WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Sunday, November 8, 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: *Friend of God*

Verse
Who am I that You are mindful of me
That You hear me when I call
Is it true that You are thinking of me
How You love me it's amazing

Chorus
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
He calls me friend

Verse
Who am I that You are mindful of me
That You hear me when I call
Is it true
That You are thinking of me
How You love me it's amazing

Tag
It's amazing

Chorus
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
He calls me friend

Bridge
God Almighty Lord of Glory
You have called me friend

Bridge
God Almighty, Lord of Glory
You have called me friend

Chorus
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
You call me friend

Tag
You call me friend

SONG: *Open the Eyes of my Heart*

Verse 1
Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Chorus
To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy

Verse 3
Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Chorus
To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy

Bridge
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see you

Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see you

Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see you

SONG: *How Great is our God*

Verse 1
The splendor of a King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
Let all the earth rejoice

He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
Trembles at His voice
Trembles at His voice

Chorus
How great is our God sing with me
How great is our God and all will see
How great how great
Is our God

Verse 2
Age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end
Beginning and the end

The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb

Chorus
How great is our God sing with me
How great is our God and all will see
How great how great
Is our God

Bridge
Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

Chorus
How great is our God sing with me
How great is our God and all will see
How great how great
Is our God

PRAYER OF THE DAY
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. . .
O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Welcome to worship** with First Evangelical and Holy Cross churches. Join us for a delicious lunch following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

- Today we are welcoming Morgan Kirk from **Better Together** to help us kick off our **"Angel Tree"** toy drive for Christmas, and share in "Pure Religion Sunday", a day when the church around the world celebrates God's heart for orphaned and vulnerable children.

- Join us for a **Thanksgiving Feast** after worship on November 22nd. Ham and turkey are provided, bring a side dish to pass if you are able. A sign-up at the back of the church, please list number coming and type of food you will bring.

- **First Evangelical and Holy Cross Church Councils** will meet separately today after worship.

- **Holy Cross Church Congregational** meeting on **November 15th** after worship, ***all*** Holy Cross members are encouraged to attend.

- Christmas is around the corner! Sign up to be in our **Christmas Pageant** this year – a special musical! Performance will be on December 20th in worship.

- On **December 2nd** we are having a study on the true date of Christmas, and on **December 16th,** the story behind Hanukkah, both Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

- Thank you to everyone who gave through our **"Noisy Offering"** to build a fence four our new playground! With your help we have met our goal!

- **First Evangelical** will no longer provide ***numbered offering envelopes***. Please use envelopes provided in pews or with the offering box.

- **<u>Grab a Flood Bucket! Or hygiene and kitchen kit!</u>** We received a wonderful delivery of emergency resources **NALC Disaster Response** in response to the recent flooding. We received over 160 buckets and dozens of boxes of kits to distribute to anyone in need. Two volunteers from Augusta, GA delivered them Friday. Please share them with friends, neighbors, or stock up for future storms.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

The Day of the Lord

18 Woe to you who long
for the day of the Lord!
Why do you long for the day of the Lord?
That day will be darkness, not light.
19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion
only to meet a bear,
as though he entered his house
and rested his hand on the wall
only to have a snake bite him.
20 Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light—
pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

21 "I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.
22 Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.

[23] Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
[24] But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

R: Word of God, Word of Life
C: Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Believers Who Have Died

[13] Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.
[14] For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. [15] According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16] For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
[17] After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.
[18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

R: Word of God, Word of Life
C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:1-13
P: The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Matthew.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

25 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish and five were wise. [3] The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. [4] The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. [5] The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

[6] "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

[7] "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

[9] "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

[10] "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

[11] "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'

[12] "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

[13] "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON **Pastor Michael Breznen**

Are you ready for the right religion?

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. **James 1:26-27**

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.

You may stand or kneel

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, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.

ALL: Alleluia! 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 or Text GIVE to 844-504-1678 Or Scan QR Code.

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, which 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 in peace. Encourage one another.
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. 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	Hilkka Schroderus-Rowe	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: **The Vehling Family, especially Emilie, Brodie** and **Maggie Mae**, **Debbie Rowan, Sandra H., Matt B., 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, Marilynn & Patrick**, **Lesley, Linda**, 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.