbie Ann, Saul & Martha, Dennis, Bill, Cynthia, Dylan, John, Lisa & Don, Raj, Sandy, Carl, Trish, Lou, Allan, Carson, David, Gertrude, Holly, Katie, Linda, Marilyn & Patrick, Lesley, Linda, Joan** 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

Email: info@felcwpb.com

Church Office Hours

Monday – Wednesday – Friday

9 a.m. until 1 p.m.